9479/03 Marking rationale – Example 3

Theme: Limit of Depth in Monochrome	Mark awarded = 49 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 **Competent** use of specialist language and appropriate technical vocabulary
• **Research** includes a range of primary and secondary sources which are mostly relevant. The candidate's selection of images to refer to are relevant to their investigation but their application in the development of personal responses could be more in-depth. • Relevant references to contextual sources/**works of others** are apparent. • **Gathering of evidence** is connected to the chosen theme. Candidates will be able to record their observations both visually and textually however, the visual observations may be stronger at this level. Candidate's photographs were relevant to their intention. However, they could be more varied. • The candidate has competently recorded from relevant **primary sources** through direct observation. These **studies** show consideration of different angles, viewpoints, and other visual elements. • A range of **methods** have been selected to carry out observational study. • They make some use of **critical reflection** to analyse their progress and the work of others to achieve their aims. The candidate does attempt to use critical reflection to discuss some of their outcomes but it is not present throughout and could be more purposeful. • Appropriate **art terminology** has been used when analysing their chosen references and studies. **Mark awarded = 12 out of 25 marks**	
AO2: Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops	**Competent** exploration and selection of relevant resources, media, materials, techniques and processes **Good** ability to review and refine ideas as work develops **Good** communication of ideas through visual and other forms
• Evidence that the candidate has **explored** materials and processes and that a sense of enquiry has been established.	

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

Theme: Limit of Depth in Monochrome	Mark awarded = 49 out of 100
• Demonstrates an ability to explore and **select** a range of materials and processes to test alternative effects. Ideas are clearly communicated through a **range of relevant processes**. The candidate has used their chosen artists to inform their approach with media; they show control with a range of materials. This could be more extensive and they could combine approaches to make it more individual. • Evidence of **technical skill** being refined, with an adequate understanding of the visual elements. The use of media and the application of visual elements are the strongest aspects of this response. • A connection between their **research** and exploration has been established, though this may not be fully clear or realised in parts. There is a clear connection made between research and exploration, although this is a little derivative. It would have been beneficial for the candidate to develop their own visual language through more extensive and focused experiments. • Good ability to **review and refine ideas** as work develops. • Good **communication** of ideas. **Mark awarded = 14 out of 25 marks**	
AO3: Develop ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding	**Competent** development of ideas through focused investigations **Good** analytical and critical understanding demonstrated through careful referencing of personal, contextual and other sources **Good** integration of practical and written elements
• Development is generally **purposeful** and builds from research, making use of appropriate contextual references to inform ideas and the development of personal responses. The candidate has produced different images but they are quite derivative and they don't go beyond copying the artist's approach. Further, engaged responses may have led to a more personal body of work. • Intentions are clear and encourage the purposeful development of the **candidate's own compositions/designs**. • Ideas from research and explorations connect to inform the **body of work**. • There is evidence of **reflection**, and an ability to plan and explore alternative possibilities. The candidate competently reflects on their progress, but this is not extensive and could be more **analytical**. Annotation identifies aims and how they have been achieved. The candidate outlines the choice for their final outcome. • Good **integration** of practical and written elements. • The written element includes competent analysis but this could be used more purposeful in the development of personal ideas and gathering imagery. **Mark awarded =11 out of 25 marks**	
AO4: Present a personal and coherent response that realises intentions and, where	**Competent** realisation of intentions demonstrating a good use of visual language **Good** connections made between visual and other elements

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

Theme: Limit of Depth in Monochrome	Mark awarded = 49 out of 100
appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements	Work demonstrates a **competent** level of engagement and independence

- The **response overall** is a mostly clear illustration of the investigation, making use of research, recording, explorations and developed ideas to realise intentions. The candidate does not always recognise their strengths or most promising ideas in their investigation.
- Clear demonstration of a brief **creative journey** but decision-making and connections between ideas are not always be effective.
- **Intentions** are generally clear but not fully realised. This is recognised at the end of the investigation in the summing up. They missed opportunities to explore the combination of chiaroscuro and monochromatic use of colour.
- Ideas are communicated through understanding of the **visual elements** but this is not always consistent in the work.
- The response communicates an ability to **analyse, reflect and evaluate** to make decisions but this is not be fully clear throughout the response. Most written elements demonstrate analysis but are too descriptive and brief in parts.
- Good **connections** made between visual and other elements.
- Conclusion of the investigation is not fully resolved either in terms of the visual work or written reflection.
- Work demonstrates a competent level of **engagement and independence**.

Mark awarded = 12 out of 25 marks

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026