

## 2.4 Chiaroscuro and High-Contrast Drawing

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: 11 marks

### Objective

Use **chiaroscuro** 明暗对照法 to create drama through strong value contrast.

**You must be able to:**

- set one strong light against deep shadow
- reserve the strongest contrast for the **focal point** 视觉焦点
- use media that reach deep darks (charcoal, ink wash)
- keep a full value bridge, not just black and white

### 1 Worked examples

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

#### ■ Chiaroscuro

One strong light against deep surrounding shadow pushes the subject forward and sets the mood —the language of Caravaggio and Rembrandt.

#### ■ Focal contrast

The strongest value contrast attracts the eye first, so place it at the focal point.

#### ■ Full bridge

High contrast still needs lights, halftones, and controlled darks —not just a black blob with a white hole.

### 2 Practice

2.1 Extreme chiaroscuro, where most of the image sinks into darkness, is [1]

- A notan
- B tenebrism
- C frottage
- D grisaille

**2.2** Where should the strongest value contrast sit, and why? [2]

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**2.3** Name two media that reach deep darks quickly. [1]

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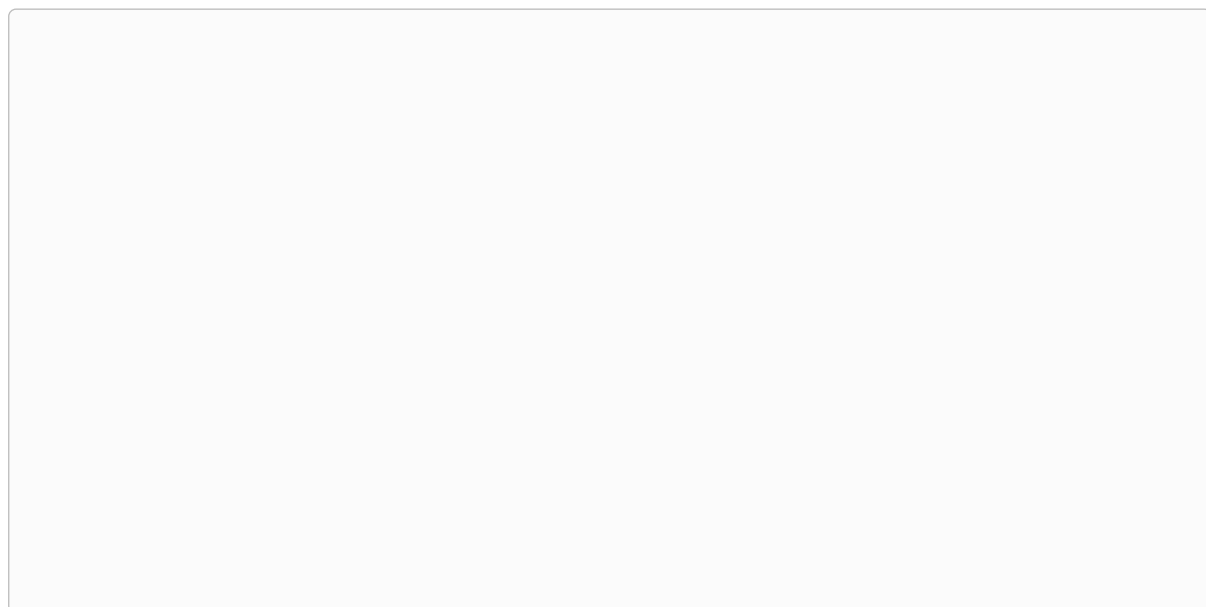
### 3 Studio & portfolio tasks

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**3.1** Make a **chiaroscuro study** under one strong light in a dark setting.

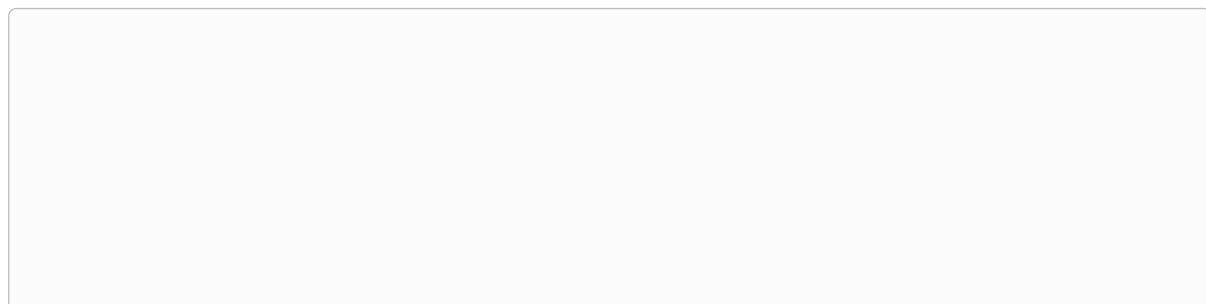
(a) Render a face or object with one blazing lit area and deep shadow. [4]

(b) Use charcoal or ink wash to reach rich darks; keep a full value bridge. [1]



**3.2**

( ) Work on **toned paper**: add darks with media and lights with white/eraser. [2]



### 4 Go further

- 
- work through the **0204 Chiaroscuro and High-Contrast Drawing** lesson on the **Learn** page;
  - read the **Value, Light, and Form** section of the AP Drawing handout on the **Know** page.

## Solutions

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**2.1 B. tenebrism** is extreme chiaroscuro.

**2.2** at the focal point; because contrast attracts the eye first.

**2.3** any two of: compressed charcoal, ink wash, black conté.

**3.1** strong single-light drama; focal point carries the strongest contrast; rich controlled darks; a value bridge, not black-vs-white only.

**3.2** the ground acts as a mid-value; both darks and lights added, form reads clearly.