



Qualifications and
Curriculum Authority



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



Rewarding Learning

GCE A level performance descriptions for art and design

July 2007

QCA/07/3213

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Introduction

Performance descriptions have been created for all GCE subjects. They describe the learning outcomes and levels of attainment likely to be demonstrated by a representative candidate performing at the A/B and E/U boundaries for AS and A2.

In practice most candidates will show uneven profiles across the attainments listed, with strengths in some areas compensating in the award process for weaknesses or omissions elsewhere. Performance descriptions illustrate expectations at the A/B and E/U boundaries of the AS and A2 as a whole; they have not been written at unit level.

Grade A/B and E/U boundaries should be set using professional judgement. The judgement should reflect the quality of candidates' work, informed by the available technical and statistical evidence. Performance descriptions are designed to assist examiners in exercising their professional judgement. They should be interpreted and applied in the context of individual specifications and their associated units. However, performance descriptions are not designed to define the content of specifications and units.

The requirement for all AS and A level specifications to assess candidates' quality of written communication will be met through one or more of the assessment objectives.

The performance descriptions have been produced by the regulatory authorities in collaboration with the awarding bodies.

AS performance descriptions for art and design

	Assessment objective 1	Assessment objective 2	Assessment objective 3	Assessment objective 4
Assessment objectives	Develop their ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.	Experiment with and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes reviewing and refining their ideas as their work develops.	Record in visual and/or other forms, ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions, demonstrating an ability to reflect on their work and progress.	Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating critical understanding, realising intentions and where appropriate, make connections between visual, written, oral or other elements.
A/B boundary performance descriptions	Candidates characteristically: a) develop their ideas thoughtfully by investigating a range of relevant sources b) demonstrate the ability to analyse sources thoroughly and confidently.	Candidates characteristically: a) experiment with a wide range of appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, by recognising and exploiting emerging possibilities b) develop skills proficiently, by recognising, reviewing and refining potential ideas as work progresses.	Candidates characteristically: a) record ideas, observations and insights thoroughly and purposefully, focusing on aspects relevant to their intentions b) demonstrate an ability to reflect on and evaluate their work and progress, showing independent judgement.	Candidates characteristically: a) communicate personal responses creatively in the light of intentions b) make appropriate connections between visual and, where appropriate, written, oral and other elements to enhance meaning in the response.
E/U boundary performance descriptions	Candidates characteristically: a) develop their ideas from a range of sources b) demonstrate some ability to analyse sources.	Candidates characteristically: a) experiment with resources, media, materials, techniques and processes b) review and refine their ideas as work progresses.	Candidates characteristically: a) record ideas and observations relevant to their intentions b) demonstrate some ability to reflect on their work and progress.	Candidates characteristically: a) present a personal response and realise intentions in part b) show evidence of some connections between visual and, where appropriate, written, oral and other elements in the response.

A2 performance descriptions for art and design

	Assessment objective 1	Assessment objective 2	Assessment objective 3	Assessment objective 4
Assessment objectives	Develop their ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.	Experiment with and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes reviewing and refining their ideas as their work develops.	Record in visual and/or other forms, ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions, demonstrating an ability to reflect on their work and progress.	Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating critical understanding, realising intentions and where appropriate, make connections between visual, written, oral or other elements.
A/B boundary performance descriptions	Candidates characteristically: a) develop and expand their ideas confidently by focused and in-depth investigation of a range of relevant sources b) demonstrate clear critical understanding by perceptively analysing sources.	Candidates characteristically: a) experiment with a wide range of appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes by recognising and exploiting emerging possibilities to successfully develop creative solutions b) demonstrate skills and competencies effectively, perceptively and with focus by recognising, reviewing and refining potential solutions as work develops.	Candidates characteristically: a) record ideas, observations and insights confidently and with focus, to inform personal interests and concerns b) demonstrate reflective, evaluative and independent judgements regarding their ideas, intentions and progress.	Candidates characteristically: a) present personal intentions in an imaginative, coherent and independent manner b) make significant connections between visual and, where appropriate, written, oral and other elements and show these convincingly in their responses.
E/U boundary performance descriptions	Candidates characteristically: a) develop and expand their ideas from a range of relevant sources b) demonstrate critical understanding by analysing sources.	Candidates characteristically: a) experiment with a range of appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes to extend their work b) demonstrate an ability to control and organise their ideas, by reviewing and refining them as work develops.	Candidates characteristically: a) record ideas, observations and insights, showing some sense of purpose and relevance to their intentions b) demonstrate an ability to reflect on and evaluate their work and progress.	Candidates characteristically: a) present evidence of personal interests, concerns and qualities in their response b) show evidence of some connections between visual and, where appropriate, written, oral and other elements.