

# Example of evaluation

## Example:

[Photo of my painting underway with this detail]

*I began the painting with complete coverage of blue paint. I did this because I know that it is easier to establish a cold framework for all the other colours first. One key underlying colour, blue in this case, acts as a unifying element which helps to make the picture into one image rather than a collection of separate parts.*

*Painting warmer colours like flesh tones over the blue helps to give depth and a balance of cool and warm colour to the picture. This balance makes the order and organisation much clearer and helps me choose the other colours and techniques to apply over the blue underpainting. The blue underpainting is a way of setting the parameters for the painting like foundations used to build a house.*

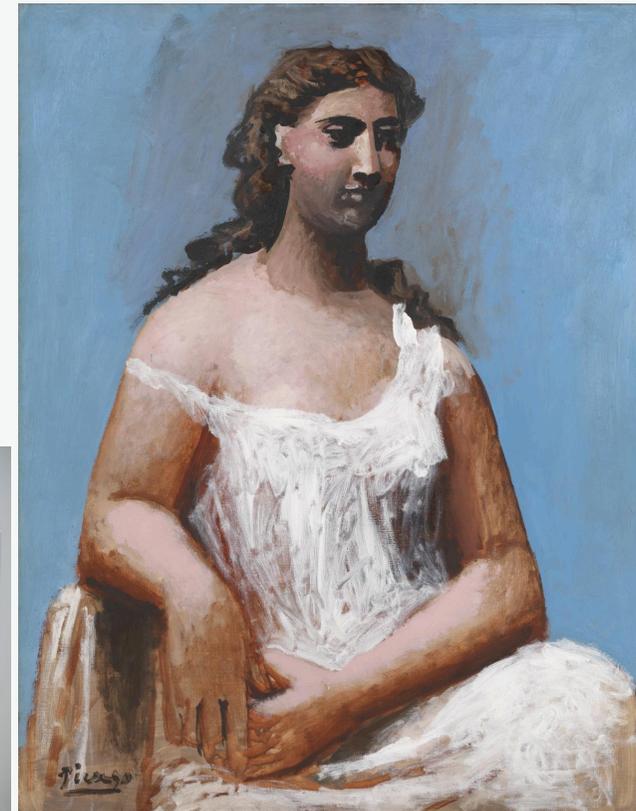
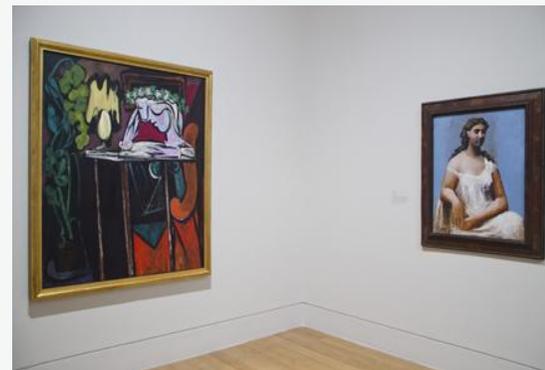
[Photo of my painting underway with this detail]

*I also tend to paint in monochrome if I am not careful and have a tendency to paint everything in shades of brown when I am painting detail and modelling. This overuse of one colour can make the painting look flat and one-dimensional. Using the blue underneath can help to minimise this factor and help me to ensure that I always have at least two layers of paint working for me in the picture. The colours in layers combine and harmonise and stop the effect of one colour's flatness.*

[Photo of my painting underway with this detail]

*Once I have established the underpainting, I can then build the more important parts of the picture with more layers and detail.*

*I have looked at a lot of modern paintings where underpainting is used in the same way, sometimes with different colour orders.*



**Picasso's 'Seated Woman in a Chemise' 1923 in the Tate Gallery,**

*For example, Picasso's 'Seated Woman in a Chemise' 1923 in the Tate Gallery, starts with burnt sienna and burnt umber underpainting. These are warm colours and Picasso then paints cooler colours over the top. But because he uses a light blue, which is lighter in tone than the brown underpainting, the top layer of blue, which is the background colour, appears warm. This unifies with the warmth of the underpainting but needs balancing with cooler colours.*

*Picasso compensates for this by using raw umber and cold scarlet mixed with white for the flesh tones. He even goes further and uses a flat black for the shadows. Using black is very difficult because it can easily die on the picture and look like a hole so I avoid it where I can, however, in Picasso's painting, this set of colours gives the heavy drawing and solidity of the figure a stronger, colder, more solid feeling.*

*Picasso wants the figure to remind the viewer of a statue, which helps to do that since the figure looks cold, static and lifeless.*

*Picasso is trying to make the painting look like a stone figure, and his colour, combined with the drawing, helps him do that.*

You might not need to add examples into your explanation like that one about Picasso, but if you look at the full example, find how many times there is a statement and how many times that statement is supported by an explanation or a given reason.

## Visualising statements and explanations

Let's look at one part again:

*For example, Picasso's 'Seated Woman in a Chemise' 1923 in the Tate Gallery, starts with burnt sienna and burnt umber underpainting. These are warm colours and Picasso then paints cooler colours over the top. But because he uses a light blue, which is lighter in tone than the brown underpainting, the top layer of blue, which is the background colour, appears warm. This unifies with the warmth of the underpainting but needs balancing with cooler colours.*

Now let's put colours to statements and explanations

*For example, Picasso's 'Seated Woman in a Chemise' 1923 in the Tate Gallery, starts with burnt sienna and burnt umber underpainting.*

**First statement**

*These are warm colours and Picasso then paints cooler colours over the top.*

**First extension - warm and cool**

*But because he uses a light blue, which is lighter in tone than the brown underpainting,*

**Second extension - tonality added to temperature**

*the top layer blue, which is the colour of the background, appears as a warm colour.*

**The second extension - explained**

*This unifies with the warmth of the underpainting but needs balancing with cooler colours.*

### The explanation is given - with an argument

Try the next paragraph. Find the statement and look for an explanation

*Picasso compensates for this by using raw umber and cold scarlet mixed with white for the flesh tones. He even goes further and uses a flat black for the shadows. Using black is very difficult because it can easily die on the picture and look like a hole so I avoid it where I can, however, in Picasso's painting, this set of colours gives the heavy drawing and solidity of the figure a stronger, colder, more solid feeling.*

### The key point

Evaluation means analysis. The analysis is not a simple description, if your evaluation is merely a list of things you did, like a simple narration in a story, it is no better than a shopping list and will not give you marks in the A level.

You must supply explanations of how things work; justifications of why you chose to pursue particular choices and made certain decisions. You must explain the thinking behind your actions.

An evaluation shows you reflecting on what you did, why you did it and how successful it was. Where possible, you must give examples directly drawn from your work to support your arguments.

You need not come to a conclusion. An evaluation is part of your ongoing development. You can talk about what you have done, how you did it what you think about it now but you do not have to reach a final decision because you will be going on to do other things later.

## Example 2 - Apple Pie: Ingredients, method and explanation

The ingredients list just gives you a simple list of the things that you will need. It is no more helpful than saying you need some brushes, some tubes of paint, a canvas, an easel and a studio, in which to paint a painting. Those are the things you need, but *how* do you use them?

If I want to know *how* to go about painting a painting I need to know something about the methodology not just the equipment. The same is true of making your first apple pie.

For the methodology, I have added explanations and justifications for decisions *in italics* after each statement taken from an online recipe.

First, here are the ingredients.

## INGREDIENTS

- 700g mixed Cox's and Bramley apples
- 230g Jus-Rol fresh large shortcrust pastry case
- 1 heaped tablespoon golden caster sugar
- 6 whole cloves
- 1 egg white, lightly whisked
- 200g Jus-Rol fresh shortcrust pie lid, 24cm in diameter
- 1 tablespoon unrefined demerara sugar

That is just the list of things - a shopping list. It just says 'what', 'what', and 'what'.

There is no 'why?'

As such, there is no evaluation present.

## METHOD

Pre-heat the oven to gas mark 6, 200°C.

*You pre-heat the oven so that it helps to cook an evenly baked pie. Pre-heating keeps the pastry at the right texture.*

First, place the pastry case, still in its foil container, on a baking sheet.

*Pre-made shortcrust pastry takes all the hassle out of making your own and saves time. If the pie isn't on a baking sheet it might not cook evenly.*

Then, all you do is halve, core and slice the apples (I leave the skins on) pile them into the pastry case (making them higher in the centre), sprinkle over the caster sugar and dot with the cloves.

*Cutting the apples up into smaller pieces makes them cook more quickly. Leaving the skins on helps with the texture and taste. The cloves also add to the taste and are not essential - some people like them, and some do not.*

Next, dampen the edges with some of the egg white and place the pastry lid over the apples.

*Using the egg white like this helps seal the top part of the pastry to the bottom part. It all makes it cook much better and faster. (1)*

Seal on the edges, crimping all around with your thumb or a fork.

*This is purely decorative but as a presentation, it is also important for the people who will eat the pie. (2)*

Make a steam hole in the centre about the size of a 50p piece,

*This hole stops the apple from becoming too soggy and this, in turn, stops the pastry from becoming too soggy as the steam can escape from the pie. The steam is produced in the baking process.*

then brush the pastry all over with the beaten egg white,

*This will also help with appearance and give a golden brown colour once cooked (3)*

and sprinkle the demerara sugar over that.

*This will sweeten the pastry*

Now pop it into the centre of the oven

*If you put it at the top of the oven, it will cook too quickly, if at the bottom, it might go too hard. The middle gives the best conditions for baking pies.*

to bake for 30-40 minutes, until the apples are cooked and tender when tested with a skewer.

*You need it to be soft enough to eat. Prodding the pie is a good way to test the apples to see if they are ready and if the pie is fully cooked. Be careful though, you don't want lots of skewer holes over the pie crust - this will affect appearance.*

Serve with thick cream, custard or ice cream.

*This is a personal preference - you might prefer to eat it on its own, but many people do.*

#### Notes

1. This begs a further explanation - why does it make it cook faster? If you knew the answer to this further question there would be no reason not to put it down. It would get you additional marks.
2. Again, you might want to expand this and say why people like to eat something that looks good as opposed to something that might taste as good but which looks unappealing
3. More evidence of appearance affects the outcome so, it should be included in explanations and justifications

## Vocabulary

The final of the six key criteria for the Eduqas exam board in fine Art is 'Evaluation **and specialist vocabulary**'.

You can find a whole set of useful vocabulary listed alphabetically on a page in the course website. The link is here:  
<https://sites.google.com/chrome.sussexdowns.ac.uk/fine1/vocabulary>

You should keep a list of useful vocabulary in your sketchbook for each assignment.

You will be graded, both internally at the college and externally by the exam board on the use of specialist vocabulary.

For a simple use of vocabulary with which to discuss pictures, see the set of words given to you for the second task of the first assignment, and available on this page:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0z-6BnYXL-fcFEzSHA1LTRPTE0/view>

An even easier set of words will be one that would start with something like a list of simple characteristics, such as:

Balanced	Calm
Measured	Nervous
Exciting	Harmonious
Informal	Simplistic
Sophisticated	Childish
Space	Flat
Accurate	Emotional
Detailed	Clearly Defined
Rough	Sketchy
Polished	Unfinished looking

These words could be compiled into sentences made from short statements, with further sentences as explanations which could be used in a basic evaluation. For example

*The picture creates an exciting atmosphere since the line used is rough and sketchy. The marks made are nervous and unfinished looking and this simplistic style is direct and appeals to the emotions of the viewer.*

You could add some more direct terms, which speak of activities like these for drawing:

- Expressive marks

- Negative and positive marks
- Smear, smudge
- Tones (light, mid and dark)
- Calligraphic marks - like the artist's personalised style or handwriting
- Mood, atmosphere
- Drama

For painting, you could talk about:

- Underpainting
- scumbling
- building a working on grounds
- glazing
- wet on wet
- dry on dry
- impasto

Whilst these will give you some marks for talking sensibly about artworks and art production, you would be missing out on many more which could be made from simply using specialist and technical vocabulary.

## Wikipedia

Many people sneer at Wikipedia, yet it is an important and useful repository of documents and information which could quickly and easily help you. Having looked through a lot of Wikipedia pages, I have always been impressed with what a good starter gives to the general understanding of the subject area.

## Google

In addition to Wikipedia, simply searching accurately in Google will give you excellent results within two or three pages, and often, at the first page you look. If you can't find what you are looking for, the chances are, that you are using the wrong search terms. You should try again or ask a friend for some advice.

There is no excuse for not being able to find the information you need.