

2.3 Contrast

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

Objective

Build the skills to use **contrast** 对比 to create interest and clarity.

You must be able to:

- define **contrast** 对比
- use contrast of value, colour, shape, and texture
- explain how contrast creates emphasis
- avoid a flat, low-contrast image

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Contrast

Contrast is strong difference between elements —light vs dark, big vs small, smooth vs rough. It creates energy and draws the eye.

■ Kinds of contrast

You can contrast **value**, **colour** (complementaries), **shape** (organic vs geometric), or **texture** (rough vs smooth).

■ Why it matters

High contrast at one spot creates **emphasis**; a whole image with no contrast looks flat and dull.

2 Practice

2.1 Placing the lightest light next to the darkest dark is contrast of

[1]

- **A** value
 - **B** shape
 - **C** texture
 - **D** scale
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2.2 Explain how contrast can create a focal point. [2]

2.3 State one problem with a low-contrast image. [1]

3 Studio & portfolio tasks

3.1 Make a **contrast study**.

(a) Fill one box using strong value contrast; another using strong shape contrast. [4]

3.2 Plan contrast for a portfolio piece.

(a) Name the type of contrast you will feature and where. [1]

(b) Thumbnail showing the high-contrast focal area. [2]

4 Go further

- work through the **2.3 Contrast** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Principles of Design** section of the AP 2-D Art and Design handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 A. light vs dark is value contrast.

2.2 a strongly contrasting area stands out from its surroundings; the eye is drawn to it as the focal point.

2.3 it looks flat, dull, or unclear.

3.1 Look for: box 1 shows a clear light-vs-dark difference (2); box 2 juxtaposes clearly different shape types (2).

3.2 Look for: a specific contrast type and location named (1); thumbnail concentrates that contrast at the focal point (2).