



General Certificate of Secondary Education

Art and Design (Textiles)

Controlled Test 3204/T

Report on the Examination

2007 examination – June series

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Dr Michael Cresswell Director General.

GCSE Art and Design (Textiles) 3204

Controlled Test 3204/T

The Controlled Test question paper was well received by both established centres and those new to the specification. There was a sound uptake of all questions with ideas appealing to different ability ranges, specialities and approaches.

Question 1 Viewpoints

A number of candidates found the artists mentioned in the question to be a good lead into the brief. Numerous studies of O'Keeffe suggested close up observations, while Klimt appealed for pattern content. Both *jewellery* and *kitchen utensils* were popular options with personal photographs and drawings used to record pattern as well as composition suggestions. Several candidates made visits to local allotments and there was evidence that they had been encouraged to make use of primary sources.

Question 2 Classical Art

Classical Art was effectively researched by candidates, although they were generally from the modest ability range. Although a number did drift towards the idea of cliché, others developed some original and creative responses. Screen printed fabric was presented as were wall hangings and fashion pieces. However, not all candidates who wished to create fashion pieces made the connection between the suggested sources and the work of Versace. A number relied on collected images with little or no evidence of analysis or evaluation. Simple Greek patterns were also used to enhance existing pieces of clothing but often in a rather limited way.

Question 3 Life's Stories

The work of Alice Kettle inspired a number of candidates in Coursework studies and several centres welcomed the opportunity to extend ideas in the Controlled Test. Many of the pieces seen were highly personal with a thorough understanding of recording and drawing through the medium of stitching often evident. Family photos were translated onto fabric through Image Maker and enhanced with stitching techniques. Dreams and both urban and rural localities were depicted in a range of techniques and materials, many of which were highly successful. In several instances candidates had used text that they had written to suggest compositions. Fabric books, wall hangings and bags were all vehicles for the final piece. Work produced in response to this question was often strong in AO1 and AO3.

Question 4 Russian Art

The options to produce a particular end piece in question 4 appealed to a number of candidates from design based approaches. Although in some instances final pieces were successful, a number did become over involved in the collection of pictures of work by all the named designers, regardless of content, and with little thought given to actual Russian art. Some candidates however did produce impressive work with sources such as mosaics, embroidery and architecture explored and themes for pattern and technique successfully extracted. Shawls, belts and hats were produced and moderators commented that a number did indeed look very Russian.

Question 5 *Natural World*

Natural World appealed to candidates from across the ability range and while a number did rely on secondary sources there was still evidence of some pleasing research work, particularly in sketchbooks. A number found this a good outlet for silk painting and batik. Flowers and leaves tended to be the standard imagery although other successful works were based on studies of peacock feathers.

Question 6 *Structures*

Candidates used a range of personal observations to inspire responses to this question with photographs of trees, bridges, skyscrapers, churches and cathedrals all evident. Outcomes were varied in ability but again a number were adventurous and of high quality. Three-dimensional pieces evolved as responses to both options. Much of the research for AO3 was particularly good.

Question 7 *Recycling*

A number of candidates who opted for this question enjoyed the opportunity to employ recycled materials but did not really use the suggestions to help develop a focus to their explorations. This was a pity as the AO2 and AO3 material experiments did suggest possibilities and links but were not followed through. Part (b) was frequently attempted by candidates from different cultural backgrounds. Lots of good quality applied decoration was evident with beading, sequins, stitching and tactile embellishment demonstrated. In this question it was often only the most able candidates who realised the potential of the suggested starting points.

Mark ranges and award of grades

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