Subject matter/ imagery

Describe everything you see in the picture, in detail.

Start with things you are sure about.

Is there anything you are not sure about?

What could it be?

Composition/ arrangement

What do you see?

Where has the artist positioned everything?

Opinion: What would you add, remove or change about the painting?

Lines, tone, pattern, texture, colour, shape and/or form

Describe the lines, tones, shapes, form (2D/3D), pattern, colours and textures used where and why?

Scale

Describe what size objects, people or other elements are in the sculpture, painting, photograph or mixed media piece. Then explain where they have been used and why?

Media handling and techniques

What media (materials), tools and techniques were used to make this?

Do you think the subject matter was directly observed, imagined or remembered? Why?

What stages do you think the artist went through?

Mood and atmosphere

How does the piece make you feel and why?

What kind of person do you think made it?

Where would be a good place to hang it?

What do you think/love/hate about it?

Style

What does it make you think about?

Does it remind you of anything?

Social, cultural and historical influences

When, where, why, do you think this was created?

What was happening at the time when this was made?

Can you see any symbols (a mark used to represent something else) or metaphors (a word applied to an object or action that is not really suitable)?

What’s the piece a about? What could it mean?