

3.6 Composition and the Picture Plane

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 10 marks

KEY WORDS rule of thirds 三分法 • picture plane 画面 • figure-ground 图底 • negative space 负空间
• viewpoint 视点

Objective

Design strong **composition** 构图 inside the **picture plane** 画面.

You must be able to:

- use the **rule of thirds** 三分法 over dead centre
- design the **negative space** 负空间
- keep the **figure-ground** 图底 relationship readable
- choose the viewpoint on purpose

1 Worked examples

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

■ Design the frame

What you crop out is as expressive as what you keep in. The rule of thirds places focal points off dead centre.

■ Negative space

The empty shapes around a subject are shapes you designed, not leftovers.

■ Viewpoint

Eye level is neutral; a low or high viewpoint makes an ordinary subject fresh.

2 Practice

2.1 The empty shapes around a subject are its

[1]

- **A** positive space
 - **B** negative space
 - **C** liminal space
 - **D** wasted space
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2.2 Why is placing a subject on a third-line often stronger than dead centre? [2]

2.3 Name two things that can lead the viewer's eye to the focal point. [1]

3 Studio & portfolio tasks

3.1 Make a **composition study set** of one subject.

(a) Draw three thumbnails: centred, rule-of-thirds, and a cropped close-up. [3]

(b) Mark the negative space in your strongest thumbnail. [1]

3.2

() Redraw one subject from an unusual **viewpoint** (very low or very high). [2]

Solutions

2.1 B. negative space is designed, not leftover.

2.2 dead centre is static/predictable; a third-line placement creates a more dynamic, designed balance.

2.3 any two of: lines/paths, value contrast, areas of detail.

3.1 three genuinely different compositions; one clearly uses the rule of thirds; negative space identified as a designed shape.

3.2 a clearly non-eye-level viewpoint; the fresh angle strengthens the subject.