



Marking rationale – Example 4

Theme: Overgrown		Mark awarded = 40 out of 100
AO1: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress	Competent skill in recording observations and insights from a variety of sources, relevant to intentions Good ability to reflect critically on work and progress	
• Research includes a range of primary and secondary sources which are appropriate to the theme and the candidate's ideas. The candidate has recorded from natural forms and portraits from direct observation and has added a pencil drawing of a figure from a secondary source, which supports the primary research. • Contextual references include the work of van Gogh and John Singer Sargent, which are also relevant to ideas. These references inform the candidate's approach to the observation and translation of their subject matter. The sunflower studies demonstrate investigation of colour and brushstrokes, while the study of the pumpkin patch has helped the candidate to consider a darker background in the composition of their imagery. • Gathering of visual evidence is connected to the theme. For example, the candidate has considered the overgrown qualities in the beard, the vegetation, flowers and the hair. The recording of these sources is generally competent, and the first-hand observational studies investigate appropriate qualities. More focused study on a particular area of their work may have enabled a greater depth of recording and observation and show a clearer concept. • Different methods of recording have been selected to investigate the subject matter such as the candidate's own photography, drawing and painting. • There is an ability to reflect critically on the progress of the work as recording developed. This is evident in the image exploration and in the annotation.		
Mark awarded = 11 out of 25 marks		
AO2: Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops	Competent skill in recording observations and insights from a variety of sources, relevant to intentions Good ability to reflect critically on work and progress	
• Relevant materials and processes have been competently explored, demonstrating a sense of enquiry and building on media skills through drawing, painting, digital media and photography. There is a willingness to explore materials to try out different effects, to represent qualities within		

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the subject matter and subsequent ideas. This can be seen in the handling of paint, the use of mark making and in the integration of materials to explore ideas. The manipulation of materials and **processes** are also informed by relevant contextual sources which has influenced the candidate's own practice and approach. Again, this is evident in the brushstrokes and use of marks throughout the work.

- The materials and techniques have been **selected** with purpose and explored to try out relevant effects appropriate to intention, in an attempt to build on existing skills.
- The response demonstrates an understanding of the **inherent qualities** within their materials, evident in the exploration of paint, the mixing of colours through brushstrokes and the expressive brush marks. The exploration of the pumpkin patch image shows how the candidate combined painting with drawing media, and applications of washes and brushstrokes are evident in the painted study of the candidate's bearded neighbour. This selection of different approaches has enabled the candidate to explore and expand their knowledge of alternative processes in media rendering. The candidate has also attempted to explore expressive painted brush marks, making connections to their studies of van Gogh, in the background of the gran figure, in an attempt to explore composition development.
- **Technical skills** are competent, demonstrating a fluency and control of materials, as the candidate explores and creates different effects. However, inconsistencies in skill are apparent where the application of media is less refined in some areas. For example, the brushstrokes in the sunflower study and in the bearded man. Whilst the refinement is inconsistent, ideas are communicated.
- **Connections** between the ideas chosen for research and the candidate's selection of materials to express these ideas, are clear. The qualities within the subject matter inform exploration and have been appropriately executed to express intention.
- The response demonstrates a good ability to **review and refine** ideas as work developed, as evident in the progression of visual studies supported by some annotation.

Mark awarded = 11 out of 25

AO3: Develop ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding

Satisfactory development of ideas through focused investigations

Adequate analytical and critical understanding demonstrated through some referencing of personal, contextual and other sources

- There is some attempt to show **purposeful** development. References to contextual sources have been made. This has been used to inform ideas and approaches with colour, tone and media rendering, in the portfolio work and in the final outcome. Written annotation is brief but supports the visual ideas to clarify communication and critical understanding.
- **Idea** exploration is unclear in parts, with the visual connections between the images not always appearing to connect. The candidate's ideas, in relation to the overgrown qualities in the sources, could have been emphasised to express intentions with greater depth. The references to contextual sources demonstrate the beginnings of informing imagery, but the candidate's critical understanding has not been fully established and ideas are obvious. This is particularly apparent in the decision to use the brush marks influenced by van Gogh, to represent their own subject matter. However, this use of media did not move beyond from the artist's example.

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- Some **alternative images** have been created through compositions consisting of colour changes and media experimentation, evident in the ideas for the bearded neighbour. The candidate has explored the colour and stippling of marks apparent in van Gogh's *The Starry Night* work. There is also an attempt to combine influences from both chosen artists in the try-out of brushstrokes of paint in the background of the gran figure, but this idea has not been progressed further. A decision to dissect the portrait image is apparent and taken forward into the final outcome, but the reasons for this decision are less clear.
- The **supporting studies** demonstrate a connection with the final outcome, in that the candidate has used elements of their research to create the final composition, but this is less successful. The response does not contain planning for alternative compositions. This could have provided a more fluent and direct link to the outcome, while also informing a stronger final work. The candidate could have explored these ideas even through simple line compositions, visually indicating purposeful and considered reasons for the placing of imagery. As a result, the candidate's intentions in this final piece are vague.
- Evidence of **reflection** and **analytical and critical understanding** and exploration of possibilities for progressing the work are adequate, as can be seen towards the end of the submission. However, this is not fully resolved.

Mark awarded = 8 out of 25

AO4: Present a personal and coherent response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements

Satisfactory realisation of intentions demonstrating an adequate use of visual language

Adequate connections made between visual and other elements

- The **final outcome** shows a connection to the portfolio but lacks resolution, which could have been improved if the candidate had planned more thoroughly before attempting it, establishing clearer links between initial research and their own intentions.
- There was evidence of a **creative journey**, in the studies within the portfolio, but the journey is not sufficiently clear to inform intentions and resolve the final outcome. The research demonstrates a disconnect between some of the images where, without annotation, the connections would not be clear. There were many ideas. Focusing on a smaller area of study could have enabled the candidate to focus and realise their intentions more effectively.
- **Intentions** are apparent, but greater clarity in the visual exploration could have shown more cohesion. During the initial stages of the response, the candidate would have benefitted from showing stronger consideration of the connections between their subject matter to recognise the potential between the links, to enable them to understand the impact this would have on strengthening their intentions.
- The **communication** of ideas is inhibited by the candidate's inability to make effective decisions regarding the direction of their work. This is evident in the connections between ideas, such as a weaker ability to clarify the ideas and rationale for combining the natural forms with the figure work. Communication of the concept could have been better achieved if the candidate had considered with more purpose, rather than merely piecing parts of the supporting work together.
- The understanding of **visual language** is adequate, as can be seen in the candidate's use of colour and tone to represent form and depth. They have been able to appropriately select and render materials and demonstrate these visual qualities. However, inconsistencies are evident in the

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use of colour. This can be seen in the sunflower work where the subject matter has not been observed in detail to recognise the variances of colour and overlays within the petals, or the textures and tones that work together to create the form. This observation has not been fully developed or explored.

- There are adequate **connections** between the candidate's sources and visual elements, demonstrating a continuing thread that ran through the work.

Mark awarded = 10 out of 25