



### How to prepare for a drawing test: Portraits

- Check your equipment - 2b pencil for outline and tone, 4b/6b for darker tones, a rubber and sharpener.
- Practise drawing from observation - draw a real person in front of you! Even better if you are drawing in a space with natural light.
- Use the side of your 2b pencil lightly on its side.
- Make the most of the space on the page - be careful not to draw too small. Aim to use the centre of your page. (You will be awarded marks for the position on the page)
- Remember to follow the rules of proportion. You could lightly map out guidelines to plot where the facial features will be.
- Avoid Manga / cartoon sized /shape facial proportions.
- Pay close attention to the shape of the eyes- not too big or close together.
- When drawing a nose, avoid strong outlines, and build upon your shading to create the illusion of the form of the nose.
- Look closely at the shape of the mouth and use a variety of line and subtle tone. Avoid a cartoon shape.
- Use different types of line and vary your pencil pressure.
- Build a variety of tone and mark marking. A tonal bar is a good way to warm up and is a helpful guide to match your tone: from highlights, mid tones to shadows.
- You could practise by taking a photograph of your sitter and turning the photograph to greyscale to help understand where to apply shading.
- You could also use a gridding tool on your photograph to help you with your proportion.
- Leave some parts of the drawing unshaded (highlights).
- Please avoid smudging your drawing with your finger. Use an eraser to help blend.
- Look at the notes on your art class OneNote and feedback in your sketchbook.
- Watch portrait drawing tutorials on YouTube.
- Watch your presentation, it is important not to lean too heavily on your pencil as you may need to rub it out.
- Practise makes perfect! Practise timed drawings and ask your art teacher and peers for feedback 😊