



**General Certificate of Secondary Education**

**Art and Design (Photography)**

**Coursework 3206/C**

**Report on the Examination**

*2007 examination – June series*

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*Dr Michael Cresswell Director General.*

## **GCSE Art and Design (Photography) 3206**

### **Coursework 3206/C**

The number of candidates for this endorsement continued to grow and, generally, centres continued to develop good practice, producing work that covered the full range of assessment objectives and offered candidates a range of exciting learning opportunities. Evidence of strong teaching is clear, as is the continued growth of the use of ICT and the decline of traditional silver based methods and darkroom processes. Whilst, in relation to the use of the internet and ICT, there are issues to be aware of and addressed, moderators reported that Photography is being delivered in innovative ways to a broad range of abilities and ages.

Reports from moderators applauded a high standard of work in many centres, both schools and colleges, again commending the quality of evidence presented for AO2 and AO3 within Coursework. They were impressed with the broad range of references, showing an increasing awareness of contemporary material and many noted this year the inclusion of relevant reference material taken from a wide range of artistic contexts other than Photography.

As in previous years, moderators reported that work was well presented and organised. The change from traditional silver based to digital technologies moves on at an increasingly fast pace. Moderators clearly witnessed this change in the classroom across all endorsements. The exemplar work contained in the Teacher Standardisation exhibition illustrated the growing presence of digital imagery, both for research and as outcome, and presented some of the issues linked with assessment. Comments on Coursework occasionally remark on the poor visual quality of prints used for both research and outcome. It should be emphasised that the visual qualities of images are inseparably linked to their production, and that production values are an intrinsic, rather than an incidental, consideration in the process of assessment.

Last year saw an increase in the number of candidates using a 'mixed media' approach to the Photography endorsement, echoing work by installation artists and photographs such as those produced by Calum Colvin. This approach was still evident and the trend was underlined by the number of comments about the use of reference material gleaned from an increasingly wide range of artists and photographers. Last year's Report included a warning about the beguiling ease and speed with which image manipulation software can be used, leading to "an excessive production of minor and insignificant visual variations that did not inform about the engagement or learning of the candidate". Comments received this year echoed that concern. At the lower end of the ability range candidates produced quickly taken photographs and applied 'an effect'. As the digitally manipulated image becomes more frequent and 'off the peg effects' become monotonously familiar, it must be remembered that the marks awarded for the assessment objectives will indicate the level of reflective engagement and understanding achieved by the candidate.

### **Mark ranges and award of grades**

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