

2.4 Chiaroscuro and High-Contrast Drawing

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

KEY WORDS focal point 视觉焦点 • tenebrism 暗色调主义 • toned paper 有色纸 • chiaroscuro 明暗对照法
• value 明度

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]

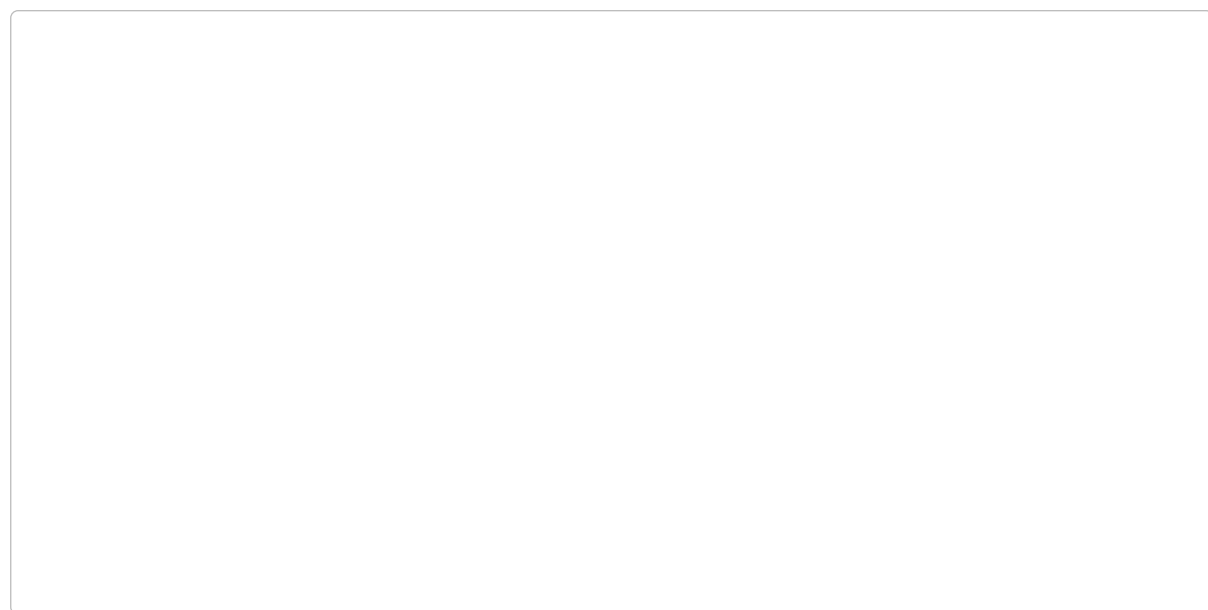
2.3 Name two media that reach deep darks quickly. [1]

3 Studio & portfolio tasks

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

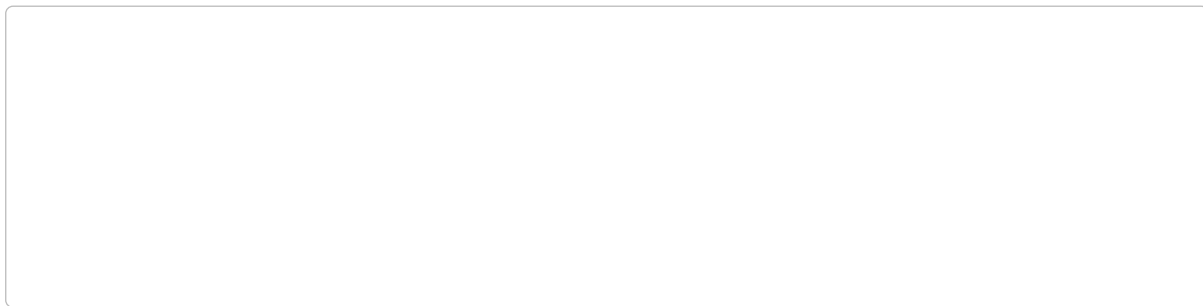
(a) Render a face or object with one blazing lit area and deep shadow. [4]

(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]



Solutions

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.