THE STRIVING

MUSLIM ACADEMY

Islamic and Academic Education

STAGE 6 · ART AND DESIGN · MASTERY OF TECHNIQUE

Mastery of technique

Techniques to learn, things to make, and the questions to ask of your own work when it is finished.

WHAT IS INSIDE

- Pencils are not all the same
- Shading without outlines
- Clay that does not crack
- Task 1: One object, three materials
- Task 2: The darkest dark
- Hold a drawing at arm's length
- Look at your own work

The Striving Muslim Academy

No answers at the back. There is nothing here to mark.

Written for a parent teaching at home. No training assumed, and nothing else to buy.

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Pencils are not all the same

Read this, then try it on the page underneath.



PENCILS ARE NOT ALL THE SAME

Pencils are graded by how hard the lead is. H is hard and B is soft, and the number says how much.

A hard pencil, 2H, makes a light grey line and keeps its point. It is for fine detail and for lines you may want to draw over.

A soft pencil, 4B, makes a dark line and blunts quickly. It is for shadows and for darkness.

HB is in the middle and is what most people use for everything, which is why most drawings have no real darks in them.

Clay that does not crack

Read this, then try it on the page underneath.



CLAY THAT DOES NOT CRACK

Most clay work fails for the same three reasons.

Uneven thickness: the thin parts dry first and pull away from the thick ones. Keep the walls the same all over.

Air trapped inside: it expands when fired and breaks the piece. Wedge the clay first, which means kneading it to push the air out.

Joins made dry: score both surfaces, wet them to a paste, press and smooth. A join made properly is as strong as the rest; a join pressed together dry always opens.

Hold a drawing at arm's length

Go and look at a real thing. This is the lesson, not the warm up.



HOLD A DRAWING AT ARM'S LENGTH

Pin your drawing up and walk six paces away. Faults you cannot see at the desk are obvious from there.

Write down the first thing you notice from across the room. That is what a viewer notices too, and it is almost never the part you spent longest on.

SAMPLE PAGES

You have read a few pages. The pack is longer.

What you are holding is a short sample, taken from different parts of the pack so that you can see how a week is planned and what a child is actually asked to do, before you decide.

The complete pack, and the rest of the academic materials, are on our website: schemes of work for a parent teaching at home, and practice packs for the skills children get stuck on.

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Members of the homeschool community do not buy these. If you have joined the community, the pack for the term you are working on is given to you at no cost.

Our Islamic Education classes are free. These packs are part of what pays the teachers who teach them.