Lesson 7: Prepare the surface and block in

Visual Arts 1.2 · AS91913 v4 · 50 minutes · Teacher plan

Teacher / class: _____ Date: _____

Learning intention

Establish a sound surface and the main structure of the final painting.

Students are learning to

- Prepare a support appropriate to the chosen medium.
- Establish the main forms and tonal relationships from the selected plan.

Materials & preparation

Have agreed supports, approved grounds if needed, brushes, sources and plans ready. Prepare surfaces in advance if drying exceeds the lesson. Allocate named drying and storage spaces; follow school procedures for all media.

Language to make visible

Support · ground · underpainting · block-in

Support & access

Use enlarged student-made plans, accessible tools and a brief individual check of the main forms. Demonstrate on separate material.

Extend the learning

Test whether an underlayer can contribute to the intended atmosphere rather than simply cover the support.

Class adjustments

Lesson 7: classroom sequence

Prepare the surface and block in · 50 minutes, including clean-up

Time / phase	Teaching and learning
0–5 min Connect	Students check their plan and surface. Ask what preparation this material needs before paint is added.
5–13 min Teach & model	Demonstrate the relevant surface preparation on a separate sample. Show how to locate large shapes and tonal masses without committing too early to small detail.
13–38 min Studio practice	Students prepare or use a pre-prepared support, establish the composition and block in major relationships. Pause halfway to compare the painting with the intention and plan. Students decide whether any proportions or placements need changing.
38–45 min Review & check	View work from a distance. Students identify whether the main structure is legible and select one adjustment before further development.
45–50 min Record & clean up	Take a dated progress photograph where appropriate, record the next stage, clean tools and store work safely.

Check for learning

A prepared support and a purposeful beginning of the single final painting.

Before the next lesson

Repeat or extend this stage when preparation or drying needs it. Resolve structural problems before adding detail.

Teacher reflection / next steps