



Marking rationale – Example 9

Theme: Traditional Chinese medicine		Mark awarded = 84 out of 100
AO1: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress	Excellent skill in recording observations and insights from a variety of sources, relevant to intentions Highly accomplished ability to reflect critically on work and progress	
• The candidate has selected an individual theme which encouraged independent thinking, while exploring and investigating intelligently sourced research from a number of primary sources. All sources are relevant and work together to build an idea. Sources are derived from a visit to a medicine clinic where the candidate has been able to photograph relevant subject matter such as medical herbs, medical equipment and prescriptions. First-hand investigations have been studied from collected plant sources and from the body. This has been recorded in fine detail through various media and photography. • The candidate has continuously referenced relevant contextual sources, as the work progressed. References include artists who work in illustration, assemblage, painters and three-dimensional installation processes. Each artist has informed ideas for further study in the recording, use of media, development ideas and approaches. This is evidenced throughout the response. • A range of visual evidence has been gathered and carried out with purpose, in the form of drawings, paintings, collage, digital media explorations and three-dimensional explorations. The candidate has appeared to use their own photography to record through other media, rather than recording directly from the subject matter in front of them. Observational investigations are accomplished, demonstrating the depth of skilful and detailed observation through appropriate media, relevant to intention. The candidate has focused on ideas in detail, as the recording progressed. • Relevant first-hand study from primary sources is demonstrated through continued observation. The candidate has captured detailed qualities of medicine ingredients, demonstrating understanding of colour, tone, surface quality and composition. Contextual referencing also demonstrates understanding of illustrative qualities in the representation of the plants and other sources, such as in the work of Xiaolian, and through expressive brushstrokes to represent the massaging hands influenced by Sarazhin. Continued investigation represents recording from many first-hand sources, as the work moved forward. • A range of methods have been chosen for research, which demonstrate the candidate's high level of engagement with the topic. Visits have been made to Chinese medical clinics to gather information for recording. This also served to expand the candidate's understanding of the topic and encourage further investigation and interest. Photography as well as drawing and painting continuously conveyed observations, showing depth of enquiry.		

- The candidate demonstrates a highly accomplished ability to **reflect critically** on the work as it progressed. This is evident through **effective decision making**.

Mark awarded = 21 out of 25 marks

AO2: Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops

Exploration and selection of relevant resources, media, materials, techniques and processes are **excellent**

Highly accomplished and **sophisticated** ability to review and refine ideas as work develops

- Exploration of materials and processes** is highly effective where the candidate expanded and built on their knowledge and skills throughout the work. There is a clear willingness to try out unfamiliar media, to take creative risks and inform ideas, through a range of effects. Contextual study has continuously informed these methods and approaches, as is evident in digital processes, assemblage, painting techniques and three-dimensional construction processes.
- Ideas are **purposeful** and effectively expressed, apparent in the illustrations and drawings of the natural forms, cyanotype explorations, collage, assemblage constructions and other work. The candidate has explored with a sense of enquiry in an attempt to convey their concepts which continue to develop, encouraging new processes.
- There is a clear understanding of the **inherent qualities** of media as the candidate has explored and discovered new effects. They have selected the most relevant materials to investigate the characteristics of their studied natural forms. They have also been able to search for and identify new processes, to try out alternative ideas appropriate to intention. This is most apparent in the development influenced by artists such as Valerie Hammond, Sophie Lécuyer, Guo Fengyi and Xu Bing. The materials selected demonstrate an ability to make informed idea choices throughout media investigation.
- Excellent **technical skills** are accomplished and refined, demonstrating the candidate's clear understanding of visual language. Creative and effective ideas are seen in their exploration of cyanotype and in the assembled natural forms. There is sensitivity in the fine and delicate rendering of watercolour and coloured pencil, in the recording of the shepherd's purse. Expressive pastel and paint marks are also evident in the interpretation of the hands, while accomplished rendering of pencil represent the form of the body demonstrate understanding of tone and depth. However, the same level of technical ability is not demonstrated throughout the response, where inconsistencies are apparent. This is evident in the candidate's recording of assembled forms, and in the drawing on cyanotypes. Here, the rendering of coloured pencil and washes of paint do not demonstrate the same level of refinement of tone, form and colour in other work. In some areas, the handling of the coloured pencils is less precise and less accomplished.
- Excellent **connections** have been made between **relevant references**, recording and exploration of materials. This has impacted positively on the candidate's ideas, highlighting effective decision making and experimentation. The candidate has carefully considered their media use in relation to ideas, which has expanded their understanding.
- There is a sophisticated ability to **review and refine** ideas as the work developed. This success is evidenced in the visual studies and in the annotation.

Mark awarded = 21 out of 25

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

Excellent development of ideas through focused investigations
Analytical and critical understanding demonstrated through **highly accomplished** and **mature** referencing of personal, contextual and other sources

- Development of ideas is the strength of the response. All ideas are explored with **purpose**. The initial and continued recording has provided a well-considered basis for thorough exploration of new methods and approaches, while ideas expanded and developed. For example, the assembling of natural forms, the integration of the hands and the body, the figure combined with plant forms, line contour and installation ideas. References to contextual sources are relevant and sufficiently established to inform new ideas, as the response develops. This is evident in the manipulation of leaves and the figure, composed through digital methods and other media. The written analysis is informative and insightful, supporting ideas and visual progression, while the candidate evaluated the intentions within the artists' concepts.
- The candidate has successfully used their research to create their own **individual** and **original** ideas. There is a clear ability to evaluate the motivations of the selected artists and connect the most relevant to intentions. This in turn, has informed their own development, as is evident in the assemblage ideas and also in the candidate's exploration of installation ideas and linear contour exploration. Guo Fengyi has influenced ideas for working with colourful and abstract line to demonstrate Chinese medicine and the meridians on the body, through abstract linear shape and colour.
- Many **alternative images** and intelligent ideas continuously evolve, as the work moved forward. Ideas and development include the figure demonstrating purposeful poses. This was referenced from first-hand experience then manipulated and combined with other elements to create a concept, evidenced in both cyanotype and linear ideas. Xu Bing's principles of perspective influenced three-dimensional and installation ideas for conveying a concept using Chinese characters from medicine recipes and treatment plans. Characters suspended and elongated, manipulated through three-dimensional and digital processes, show views from various angles.
- Supporting work in the portfolio has a **clear connection** to the final outcome through additional compositions. These combine ideas to plan for the conclusion of the work. While all development and concepts are original and inventive, ideas sometimes remain separate. The candidate's attempt to draw these ideas together is less cohesive. As a result, some of the strongest explorations of visual qualities in the supporting work were not incorporated into the final outcome. Focusing on fewer ideas in order to build the final development with greater depth and success, would have benefitted the response.
- In the majority of work, intelligent **reflection** is clear, with an ability to **refine** concepts as the work progressed. This is evident in development and accompanied annotation. There is a highly accomplished and mature referencing of personal and contextual sources, which forms the basis of the work, demonstrating effective **analytical and critical understanding**.

Mark awarded = 22 out of 25

Theme: Traditional Chinese medicine**Mark awarded = 84 out of 100**

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

Confident realisation of intentions demonstrating an effective use of visual language

Highly effective connections made between visual and other elements

- The **final outcome** is an appropriate conclusion to the response, informed by the supporting work in the portfolio. However, this is the least successful area of the submission. The candidate has explored many ideas but was less able to refine ideas into a fully coherent final response, to the same level of success as in the supporting work. They would have benefitted from being more selective about what to include in the final piece, as intentions are less clear, and understanding of visual elements is less successful.
- A coherent and consistent **creative journey** is apparent, clearly informed by the research and contextual study. The progression of ideas towards the final outcome are clear. The presentation of visual ideas is supported by insightful annotation.
- The candidate has explored clear **intentions** which are built on during each stage of the work. Clear intentions have enabled appropriate exploration of materials, processes and the development of many individual ideas. This is evidenced during each stage of the recording and development work.
- The **understanding of visual language** is consistently demonstrated to a high level, throughout the work. This is most successful in the supporting work, where accomplishment in the manipulation of materials enhanced the recording and development process. Less successful is the ability to organise the composition of the final outcome. While numerous ideas are explored, the final intention is less visually clear and less resolved.
- Throughout most of the work, the candidate has made highly effective **connections between their own sources and contextual study**, to move the work forward. They have communicated a clear ability to **reflect, analyse and evaluate** ideas, making effective critical decisions. This is evidenced through visual and written communication.

Mark awarded = 20 out of 25