



General Certificate of Secondary Education

Art and Design (Textiles)

Controlled Test 3204/T

Report on the Examination

2008 examination – June series

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GCSE Art and Design (Textiles) 3204

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1) Human Form

Both the style and subject matter of the work of Audrey Walker was well referenced by a number of the candidates who opted for this question. Moderators commented that centres liked the opportunity to concentrate on studying the work of a single artist and the relationship this suggested with figurative investigation. The most successful responses explored compositions using a seated figure or a self portrait; dancing figures however also featured. Some candidates had employed scribble stitching to a creative end, weaker responses were little more than image maker transfers of poor quality photographs with random machine stitching.

2) Impressionist Gardens

This question was popular and appealed across the ability range. Work by the named artists was easily accessible and provided inspiration for some strong personal recording through photography and sketching in response to A01. Fabric paints were frequently used as a ground with layered and stitched materials and yarns added to suggest a more tactile surface. Candidates explored the relationship between brushstrokes and stitch marks and a number of wall hangings were produced. Sources also led to outcomes in the form of cushions, bags, fashion pieces and a headdress.

3) Shorelines

This was the most popular question on the paper and again appealed to candidates of all abilities. Referenced artists were successfully used to guide candidates into personal investigations of the themes. A number used sketches and photographs of shells as a starting point, and although moderators commented that some high quality recording was evident there were also examples where candidates had done little more than amass quantities of poor quality images with little suggestion of selection or intent. Several centres had organised a trip to the coast and some candidates had collected driftwood and jetsam which later became woven or stitched into their final pieces. Notable outcomes used a rich variety of tactile media to create mixed media wall hangings, embellished panels and stitched or dyed cushions. Fabric sea creatures, twisted yarn seaweed and tactile shells were entwined in several highly successful outcomes.

4) Japan

This proved to be another popular question which teachers felt was accessible to all candidates. Moderators observed that in a number of instances the work was not as successful as it could have been due to an over-reliance on second hand imagery. Weaker candidates copied poor quality photocopies of Japanese prints. Able candidates however produced quality studies based on first hand drawings of natural forms and quality photographs which suggested ideas in shape, pattern and texture. A number of candidates translated research into well made kimonos while others decorated cushions with dye, print and stitching. Several produced wall hangings which considered composition successfully.

5) Gallery or Museum Visit

Few candidates opted for this question, but those who did frequently produced successful work. Several centres had organised visits to local museums which provided ideas for bodice structures. A01 and A02 tended to be well referenced. There were some strong sketch book studies from a visit to places such as Barcelona which had provided candidates with a Gaudi influence.

6) Architectural Detail

Again this question was taken by few candidates, but those who selected it tended to make some good use of personal photographs from the locality as a starting point. Ideas were often well developed and outcomes were imaginative and demonstrated a range of processes.

7) Traditions

Moderators commented that this question attracted candidates with a clear identity of their ethnic origin.

- a) A number illustrated a depth of knowledge and personal enjoyment in the use of techniques and the creation of a textile piece.
- b) Masks and headdresses inspired by Venetian Carnival were popular and candidates of all abilities were able to use materials to produce a final outcome. Some were rather lacking in A01 and A02 but did sustain some lively experiments in stitching and fabric collage.
- c) Ethnic fabrics and clothes were used by candidates as a source for motifs and patterns as well as colours, shapes and styles. A number had sections bits from traditional fabrics to stitch into personal creations. The knowledge of fabric from the candidate's country of origin was often very good.

Mark ranges and award of grades

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