

# Artist Analysis Framework

A Step-by-Step Guide to Analysing Artworks for IGCSE 0400

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## Introduction

Artist analysis is one of the most important skills in IGCSE 0400 and one of the most commonly done poorly. This framework gives you a structured approach to writing about and responding to any artwork, moving well beyond simple description toward genuine critical engagement.

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## The FEAST Framework

BravArt Studio uses the FEAST framework for artist analysis. Work through each element in order:

### F - Form

What does the work look like? Describe the visual elements you can observe:

- What shapes, forms, lines, and marks are present?
- How is the composition arranged? (symmetry, balance, rule of thirds)
- What is the tonal range? (light to dark, contrast)
- What colours are used and how? (warm/cool, complementary, monochromatic)
- What textures are present - implied or real?

### E - Execution

How has the work been made?

- What media has the artist used? (oil, watercolour, charcoal, collage, print...)
- What techniques are visible? (brushwork, hatching, layering, impasto)
- What is the scale and format of the work?
- How has the artist used the surface? (flat, textured, worked, untouched)

### A - Artist & Context

Who made this work, when, and why?

- Who is the artist? What are the key facts of their life and practice?
- When was this made? What was happening in the world / art world at this time?
- What movement or tradition does this work belong to?
- How does this work fit within the artist's wider body of work?

### S - Subject & Symbolism

What is the work about, and what does it mean?

- What is the subject matter? (portrait, landscape, abstract, still life)
- Are there any symbols, references, or coded meanings?
- What mood or emotion does the work convey?
- Is the meaning literal, metaphorical, or open to interpretation?

## T - Take / Personal Response

What is your personal response to the work, and how does it connect to your own practice?

- What is your initial reaction to the work? Why?
- What do you find most interesting or challenging about it?
- What specific aspects of this artist's work will you respond to in your own?
- How will you adapt / not copy elements of this work for your own purposes?

■ *The T (Take) section is the most important for AO1 marks. Examiners want to see a genuine personal response and a clear connection to your own developing work - not just description of the artwork.*

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## Writing Your Analysis: Do and Don't

### Do:

- Use specific art vocabulary (tonal contrast, complementary colour, gestural mark-making)
- Connect the formal elements to their emotional or communicative effect
- Make comparisons between different works or artists
- Write in your own voice - express what YOU think and feel
- Link your analysis directly to experiments or decisions in your own work

### Don't:

- Simply describe what you can see without interpretation
  - Copy biographical information from Wikipedia without processing it
  - Analyse an artwork in isolation from your own project theme
  - Use vague terms like "I like how it looks" without explaining why
  - Forget to include visual responses - annotated copies, colour studies, compositional sketches
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## Suggested Artists by Theme

### Identity & Portraiture

- Frida Kahlo
- Kehinde Wiley
- Chris Ofili
- Jenny Saville
- El Anatsui

### Landscape & Environment

- J.M.W. Turner
- Georgia O'Keeffe
- David Hockney
- Njideka Akunyili Crosby

### Abstract & Pattern

- Wassily Kandinsky
- Bridget Riley
- Yayoi Kusama

- Twins Seven Seven

### **Social & Political**

- Banksy
- Kara Walker
- Ben Enwonwu
- Faith Ringgold

■ *Wherever possible, include at least one African or Nigerian artist in your research. This demonstrates cultural breadth and is particularly valued by Cambridge examiners who mark a global cohort of students.*