



Marking rationale – Example 7

Theme: What techniques that artists use to connect with nature

Mark awarded = 76 out of 100

AO1: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress

Confident skill in recording observations and insights from a variety of sources, relevant to intentions
Highly effective ability to reflect critically on work and progress
Confident use of specialist language and appropriate technical vocabulary

- **Research** and recording are clearly relevant to intention and show depth of investigation from a range of sources. The number of artists referred to, crossing between design and fine art demonstrates a breadth of investigation. The different elements the candidate has referred to demonstrates the depth of the engagement. They have used a combination of secondary sources such as the Internet to inform their artist studies and their own observational photography to inform their ideas.
- **Referencing the work of others** has been used to influence original ideas. Connections are made through selecting the works of others to inform further study. The selection of works to discuss and inform ideas demonstrates a clear intention and an individual approach to the theme.
- **Gathering of evidence** is clearly related to the chosen theme. The candidate has identified a range of sources to inform their ideas relevant to the theme. This is made clear through the relationships formed in both the visual presentation of imagery and in the annotation.
- There is consistent evidence of the candidate recording from **primary sources**, with the subject in front of them. This can be seen in the variety of observational studies, the use of photography and found imagery. The candidate's photography demonstrates consideration of the development of ideas and understanding of the material they have referenced.
- **Observational study** is purposeful and shows recording of different angles, viewpoints, and other visual elements. The candidate has taken a considered approach to carrying out their recording. The quality of the observations is reflected in the quality of work produced. They have shown an understanding of the correlation between the purposefulness of the source material and the ability to explore their ideas effectively.
- Different **methods of recording** are apparent and investigated thoroughly. The candidate has used a range of methods to record their observations. They have made written observations, annotation, first-hand photography and hand-drawn studies. They have looked at different aspects of their chosen artists, investigating the use of symbolism and making connections to related material in relation to natural forms and organisms.
- They have made use of **critical reflection** to analyse their progress and the work of others to achieve their aims. This can be seen in the written reflections, which support the progression of ideas. The candidate generates a body of work in response to each of their selected artists and identifies how they have informed their ideas.

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- They will possess a mostly secure command of **art terminology** when analysing their chosen references and studies. The written element is written in a fluent manner demonstrating a confident understanding of how to use art terminology to support the development of the discussion.

Mark awarded = 19 out of 25 marks

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

Confidently explores and selects relevant resources, media, materials, techniques and processes
Highly effective ability to review and refine ideas as work develops
Confident communication of ideas through visual and other forms

- Consistent, effective evidence of **exploring** materials and processes. Demonstrates a sense of enquiry in exploring and expanding their knowledge and skills. A willingness to take creative risks with media exploration to test alternative effects. The candidate takes an in-depth approach to exploring materials and techniques. They explore various paint effects, application of colouring pencil, textile techniques and photography. They are able to combine ways of working to effectively communicate ideas.
- **Purposeful** selection and exploration of materials to express ideas. Ideas are consistently explored through different processes and techniques. They select materials and processes in direct response to their chosen artists and they experiment with ways to combine these to develop a personal visual language.
- The candidate has demonstrated clear understanding of the **inherent qualities** of media, making informed choices in relation to their ideas and showing sensitivity and consideration to what they are hoping to achieve.
- Confident **technical skill** is evident in the explorations, demonstrating good understanding of the visual elements. The candidate shows a high level of control with media but also the ability to apply this with sensitivity in relation to concepts being explored. Throughout the investigation, they demonstrate a confident command of the visual elements.
- Good connection between their research and exploration and how these **references** have had an impact on their explorations and selections of materials, media and techniques. The candidate makes clear links between their ideas and the work of others, adopting their approaches to their use of media but they also interpret this to inform the direction of the work. For example, they have explored a number of artists from different disciplines, creating a visual language to communicate the experience of being Gen Z. This is seen through the progression of the personal responses but also in the written annotation.
- An effective ability to **review and refine ideas** as work develops. The candidate reflects on their experiments, commenting on what they have done and the effect achieved. This could be more effective by reviewing their work in relation to their chosen artists and their intention. There is evidence of refinement of ideas and use of media but not all personal responses are carried out to the same level of control or consideration.
- Confident **communication** of ideas through visual and other forms throughout their explorations. The written annotation discusses the candidate's intention. The use of language is articulate but often loquacious in that the words are not matched by the visual, practical work. The candidate speaks well about their ideas, but this is not always reflected in the work produced.

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

Confident development of ideas through focused investigations

Highly effective analytical and critical understanding demonstrated through thorough and careful referencing of personal, contextual and other sources

Confident integration of practical and written elements

- Development is mostly **purposeful**. Initial recording provides an effective and considered basis for thorough exploration of concepts. Contextual referencing consistently informs ideas and clear ideas lead to effective decision-making. The candidate has selected appropriate reference material to support their ideas and they make clear links between their ideas and those of their chosen artists. They take a considered approach to generating their primary visual source material purposeful to the development of ideas. The various artworks referred to help to push their ideas forward. This is evident in the different imagery produced by the candidate.
- The candidate has successfully used their initial research into practitioners to create their own individual and **original** concepts. There is an ability to evaluate the motivations of the selected artists against their own intentions. This can be seen in the way they discuss their ideas in the handwritten annotation and in the progress within the visual work. They could have made stronger connections between the motivations of their artists and their own intentions through more analytical evaluations.
- Development is usually individual and intelligent; the candidate has clearly been able to **reflect** on and refine their progress. This is evident in the annotation of personal responses and the way in which the imagery builds within the investigation.
- Thorough and careful referencing of personal, contextual and other sources, demonstrating effective **analytical and critical** understanding. The candidate makes clear choices in selecting their reference material, showing some analytical and critical understanding. They are able to identify the conceptual use of nature within the works of others and how this connects to larger questions about life and being human. This aspect could be more effective in challenging preconceptions, helping to push the imagery explored further.
- **Confident integration** of practical and written elements. The combination of word-processed text to record information and handwritten notes to reflect on the connections made works well. The visual explorations are interspersed between the text to help illustrate the direction of the investigation.

Mark awarded = 20 out of 25

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

Work demonstrates a **highly effective** level of engagement and independence

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- The **response overall** is an effective illustration of the investigation, making appropriate use of research, recording, explorations and developed ideas to realise intentions. The intention of the candidate is made clear, and the references and explorations are appropriate to the candidates aims.
- There is a consistent and coherent **creative journey**, clearly informed by initial research and contextual study. The creative journey is apparent, the exploration of ideas has produced a body of cohesive work exploring the use of nature in art.
- **Intentions** are evident enough to encourage appropriate exploration. There is a strong sense of purpose in the materials used to inform ideas. The candidate has used their reference material to progress in their personal responses.
- Understanding of **visual language** is consistently and effectively demonstrated throughout the work. This is evident within the personal responses. The candidate has developed a visual language to communicate ideas.
- The response clearly and thoughtfully **communicates** the candidate's ability to **analyse, reflect, and evaluate ideas** and make critical decisions. Written elements are analytical rather than merely descriptive. The progression seen within the investigation is supported through written annotation, showing clear understanding of others' work through analysis and reflection of their own achievements. This could be more effective in the refinement of ideas.
- Highly effective **connections** made between visual and other elements. The candidate has made strong visual connections through their explorations, but they have also made links between the concepts being explored in their written commentary. The written links are often more effective than the visual explorations.
- The work demonstrates a highly effective level of **engagement and independence**. The body of work and the way the ideas move from one to another shows a high level of engagement. The candidate takes an individual approach to the selection of reference material. The way they explore this to generate personal responses demonstrates independence of thought.

Mark awarded = 18 out of 25