



**General Certificate of Education (A-level) Applied  
June 2012**

**Applied Art and Design**

**AD04**

**(Specification  
8511/8513/8516/8517/8519)**

**Unit 4: Historical and contemporary references**

***Report on the Examination***

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## **AD04 – Historical and contemporary references**

AD04 focuses on investigating both historical and contemporary references through research and development, leading to a 2D and 3D piece of work. This piece of work could be a design proposal, samples, or visualised ideas. An important aspect that was not always evident was the requirement for 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. Thought should be given to choosing the combinations of practitioners, so that the interaction stems from, for example, a well-chosen historic painter and a contemporary designer.

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. Combining units together is possible but needs to be well planned in terms of the Assessment Criteria. Candidates will not succeed if this is not completed or if too many units are attempted and assessed together. A great majority of the portfolios seen were well developed, contextualised and supported by sound and broad-ranging research.

A variety of work was seen this year from illustrated notes and related practical work, to in-depth illustrated sketchbooks and investigative work related to them. Some centres, as mentioned earlier, had used a theme in AD01 and AD02 (eg. natural forms) and used the research in AD04 to stimulate the experimentation of 2D and 3D visual language, leading to design proposals which were then submitted for AD04 as the required 2D and 3D pieces of work (see strapline). Other centres had used a visit to a gallery or a visiting artist as a starting point for this unit.

Some excellent work was seen, 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 ensure that the practical work does not become the only focus of the unit.

In the higher mark bands there is a requirement for candidates to (AO1) compare and contrast the work of others evaluating a range of influences as well as showing (AO2) 'creative selectivity in carrying the work forward.'

## **Mark Ranges and Award of Grades**

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