



Pearson  
Edexcel

Examiners' Report  
Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2021

Pearson Edexcel Advanced Level  
in Art and Design  
(9AD0/9FA0/9GC0/9PY0/9TD0/9TE0)  
Component 2: Externally Set Assignment

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## **Introduction**

The 2021 examination series followed the same format as the 2020 series. This was again, a unique examination offered to those candidates that felt they needed further confirmation of their performance levels, post the Teacher Assessed Grades, and presented a unique experience. The exam paper itself followed exactly the same format as a standard series paper. Preparation time was determined by individual Centres policies after the release of the paper and this time may or may not have been affected by individual Centres Covid 19 restrictions, or indeed the candidates own state of health during the preparation time. Each candidate's work was marked by the Principal Moderator for Component 2. This mark was then standardised and checked before being submitted. This again was a break from the normal procedure which moderates a sample rather than marking individuals.

As with last

year candidates were given the option of accepting Centre Assessed Grades or sit an exam much later in the year in November. The vast majority of candidates accepted their Centre Assessed Grades. This again meant that the November exam entry was very small, with only 17 candidates choosing this option; half the amount seen last year. The general observations in this report must be read in that context. Obviously with such a small cohort it is impossible to establish any accurate trends or patterns that have real meaning.

The format of the exam was identical to any of the other previous examination papers from previous series. The nature of the examination is such that it does not ask any particular questions. It provides a generic theme and then a series of thoughts and ideas about it. These are designed to stimulate the candidate's imaginations and give them some starting points. This paper, as with last year's, provided them with a rich source of resources to begin their creative journeys.

## **Component 2 (100% for this series only) 9AD0/02 – 9TE0/02**

### **Overview**

The theme for Component 2 is set by Pearson Edexcel in the form of an examination paper. In 2021 this was available for students to respond to from the 11<sup>th</sup> August.

The theme this year was "Communication"

Students had an unrestricted amount of time after this date to prepare for a timed examination of 15 hours.

Component 2 formed 100% of the total mark for this series only, for those candidates choosing this option.

## **Observations**

As with last year, it could be observed that for the small number of entries submitted, the paper provided ample stimulation for candidates to achieve their optimum potential. Again, individual levels of response, in all aspects, appeared directly comparable to previous examination series.

## **Summary**

As explained above the nature of the examination paper is such that it was directly comparable with previous examination series papers. There was no perceivable difference in ease of access, or depth of resources and information contained within the paper. This was borne out by the candidates' responses to the starting points. These demonstrated identical levels of interpretation, investigation, and development as those shown in previous series.

The visual qualities of the work submitted, and the depth and levels of enquiry appeared to have followed similar levels to those experienced under normal conditions. Unfortunately, there were not enough submissions for any of the Titles to make accurate generic observations about overall standards. The work that was submitted, however, appeared to show the genuine strengths, standards and performance levels of the individual candidates concerned. There were no obvious weaknesses in any of the Assessment Objectives and most submissions had addressed them all with equal weighting, as in previous series.

There is a risk that, with teaching and learning disturbance due to the pandemic, some candidates and centre staff may lose touch with the core standards and expectations of the qualification. These have been such disorientating times and circumstances. In light of this, it is essential that candidates are directed to the exemplars published on the Pearson Edexcel website, and also the specification. It is key to remember that these exemplars provide a solid anchorage point and benchmark when establishing performance levels for candidates. The standards have not changed and will remain the same, regardless of external circumstances.

