



General Certificate of Education

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

ADO4 Historical and contemporary references

Report on the Examination

2011 examination - June series

ADO4 – Historical and contemporary references

This unit focuses on investigating both historical and contemporary applications in art, craft and design in a vocational context, through research and development, leading to a 2D and 3D piece of work. The applied nature of the research and investigation is important and fine artists should be studied alongside designers and craftspeople.

Some candidates enjoyed working on ADO4 as a discreet unit, but others really took advantage of the possibility of incorporating ADO4 into their responses for ADO1 and ADO2, allowing ADO4 to 'service' ADO1 and ADO2. It is important to keep in mind that ADO4 requires two pieces of work (one piece of 2D and the other of 3D), one contemporary and one historical, which can be linked with the research and investigation in ADO1 and ADO2.

Candidates who had successfully used a holistic and integrated approach to the delivery of units, clearly identified the work for each unit, through either labelling work or having an overview sheet. A great majority of portfolios seen were well developed, contextualised and supported by sound and broad-ranging research. This can be a very successful approach but it is important to have covered all the requirements of the strap-lines for individual units.

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. Sketchbooks were also supported by evidence of the process of self-assessment. This helped to enhance the candidates' own understanding of both the specific requirements of the unit and the assessment criteria. Some candidates had used a visit to a gallery, a study visit or a practitioner visit as a starting point for this unit.

Some excellent analytical work was seen including written work under the headings, 'structure', 'purpose' and 'meaning' (taken from ADO5) and some candidates linked their research to very personal, practical pieces of work. However, candidates must ensure that the practical work does not become the only focus of the unit. Higher mark bands require candidates to 'compare and contrast the work of others and evaluate a range of influences', showing 'creative selectivity in carrying the work forward.'

ADO4 has also been seen as the focal point for all AS units and this has worked in a very advantageous way leaving the candidate with an excellent resource book for the future as well as a strong contextual contribution to their AS Applied Art and Design.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available at www.aqa.org.uk/over/stat.html .

The UMS conversion calculator can be found at www.aqa.org.uk/umsconversion .

Further copies of this Report are available to download from the AQA Website: www.aqa.org.uk

Copyright © 2011 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

COPYRIGHT

AQA retains the copyright on all its publications. However, registered centres for AQA are permitted to copy material from this booklet for their own internal use, with the following important exception: AQA cannot give permission to centres to photocopy any material that is acknowledged to a third party even for internal use within the centre.

Set and published by the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance.

