



General Certificate of Education

Applied Art and Design (8511, 8513, 8516, 8517, 8519)

AD04 Historical and contemporary references

Report on the Examination

2009 examination - June series

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AD04 – Historical and contemporary references

For Unit ADO4 candidates investigated both historical and contemporary references through their research and development of a 2D and a 3D piece of work. An important aspect that was not always evident in candidates' responses was the requirement to show investigation into contemporary and historical applications in art, craft and design in vocational contexts. The applied nature of the research and investigation is important and fine artists should be studied alongside designers and craftspeople. Some candidates combined this unit with ADO1 and/or ADO2, using the research to link themes with 2D and 3D investigation. This can be a very successful approach but it is important to have covered all the requirements of the strap-line accompanying the Assessment Criteria for this unit.

A variety of work was seen this series from illustrated notes and related practical work to in-depth illustrated sketchbooks, timelines and investigative work. Some candidates showed a sound knowledge of art, craft and design in vocational contexts, which enabled them to analyse and evaluate a variety of sources. Other candidates had used a visit to a gallery or a practitioner as a starting point for this unit.

Detailed sketchbooks compared both historical and contemporary designers and craftspeople and were illustrated with an interesting selection of examples, eg, Bernard Leach and Kate Malone. Some excellent work included writing under the headings, structure, purpose and meaning as outlined in Task 1 of AD05 and some candidates linked their research to very personal pieces of work.

To obtain marks in the higher mark bands there is a requirement for candidates to 'compare and contrast the work of others evaluating a range of influences'. Comparisons were not always evident although analyses were better. The development of a personal style can also achieve high marks in AO2(b).

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results statistics](#) page of the AQA website.