



General Certificate of Secondary Education

Art and Design (Fine Art)

Coursework 3202/C

Report on the Examination

2007 examination – June series

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GCSE Art and Design (Fine Art) 3202

Coursework 3202/C

Candidates in many centres produced Coursework that used a rich variety of materials, techniques and processes, with many working in both two-dimensional and three-dimensional media. From the evidence seen this year, teachers have clearly worked hard to enable their candidates to achieve their full potential, often in circumstances where the cost of materials or pressure for space made this a serious challenge.

The use of digital photography has, in many centres, begun to replace drawing as a method for recording direct observations. Handled well this was very effective and enabled candidates to explore quite complex situations. However, the growing tendency to use programs like Photoshop to manipulate and distort digital images as the basis for final outcomes led some candidates to produce rather predictable results, which showed little evidence of their own ideas or imagination. Although there were some excellent examples of direct observation drawing by high attaining candidates, there were many where drawing consisted of copying from second-hand source material such as magazine photographs.

Sketchbooks continued to be much in evidence this year, with many candidates submitting separate ones for each unit of Coursework. Many sketchbooks were superb, with candidates clearly taking considerable delight in their presentation; some were works of art in their own right. The number of candidates who submitted research and development work on separate sheets appeared to have increased this year. Some of these demonstrated real commitment to reveal the full story of the journey they had taken in producing their final outcomes.

In centres where candidates had been given opportunities to explore ideas through the use of a full range of two- and three-dimensional media, and particularly where references had been made to contemporary artists, the work produced was often very innovative and exciting. Some centres adopted a traditional approach, using tried and tested ways of working, with the emphasis on drawing and painting. In some cases giving candidates little scope for personal exploration and response.

The trend towards submitting two units of Coursework continued this year, with evidence in some centres that these were the result of studies in increased depth rather than selection from several units. One centre delivered the Coursework component through a first assignment set by the department, followed by one devised by the individual candidates based on their personal interests. This allowed a highly structured approach in the first unit, covering all of the assessment objectives thoroughly. The resulting personal projects were very creative and, in some cases, inspired. As in previous years, many centres had used the starting points on previous Controlled Test question papers as the basis for some of their Coursework.

The quality of presentation has generally remained high, although moderators reported many instances of un-mounted and disorganised sheets of work being submitted. Many centres that were visited had clearly taken great care in the display and presentation of their candidates' work, often as part of an exhibition open to parents and, in some cases, the public. It was a great pleasure to see this and it made it very easy to moderate in these centres.

Mark ranges and award of grades

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