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ASSESSMENT and QUALIFICATIONS ALLIANCE

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Art and Design (Photography)

Coursework 3206/C

Report on the Examination

2008 examination – June series

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GCSE Art and Design (Photography) 3206

Coursework 3206/C

Moderators continue to report that centres involve themselves in developing good practice; producing work that covers the full range of assessment objectives and offer candidates a range of exciting learning opportunities. Evidence of effective teaching is clear and yet again the use of ICT has grown, arguably at the expense of the use of traditional silver based processes. There are still issues to be resolved in relation to the use of internet material and image manipulation software, but moderators report that the endorsement is being delivered in innovative ways, providing access to all the assessment objectives for all abilities. Although the use of digital technology continues to expand there is still good evidence of traditional darkroom processes and silver based techniques.

Reports from moderators applaud work of the highest standard from many centres, both from schools and colleges. This year many remarked on the depth of coverage of all the assessment objectives. They continue to be impressed with the broad range of references, including contemporary contextual material from a wide range of artistic contexts other than photography.

Moderators commended the efforts of candidates and centres in ensuring the smooth running of the moderation process by good organisation and presentation of work for assessment.

The advance of digital technology inevitably and properly sees growing evidence of e-portfolios and e-sketch books. Whilst this reflects the access and storage capacity of developing digital technology some moderators have commented on the difficulties they are experiencing with accessing the candidates' images. Centres must make sure that their candidates understand that moderators have to access evidence for all assessment objectives and suitable formats should be found for displaying and navigating a route through the work.

The endorsement sees the use of a wide variety of materials and approaches, in keeping with the way the lens based processes are developing in general.

A number of moderators drew attention to some difficulties in the presentation of evidence for A03. Work selected for Teachers' Standardisation meetings often exemplifies a variety of strategies for exhibiting such evidence. Whether the candidate is exploring through the development of materials or through the development of an idea, the moderator must have a means of assessing their understanding and engagement with the process and of understanding the decisions they made on their journey of review and refinement.

Mark ranges and award of grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the Results statistics page of the AQA Website.