



General Certificate of Secondary Education

Art and Design (Unendorsed)

Coursework 3201/C

Report on the Examination

2008 examination – June series

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Dr Michael Cresswell Director General.

GCSE Art and Design (Unendorsed) 3201

Coursework 3201/C

Many candidates this year preferred to submit two units of coursework, as opposed to the previously more common practice of three or four units. This approach did enable candidates to research and develop ideas in depth, thereby providing extensive evidence for assessment against the objectives. Moderators reported that candidates were electing to make more two-dimensional work and that evidence of three-dimensional pieces appeared to have decreased this year.

Best practice has been seen this year in courses that offer a broad range of experiences and media reflecting candidates' interests, available facilities and resources and preferred learning styles.

The Unendorsed Course is still the most popular endorsement. Candidates are using sketchbooks to greater effect than ever before, showing personalisation of content, meaningful annotation and purposeful exploration of materials and media. Moderators reported that the best sketchbook evidence successfully mapped out the creative journey within a context clearly understood by the candidate, documenting the evidence by drawing together the purpose of the assessment objectives in transparent layers of experience and personalised learning. In contrast, moderators also reported a growing tendency for some candidates to present small folders of magazine clippings as evidence of coverage of Assessment Objective 1 and sometimes Assessment Objective 2. In isolation, such evidence was often deemed insufficient in relation to skilful recording and observation. However, candidates who understood the importance of recording observations, experiences and ideas in forms appropriate to intentions employed a broader range of strategies such as drawing and digital photography to support their studies. Moderators have reported extensive use of digital imagery, providing candidates with an appropriate vehicle for enquiry. However, such practice was seen to be balanced by some candidates' preference for observational drawing.

Many centres have used past Controlled Test questions as coursework starting points and this has encouraged explicit and broadly equal coverage of all assessment objectives at an early stage of the course. This practice has successfully prepared candidates to take increasing ownership of their work and exploit opportunities to develop genuinely personal responses in both elements of the examination.

Mark ranges and award of grades

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