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ASSESSMENT and QUALIFICATIONS ALLIANCE

General Certificate of Education

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

AD01 Investigation of 2D visual language

Report on the Examination

2009 examination - June series

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AD01 – Investigation of 2D visual language

ADO1 is the most successfully completed unit at AS perhaps because of its clear links to GCSE Applied Art and Design. Centres were able to cover the 2D requirements of the unit often using a vocational brief as a stimulus. However, centres should keep in mind that ADO1 is focused on the investigation of 2D visual language and, although using a vocational brief as a stimulus for this unit is to be encouraged, it is not always necessary for candidates to produce a design proposal. The strap-line accompanying the Assessment Criteria for this unit asks for 'vocationally considered work' and candidates should interpret this in ways which best demonstrate their strengths.

A range of mark making techniques were seen using various media and technology, with more successful candidates combining various media in their work. There was also good use of visual language through experimentation. It was interesting to note that photography is increasingly used in a more creative and personal way to record the development of candidates' personal skills.

Centres should be aware that focussing the teaching of this unit using just a graphics theme does not always allow candidates the opportunity for investigation and experimentation with materials and techniques.

Candidates' sketchbooks continued to show good practice, including evidence of both personal investigation and practitioner research including a wider range of lesser-known artists such as contemporary printmakers.

The skills and techniques developed in this unit support work in other AS units and the progression to A2, especially ADO7, the 'Application and development of 2D visual language'. Some candidates had focused too much on a design outcome rather than a design proposal for ADO1 and in doing so had potentially reduced the opportunity for, and quality of, experimentation and investigation in their work.

Thematic approaches often worked well, with some centres linking ADO1 and ADO2. For many candidates this holistic approach proved valuable although it is important to meet the strap-line requirements accompanying the Assessment Criteria of each individual unit. Candidates should ensure that they indicate clearly where work belongs to Unit 1 or Unit 2 as well as where work covers more than one unit.

This series, some candidates wrote very strong and formative evaluative comments and analyses and centres should be careful not to under mark them. Although sometimes missing this series, candidates should be aware that including constructive proposals about improvements to their work can achieve marks in the higher mark bands of Assessment Objective 3.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the Results statistics page of the AQA website.