



General Certificate of Education

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

AD04 Historical and contemporary references

Report on the Examination

2010 examination - June series

AD04 – Historical and contemporary references

AD04 requires candidates to investigate both historical and contemporary references through research and development into a 2D and 3D piece of work. An important aspect that was not always evident this series, was the requirement for candidates to show 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. Candidates should select their combination of practitioners with care and it can be useful to link the work of historical and contemporary artists/designers in this unit and others.

Some centres combined this unit with AD01 and/or AD02, 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-lines for individual units. There are still many candidates that attempt this as a stand alone unit. However, one centre had provided candidates with a good brief for designing a clock on a Kandinsky theme and this could very easily have been connected with the 3D work in AD02.

A variety of work was seen this year, from a series of illustrated notes and related practical work, to in-depth illustrated sketchbooks, timelines and investigative work related to them. Other centres had used a visit to a gallery, a study visit abroad or a practitioner as a starting point for this unit.

Some excellent work included writing under the headings, structure, purpose and meaning (taken from AD05) and some candidates linked their research to very personal practical pieces of work although centres must be careful that the practical work does not become the only focus of the unit.

In the higher mark bands for AO2(a) there is a requirement for candidates to produce notes which 'compare and contrast the work of others evaluating a range of influences'. Candidates should also show 'creative selectivity in carrying the work forward'. This was not always seen, although centres sometimes marked candidates' work in mark band 4.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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

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