Marking rationale – Example 2

Theme: Start of the day	Mark awarded = 26 out of 100
AO1: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses	**Satisfactory** skill in recording observations from several relevant sources, showing **some** intentions
• **Research** includes a range of sources that are relevant to the starting point. The candidate has recorded from primary sources in drawing and painting from set-ups of different arrangements of the kettle, mug, banana and cloth. In addition to the primary recording, secondary research takes the form of photographic imagery from unknown sources. For example, the candidate has included images of breakfast settings and plates of food, window views and unmade beds. However, these have not been used alongside the first-hand studies to expand depth of investigation or scope for idea exploration. • The included **works of others** are referenced and connect to the candidate's chosen starting point, ideas and intentions. The candidate has selected Morandi to inform their still-life arrangements and lighter colour palette. They attempt to achieve this in their drawings and paintings, but the effects do not translate to demonstrate strong critical understanding. The artist Dreher was selected to inform later idea development. • **Gathering of visual evidence** is connected to the chosen theme and the candidate has recorded from their gathered primary sources. However, it is apparent that the drawings and paintings have been copied from the candidate's photographs, rather than from close study of the objects in front of them. • There is some purposeful research from direct **observation** and the recording considers the visual elements of tone to show form, colour selection influenced by contextual study, and composition arrangement showing different set-ups and viewpoints of the still-life forms. • **Methods of recording** includes photography, drawings and paintings but the investigation through these methods is not in depth. For example, the candidate struggles to closely observe and translate detail from their subject matter and transfer their learning into their later studies. The observation of subtle effects is also limited. **Mark awarded = 8 out of 25 marks**	
AO2: Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes	**Satisfactory** exploration of media, materials, techniques and processes, showing **some** selection of relevant resources

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

Theme: Start of the day	Mark awarded = 26 out of 100

- The work demonstrates some **exploration** of materials and processes, as well as a sense of enquiry. For example, the candidate has recorded from their selected sources using pastels. This enables them to achieve the soft shading of colour and tones, in an attempt to translate the gentle effects observed in the work of Morandi. They have also attempted to create these effects using paint to a low satisfactory level.
- While a range of relevant processes and materials have been **selected** to convey ideas and translations, the ability to manipulate these materials with control is inconsistent. The surface qualities, form and shapes of the subject matter are not always captured with skill. This can be seen in various studies and parts of the development, where compositions contain less detailed information.
- **Different processes** have been explored, but the ability to refine technical and observational skills is insufficiently developed to communicate ideas. The qualities in the candidate's chosen media have been recognised to create different effects in the supporting studies, but this realisation is less successful in the development compositions and final outcome. The rendering of watery paint as well as the candidate's decision to combine different materials, have not been executed with coherence. Here, the refinement of **technical skill** is weak, which negatively impacts on their understanding of the visual elements.
- Connections between **research** and exploration of contextual sources are apparent. This is evident in parts of the recording and development, but the refinement of media rendering makes communication less obvious.

Mark awarded = 6 out of 25 marks

AO3: Develop ideas through investigation, demonstrating critical understanding	**Satisfactory** development of ideas through investigation, demonstrating **some** understanding

- There is some attempt to show **purposeful** development. The initial recording of the breakfast objects, in different arrangements of set-ups, provides a basis for the exploration of ideas. The candidate would have benefitted from considering other possibilities and arrangements from their secondary-sourced imagery when developing their own ideas. References to contextual sources are apparent, with attempts made to inform ideas, through colour, shading and repeat images.
- The language in the written annotation is relevant, factual and insightful in parts and supports the visual information.
- **Idea** exploration is an obvious response to the contextual references. This is evident in the translation of Morandi's use of colour and shading, and in the repeated imagery based on the work of Dreher. Whilst the candidate is able to describe the artists' techniques, they are less able to evaluate the motivations of the artists, against their own intentions. As a result, their critical understanding has not yet been developed.
- Their developed imagery evolves from the initial research and contextual references. There are also symbolic reasons for the use of colour, and objects. This can be seen in the two repeated cups in water colour, the kettle divided into quarters and the final piece plan, but the ideas are not fully coherent or resolved.
- The **supporting studies** demonstrate that the candidate has developed their imagery and considered alternative **ideas and images**, in the form of different arrangements of composition and layout. This can be seen in the repeated compositions, which form a final outcome plan for the timed test. There is a connection between ideas and explorations leading to the final outcome.

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

Theme: Start of the day	Mark awarded = 26 out of 100
• The work demonstrates some evidence of **reflection** and planning to explore alternative possibilities during the development stage. This is evident in the annotation, and in the composition ideas and final outcome plan. However, the refinement of these ideas is weak and not fully resolved. **Mark awarded = 6 out of 25 marks**	
AO4: Present a personal and coherent response that realises intentions and demonstrates an understanding of visual language	**Satisfactory** realisation of intentions, demonstrating **some** understanding of visual language
• The **final outcome** demonstrates some connection to, and is informed by, the supporting studies. However, it is not resolved or progressed in depth from the research and development. This is evident in the candidate's ideas influenced by the work of Dreher: in the repeated everyday objects and muted colours. The composition of the divided image demonstrates media symbolism. The candidate uses the idea of their own strengths and weaknesses in relation to their own application of certain media, to represent their feelings during the morning. The final outcome plan continues to explore this idea, but the media rendering and layout of design is neither coherent or refined. • The **creative journey** is apparent, influenced by the research. The candidate's ideas are individual, but the understanding of visual language and technical skills prevents the work from being fully resolved. • There is an attempt to refine ideas and there is some understanding of the **visual elements**. Inconsistencies are evident throughout the response, and the candidates has been less successful in generating an appropriate final outcome and plan. The candidate does not have the visual understanding to successfully integrate different media and alternative background colours with cohesion. • Clear **communication** of intentions and ideas is inhibited, and while the candidate has made decisions about the progression of their work, these are not visually effective. Evidence of **analysis, reflection and evaluation** is present but not evident throughout the response. **Mark awarded = 6 out of 25 marks**	

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026