AQA

ASSESSMENT and
QUALIFICATIONS
ALLIANCE

General Certificate of Education

Applied Information and Communication Technology 8751, 8753, 8756 & 8759

IT06   Computer Artwork

Report on the Examination

2008 examination - June series

Unit 6: Computer Artwork (IT06)

The majority of centres heeded the advice given in standardisation meetings and took an approach to this unit that gave candidates the opportunity to gain the full range of marks available. The majority of candidates produced appropriate work.

Some artwork was seen that was produced to very high standards, for real clients who would clearly be able to use the finished pieces. Candidates used a wide range of artwork packages and displayed considerable practical skill.

The portfolio requirements for this unit are two-fold. Firstly the candidate should produce a portfolio of sample artwork that demonstrates a range of techniques, using a variety of artwork applications and image capture methods. This portfolio of samples should be suitable for showing to a client. Secondly, the candidate should draw designs for, and produce a final version of, a piece of artwork that meets the requirements of a client. Ideally the finished artwork should demonstrate the use of some of the techniques shown in the portfolio of sample artwork.

A small number of candidates did not clearly label their samples of artwork to show which were bitmap and which were vector based images. These candidates often also failed to state what artwork applications they had used to create them or the source of their images, so being unable to gain the higher marks on AO1, Rows 1 and 2, for what were, in some cases, good portfolios of images. Candidates should also show good use of more than 2 devices for capturing or developing images, in order to gain 3 marks on Row 3. There must be clear evidence that they have used such devices, such as a mobile phone camera, a scanner, a graphics tablet or other suitable devices.

Final designs, assessed on AO1, Row 5, should be either hand-drawn, or sketched using drawing tools. They should not be created in the software that will be used for the final implementation. A design that can be implemented by a third-party (even with some guidance) could reasonably be expected to include measurements, exact colour values, fonts, sizes and so on. Better candidates produced designs that gave a clear indication of size and position of all elements within the artwork, which then also gained marks in AO3, Row 1.

Row 7 of AO1 requires clear evidence of the artwork being saved in formats that are suitable, for 2 marks. Good evidence is likely to come from a screen shot of the candidate's user area, showing the image files with their file types displayed. The candidate should annotate this screen shot to show the images and file types used and the reasons why these file types were used.

It is worth noting here that AO3 mainly assesses the candidate's ability to plan the production of the finished artwork and candidates who provided even quite detailed commentary on the implementation of the finished artwork did not gain marks, whereas those who attempted to plan its creation and production did. AO3, Rows 3 to 5 are concerned with the planning stage, before the artwork is implemented, and credit should not be given for a retrospective account. Row 3 was commonly awarded too many marks. To achieve marks on this row, the candidate must plan how their artwork will be "produced" or output – perhaps by discussing the media they will use, the method of storage and display if to be produced electronically, and so on. This is not the same as Row 5 where they describe the editing requirements.

For 3 or 4 marks to be awarded on AO3, Row 6 the final designs must be annotated to show what the candidate has altered during the implementation process. The idea is that the final

design remains third-party implementable, even after the changes are made because of decisions taken during implementation and testing of the final artwork.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades
Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the **Results statistics** page of the AQA Website.