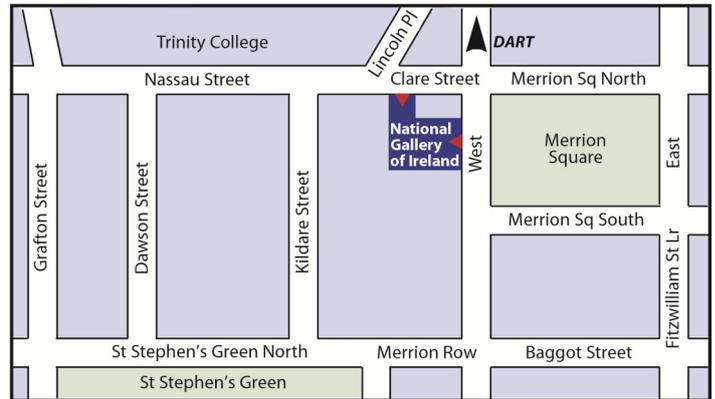
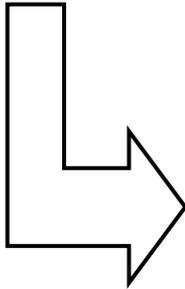


# A visit to the National Gallery of Ireland preparation for Leaving Certificate art history students

Access the NGI  
via Clare St.

Art Surpassing Nature:  
Dutch Landscapes in the  
Age of Rembrandt and  
Ruisdael



## Gallery Visit Tips:

1) Be observant and question everything you see.

2) There are no right or wrong answers.

The examiner wants you to create your own opinion about the space and to consider why the works of art have been displayed in that way.

## Section III - Appreciation of Art

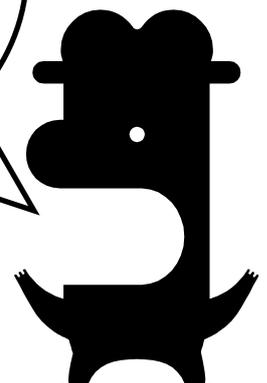
It is important to be aware of the decisions made in preparation for an exhibition.

### Who makes the decisions?

These decisions are usually the role of the curator. However, as there are many different elements to consider a number of other departments, (e.g. education, conservation, exhibitions, press) are involved.

For information about NGI departments and temporary exhibitions see [www.nationalgallery.ie](http://www.nationalgallery.ie).

6 questions to help you gather all the information you need:  
**Who, What, When, Where, How, and Why?**



6 QUESTIONS:  
**WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, HOW and WHY?**

**WHAT** is the title of the exhibition? \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEN** is it taking place (permanent/temporary)? \_\_\_\_\_

**WHERE** is it held was it easy to find? \_\_\_\_\_

**HOW** and **WHERE** was it advertised (posters, gallery programme, internet etc.)?  
.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**WHO** organised it (institution/curator/artist)? \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT** is it about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**WHO** will see the exhibition? \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT** does it contain (paintings/drawings/sculpture/ photographs/video/ installation)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
**HOW** have the works been arranged (chronologically or thematically)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
**HOW** would you arrange these works? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**HOW** were the works displayed (if hung; describe how they were hung and where/in what position)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**HOW** did you view the works; by looking up close, walking around, sitting etc.?

\_\_\_\_\_  
**WHAT** and **WHY** have measures been taken to protect the works?

\_\_\_\_\_  
**HOW** and **WHY** have the works been lit (natural or artificial light. Evenly dispersed or spot lighting)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
**WHAT** colour are the walls (does this affect the works)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
**WHAT** colour would you paint the walls and **WHY**?

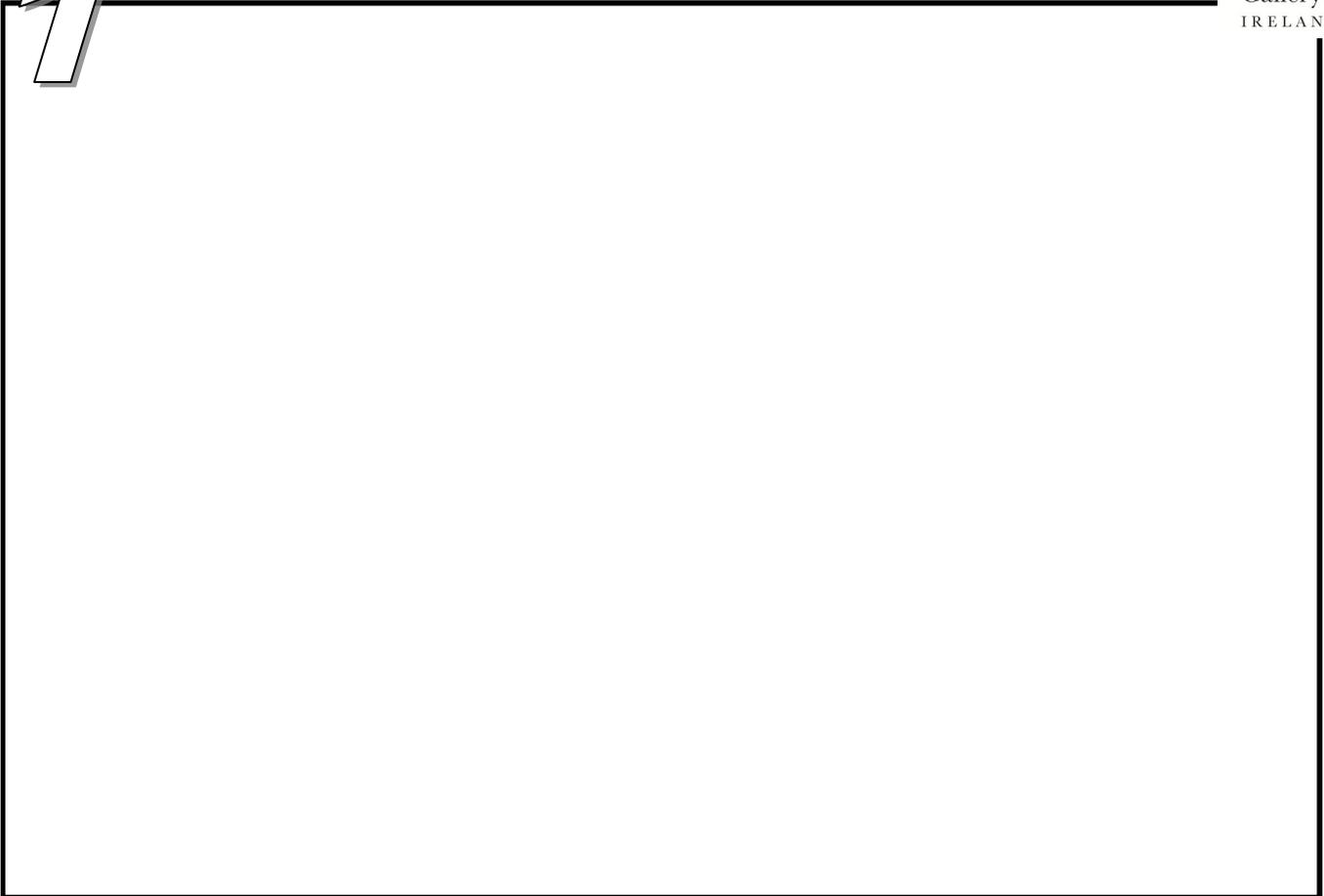
\_\_\_\_\_  
**WHAT** information was available and **WHERE** was it found (text panels, leaflets, internet etc.)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Does the information help you to understand the works or is it distracting?

\_\_\_\_\_  
**WHAT** is your overall opinion of the exhibition and **WHY**?

Choose 2 works of art from the exhibition.  
Sketch them and analyse them according to the 6 QUESTIONS

**1**



**WHO** is the artist?

**WHAT** is it called & **WHAT** is the subject matter?

**WHEN** was it made?

**WHERE** was it made?

**HOW** was it made?

**WHY** was it made?

2

**WHO** is the artist?

**WHAT** is it called & **WHAT** is the subject matter?

**WHEN** was it made?

**WHERE** was it made?

**HOW** was it made?

**WHY** was it made?

There are 5 useful categories of painting; History/Narrative, Genre/Everyday, Portraiture, Landscape & Still-life.

*Art Surpassing Nature* contains a selection of which category of painting?

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Below are some key words used to describe *Art Surpassing Nature*. Give a brief description and an example of each.

Naturalistic	Idealised	Italianate	Nocturnal

**Recap:**

*Art Surpassing Nature* relates to a specific time in Dutch history known as \_\_\_\_\_, which occurred in the \_\_\_\_\_ century.

It was a time of great prosperity and success, whereby trade, art and science flourished in the Netherlands.

1. The Dutch artists of this era started to paint different views of Holland; views of the sea and of the land
2. The merchants and wealthy people wanted to buy Dutch paintings to decorate their homes
3. Thus, there was a huge increase in the amount of art produced and bought in the Netherlands



**Visit another local exhibition and compare & contrast**

**Some useful adjectives:**

- Old/new
- Historical/contemporary
- Bright/dark
- Spacious/claustrophobic
- Large/small
- Clarity/ambiguity
- Minimalist/elaborate
- Urban/rural
- Stuffy/airy
- Expensive/cheap
- Welcoming/hostile
- Busy/empty
- Cluttered/stark
- Warm/cold
- Interesting/boring