



Responding to AQA Art and Design ESA starting points

Key Stage 4

40 minute exhibition activity

Learning Objectives

- AO1: Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.
- AO2: Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.
- AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.
- AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language

Success Criteria

Identifying key elements in Leonardo's sketches and pages which support GCSE sketchbook work and relate to one or more of the starting points issued on January 3rd.

Quick Starter/Intro

How many drawings are in the exhibition and what types of materials have been used? Make this a quick activity so that your learners get to see the layout of the show. Pair work will make this quicker. Also, find out which starting point individuals want to explore so that their own activity sheet is focused.

Materials Needed

- Sketchbooks and drawing materials (pencil cases).
- Clipboards.
- A smart phone or tablet with internet access (teacher to share).

Curriculum Links (Key Stage 3)

Art and Design. English. History, Science.

Possible Follow Up/Extension Work

This will be excellent first hand experience of an artists work and they can photograph the work (no flash) as well as draw and make notes which will form part of their preparation for the ESA.

Weblinks

Leonardo key dates: <http://www.davincilife.com/timeline.html>

<http://www.unmuseum.org/leosketch.htm>

<https://www.mos.org/leonardo/activities/mirror-writing>

<https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/word-lists/list-of-descriptive-words-to-critique-art.html>





Teacher Guidelines

With the externally set assignment task (ESA) you will introduce learners to a number of starting points, as published in the 2019 paper. All pages are suitable for all students in looking at how an artist records ideas and keeps a record of this in a sketch book.

Starting point 01: Leonardo creates TEXTURE in several of these drawings. Get students to identify them. Sketch, annotate, record in their own sketchbooks.

Starting Point 03: 'Artists frequently convey MESSAGES through their work'. Leonardo's pages with his written notes are a great inspiration to this starting point. Leonardo wrote with a special kind of shorthand that he invented himself, and he also mirrored his writing, starting at the right side of the page and moving to the left. Only when he was writing something intended for other people did he write in the normal direction. Students can explore this further at <https://www.mos.org/leonardo/activities/mirror-writing> and can develop work which looks at how writing is used in art work, from the work of Cy Twombly, David Hockney, Manuscripts and Illuminations, Ed Ruscha, Renee Magritte, Vincent Van Gogh (Letters), Tracey Emin (in particular her Neon messages), Lauren Hom.

Starting point 04: 'The ELEMENTS of nature and the formal elements of art and design frequently feature in the work of artists'. The drawing by Leonardo called *A deluge* is the starting point for this. Learners can find the whole description on the Royal Collection website <https://www.rct.uk/collection/912380/a-deluge> and this also includes his own writing about this. Detailed first hand sketches based on this are recommended. Take some A4 black paper and let them experiment with pencil sketches. White chalk sketches could be done back in the classroom. Key words from the descriptions can also lead to experimental mark making back in the classroom plus some larger scale work.

Starting point 05: 'The act of WORKING....' a number of drawings in this exhibition link strongly to this starting point, in particular the bladder and lungs pages, the foot, the optics. Once again, using their camera/phone (no flash) they can record these and using their sketchbooks they can also sketch how Leonardo showed the working of these various elements with diagrams and annotations. There are other interesting artists who look closely at the human form too, Gunter Von Hagens, and Elinor Crook are great examples. Your Science department can also provide you with anatomical models to develop the drawings further.





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Student Activity

Information: You must gather evidence when you visit the exhibition. Evidence that you have looked carefully and closely at drawings which will help you in the development of knowledge, research, and your own ideas. Every sketch counts, every word or phrase or sentence written down counts. Your teacher also has website links to help you in your research.

Starting point 01: Leonardo creates TEXTURE in several of these drawings. Find them. Note names and dates. Make sketches and drawings, pencil on white paper, white pencil on black paper, photograph (no flash)/ Like Leonardo does, write keys words and notes around your sketches. DESCRIBE the TEXTURE. Dig deep for words– is it spiky, jagged, smooth, soft, tonal, linear etc? If you look at more than one page (and you will) what are the SIMILARITIES and what are the DIFFERENCES. Fill your page with marks and notes.

Starting Point 03: ‘Artists frequently convey MESSAGES through their work’. Leonardo and his notes are everywhere. Find the pages that have written notes, Note names and dates. Do quick sketches showing the LAYOUT, so where the writing fits around the shapes for example or changes for direction. Can you see where the writing faces the right way and where it is his unique MIRROR writing? Can you zoom in on one a few words and draw them bigger? Have a go.

Starting point 04: ‘The elements’ Find Leonardo’s drawing page ‘A DELUGE’ and make a note of the date and any other relevant information. Make a series of sketches, pencil on white paper, white pencil or chalk on black paper or coloured pencils (your choice of colours) on white paper. Write down KEY words which describe the drawing (Your teacher has a web link to the drawing which has a detailed description and this might help you).

Starting point 05: ‘The act of WORKING’ Leonardo has a number of drawing pages in this exhibition which show how something works, from drawings of weapons (mortars), optics, to the ribs, the foot, and other parts of the human body. Find them, note title and dates. Create sketches which record what you see, you can look at the whole drawing or zoom in onto one part. Use pencil on white paper but also experiment with drawing with a fine liner or a ballpoint pen.

