

## Example Candidate Responses – Paper 2

**Cambridge O Level**

**Art & Design 6089**

**for centres in Brunei**



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## Introduction

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The main aim of this booklet is to exemplify standards for those teaching Cambridge IGCSE/O Level Art & Design to show how candidates' performance relates to the subject's curriculum and assessment objectives.

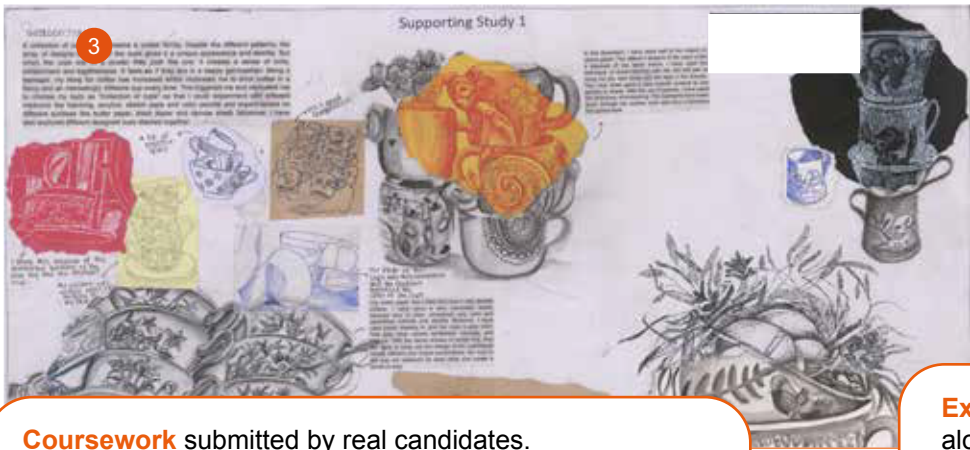
In this booklet candidates' work is derived from the Cambridge IGCSE Art & Design 0400 November 2020 series.

The work is annotated with clear explanations for where and why marks were awarded and omitted. This is followed by examiner comment on how the work could have been improved. In this way, it is possible for you to understand what candidates have done to gain their marks and how they could have improved their answers. There is also a list of common mistakes candidates made in their work.

This document provides illustrative examples of candidate work with examiner commentary. These help teachers to assess the standard required to achieve marks beyond the guidance of the mark scheme.

## How to use this booklet

This booklet goes through the paper one question at a time, showing you the high-, middle- and low-level response for each question. The candidate answers are set in a table. In the left-hand column are the candidate answers, and in the right-hand column are the examiner comments.

Example Candidate Response – Question 1, High	Examiner comments
 <p><b>Coursework</b> submitted by real candidates.</p> <p>Discuss and analyse the example coursework provided with your learners in the classroom to improve their skills.</p>	<p><b>3</b> The candidate creates an introductory page that includes a personal observation explaining how they view a collection of cups to represent a family unit. This indicates an immediate engagement with the subject. AO1, AO4.</p> <p><b>Examiner comments</b> are alongside the responses.</p>

## How the candidate could have improved their answer

- The candidate immediately engaged the viewer with an introductory page that presented a variety of relevant sources and effectively highlighted intentions.
- If the candidate had ensured the origins of all work were explicit, it would have improved this. There was some confusion over 'self-clicked' imagery and this required clarification.
- Media exploration was excellent throughout the work and showed effective selection of appropriate mediums and processes. Closer, direct observation from life would have encouraged greater accuracy in recording form and perspective.

## Question 3

### Example Candidate Response – high



### Examiner comments

1 Although the candidate gathers resources from a variety of sources including first- and second-hand, the terminology of 'self-clicked' is confusing and needs clarification. Work would have been stronger if made from direct observation and not observed from photographs, (albeit the candidate's own); a greater understanding of visual elements would be gained with this approach. Although a strong engagement with the subject matter is clearly expressed and media use explored well, the development of ideas is less successful. A confident level of investigation and a consistency to demonstrate critical understanding is evident but this could have been expanded and improved upon with a more in-depth study of artists and exploration of alternative ideas.

# Example Candidate Response – high, continued

## Examiner comments



2 The final outcome presents the strongest work. It draws all the learned elements into a successful culmination. Excellent realisation of intentions is evident, following a coherent and logical journey that is well documented and easy to follow, both with use of annotation and a mature visual language.

## Example Candidate Response – high, continued

## Examiner comments



3 The candidate creates an introductory page that includes a personal observation explaining how they view a collection of cups to represent a family unit. This indicates an immediate engagement with the subject. AO1, AO4.

4 An array of mediums is used with excellent skill and control. Pen and ink, charcoal, collage and pencil are deployed with an experimental approach. AO2.

5 Annotation is used to record and reflect upon strengths and weaknesses. It helps to guide the viewer through the journey taken and decisions made by the candidate. AO1, AO3, AO4.

## Example Candidate Response – high, continued

## Examiner comments



6 The overall presentation of the page delivers a lively, interesting and intense arrangement of sketches, comments and experiments which demonstrate consideration to the cohesion of the work as a whole. AO4.

7 Although the candidate labels a photograph as 'self-clicked', it is unclear whether this is their own photography or indeed 'clicked' from the Internet. Clarity here is necessary. Similarly, the sketches have clearly been observed but their origins are not made explicit.

## Example Candidate Response – high, continued

## Examiner comments



**8** A variety of sources are used to gather research from including the artist's work and other images of cup collections. It is unclear if these are first- or second-hand sources. All however, are well observed. AO1, AO2, AO3.

**9** Another vibrant and enticing page where technical skill is showcased. The candidate demonstrates their understanding of form in the way the pattern follows the contours of the cup and saucer. AO2.

**10** The candidate is inspired by their chosen artist and uses this influence to inform their own treatment of a stacked cup arrangement. An idea is developed rather than simply reproduced. AO3, AO4.

**11** Clarity regarding the origin of all imagery is essential to correctly assess the candidate's achievement.

## Example Candidate Response – high, continued

## Examiner comments



**12** Judging by the inaccuracy of some of the angles, ellipses and confusion of planes, it appears that photographs are used for reference rather than working from direct observation of the still-life arrangements. Refinement of skill would be helped by more observational experience, particularly in areas such as the creases in fabric and reflective light.

**13** The candidate now experiments with arranging their own still-life compositions. Photographs and sketches are included to evidence this. AO1, AO3.

**14** Various viewpoints are considered, in some cases, combining multiple angles in one image. However, it is not clear if this is intentional. AO2, AO3, AO4.

**15** Treatment of backdrops, fabric and reflections are also experimented with. The selection of appropriate media to best describe various surfaces, such as the folds in cloth are carefully considered and documented. AO2, AO4.

## Example Candidate Response – high, continued

## Examiner comments



**16** This page includes two more examples of artist studies. Their methods of working are documented and trialled. In both examples, a more in-depth analysis of why the artist uses these methods could have resulted in stronger images. For example, the way the candidate uses coloured strips of paper to collage onto the cups yet fails to understand how these could demonstrate form, light and shade with a more conscious placement. AO3, AO4.

**17** An experiment with canvas, and a thumbnail sketch indicate consideration for the final outcome. AO3, AO4.

**18** More trials of alternative compositions for the final outcome could have been attempted. A closer look at backgrounds and surface treatments would also ensure a stronger development of ideas.

Mark for AO1 = 21/25

Mark for AO2 = 21/25

Mark for AO3 = 20/25

Mark for AO4 = 22/25

**Total Mark awarded =  
84 out of 100**

## How the candidate could have improved their answer

- The candidate immediately engaged the viewer with an introductory page that presented a variety of relevant sources and effectively highlighted intentions. If the candidate had ensured the origins of all work were explicit, it would have improved this. There was some confusion over 'self-clicked' imagery and this required clarification.
- Media exploration was excellent throughout the work and showed effective selection of appropriate mediums and processes. Closer, direct observation from life would have encouraged greater accuracy in recording form and perspective, which was sometimes inaccurate.
- The selected artists' work linked well with the candidate's own intentions and helped them develop ideas and experiment with new techniques. This area could have been improved with a more in-depth study and critical understanding. For example, the reason why an artist implemented a particular technique was sometimes missed. A more thorough investigation could have elevated the candidate's critical understanding from a confident level to a more effective level.
- Further developments with subject matter could also have been explored. For example, the initial idea of cup collections representing personalities within a family was not developed further. Similarly, the still-life compositions were quite repetitive. More experimentation with consideration of lighting, scale and perspective would have been beneficial.
- The skilful organisation and presentation of the preparatory work led to a very successful final outcome. Intentions were realised and skilful rendering techniques demonstrated. If the candidate had evaluated the work earlier, and had examined it more closely, the accuracy of representation and the refinement of skills may have been improved further.

## Question 2

### Example Candidate Response – middle



### Examiner comments

1 The candidate gathers their initial observations from a variety of sources and shows a clear intention to how they wish to proceed. Their understanding of visual elements would be enhanced by observing the fruit from life as opposed to from photographs. The refinement of skills would come with a greater consideration of surface texture, form and overall structure of the object, experienced by holding and looking directly at the item. Although an artist was studied and linked to subsequent work, it does not amount to an in-depth study that inspires or influences the work. A more rounded understanding of pattern and design would have been of benefit to the candidate and helped them to identify their own strengths more successfully. This would have been particularly valuable in the latter stages of the preparatory work where trials and experiments are made in relation to composition and layout. A more relevant critique of the artist's work would have honed the skills of evaluation and led to a more informed choice being made for the final outcome.

## Example Candidate Response – middle, continued

## Examiner comments



2 The final outcome combines many of the previous investigations in one composition. Due to the amalgamation of ideas, it has become confused and less visually dynamic than the preparatory examples. The control of materials is still evident but the elements do not mesh together in a cohesive way. The impact and success of the overlaying of shapes is lost. AO4.

## Example Candidate Response – middle, continued

## Examiner comments



3 The candidate includes their own photographs of fruit, giving consideration to arrangement, lighting and angle. AO1, AO2.

4 These observation drawings of fruit show a competency in the skill of rendering, particularly in the way the textural surface of the fruit skin is handled. AO1, AO2.

5 A variety of media is used including pencil, paint and pen. Combinations of media used together are also explored. AO2.

6 The overall layout and presentation of the page is exciting and lively with a good balance of design and substance. The use of annotation enhances the visuals and shows an element of self-evaluation. AO1, AO3, AO4.

7 With more practice of observational studies, the level of technical skill would improve. Drawing directly from the fruit rather than the photograph of it would instigate a greater understanding of form.

## Example Candidate Response – middle, continued

## Examiner comments



**8** On this page, the candidate contemplates pattern. They explore the shapes made by fruit against a contrasting background. AO2, AO3.

**9** Material use continues to be competent, and a range of approaches are deployed such as loose watercolour washes for backgrounds and more precise control in the fruit depiction. AO2.

**10** Basic pattern formations made from outlines are explored but it is unclear why these examples are chosen or from where they are sourced. AO3.

**11** An artist's study is included and the candidate responds directly to it with the use of black and white contrasting sketches. A further, more in-depth understanding of the work is not evident. The artist's influence is not obvious beyond this point. AO3.

**12** Greater analysis of the artist's work and experimentation with how to develop and include this in the candidate's own work would demonstrate a stronger critical understanding.

## Example Candidate Response – middle, continued

## Examiner comments



**13** The candidate now develops pattern ideas. A direct correlation between the traditional pattern formations observed earlier and these experiments can be seen. AO3, AO4.

**14** The insides of fruits are switched with their corresponding skins in a playful and experimental way. AO3.

**15** Backgrounds and negative space are also explored showing an understanding of design concepts. AO3, AO4.

**16** The candidate could have explored a broader range of pattern by observing pattern found within fruit as well as those created by the placement of it.

## Example Candidate Response – middle, continued

## Examiner comments



17 Further trial ideas of combining earlier experiments work less well but indicate a confidence to try a variety of ideas. AO3.

18 On this page, the candidate continues to develop their ideas by combining earlier media experiments. The collage made of painted fruit within a brick formation against a black and white background demonstrates a competent and clear understanding of visual language. AO3, AO4.

19 Careful examination and self-evaluation would help the candidate to recognise the strengths and weaknesses in these preparatory ideas to inform the final outcome in a more conscious manner.

Mark for AO1 = 14/25

Mark for AO2 = 14/25

Mark for AO3 = 14/25

Mark for AO4 = 13/25

**Total mark awarded =  
55 out of 100**

## How the candidate could have improved their answer

- The initial gathering of research material came from a variety of sources, both first-hand and secondary and demonstrated a competent level of skill. All selections were relevant and showed clear intentions.
- The candidate could have improved their response by working directly and looking at the fruit, rather than copying from photographs. In this way, a greater understanding of form and texture could have been achieved.
- The candidate was consistently competent in their handling of materials and selected appropriate mediums and techniques to best realise their intentions. The candidate combined media together in mostly successful collaborations, particularly with reference to the collaged examples. These could have been developed further with more varied experimentation. Introducing textures into the collage of papers is one possible idea the candidate could have explored. This type of enquiry may have evolved more naturally if the candidate had worked from direct observation and had experienced the fruit textures personally and with close observation and contact.
- The development of ideas followed a clear and coherent journey and showed critical understanding to a competent level. This could have been improved with greater investigation into pattern formation and the design process as a whole.
- The candidate may have benefited from selecting an artist or designer to encourage an interest in pattern design. This might have helped them to discover more, and to develop their response further in this area. The candidate created pattern by placing sketches of fruit into existing shapes. They could also have examined the patterns found within fruit or could have cut the fruit into slices and manipulated their arrangements to find more varied, visual information to work from.
- The candidate was not able to fully recognise their own strengths in selecting the appropriate piece for the final outcome. The combination of previous experiments lacked impact in comparison to previous attempts. The larger scale was also less successful. This could have been improved by greater awareness and conscious decision-making. Self-evaluation throughout all stages of the work could have been used to reflect on what had been achieved and guided the project into subsequent work.
- The candidate realised their intentions with the final outcome but there was potential for further development.

## Question 4

### Example Candidate Response – low

### Examiner comments



**1** The final outcome repeats the earlier imagery on a larger scale. With the inclusion of text, it combines elements previously explored. AO4.

**2** The final outcome is relevant to the title of 'half open'. The candidate's interpretation is, however, somewhat literal and also limited. The candidate could have improved by exploring a variety of ideas or starting points during the initial stages of research. Furthermore, a more in-depth study of doorways could have been undertaken once this subject matter had been selected. In particular, observational drawings of doors would have provided not only a greater range of source material but also the opportunity to develop and refine technical skills beyond a satisfactory level. The study of an artist is also an opportunity to show critical understanding and to prompt new ways of working. Unfortunately, this was not achieved by merely copying an artwork because it includes an image of a door. A more considered selection and examination is required. The candidate could also have experimented with different typefaces and recorded their insights and observations as to how the text could enhance the visual and conceptual message. The candidate shows satisfactory skill in colour mixing and thoughtful paint application throughout the supporting studies but this was diminished with the introduction of a larger scale for the final outcome. Practice with scale is advised.

### Example Candidate Response – low, continued

### Examiner comments



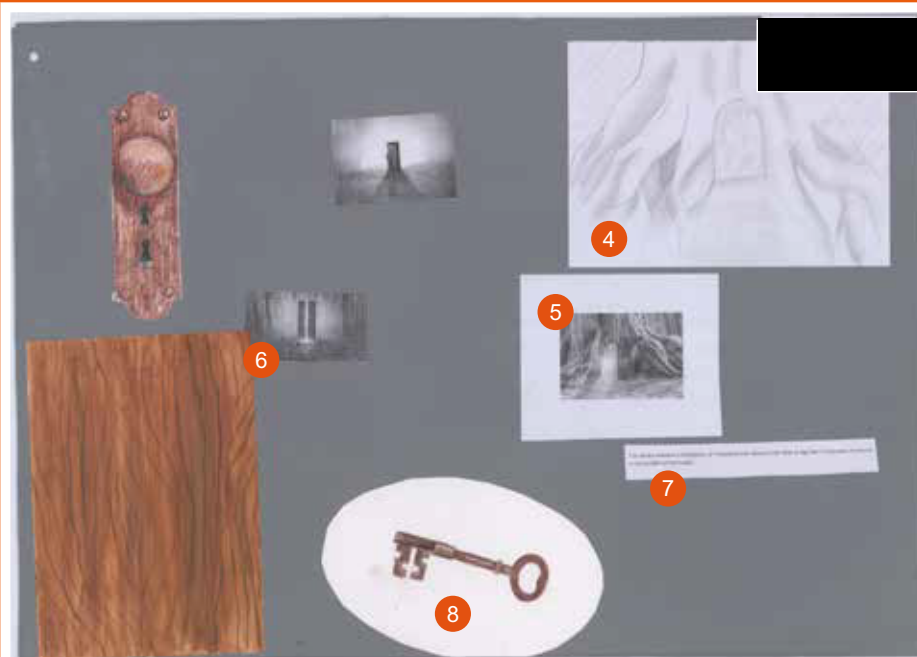
3 The final outcome was carried out with a level of consistency and followed a logical conclusion to the supporting studies, but the increase in scale was not successful.

Practice at this larger scale would have been beneficial as some of the sensitivity demonstrated in the smaller sketches was lost in this enlarged format.

Experimentation with text and how to integrate it more suitably with the imagery would have provided a greater unity between the two elements and would have demonstrated a more advanced understanding of visual language.

## Example Candidate Response – low, continued

## Examiner comments



4 A pencil sketch copied from a secondary sourced image is made showing some understanding of form where shadows are defined on the roots of the tree. AO2.

5 Secondary images are included showing both open door and tree-house references. AO1.

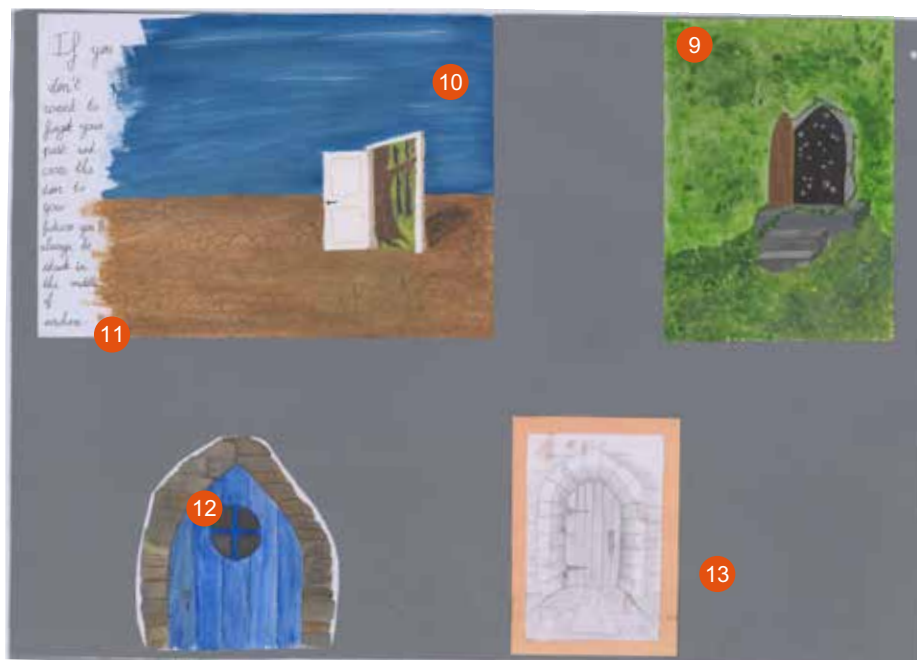
6 A wider range of source material would benefit the candidate. Observational drawings of the items would encourage a greater understanding of form and shape.

7 The candidate makes reference to a dream of a tree house which gives context to the rest of the imagery on this page. AO1.

8 The candidate presents studies of items related to the 'half open door' theme including a key, a door handle and the wooden textural sketch. It is not clear whether they are studied from direct observation or from a secondary source. The sketches indicate a satisfactory exploration of media with the use of pencil, coloured pencil and watercolour. AO2.

## Example Candidate Response – low, continued

## Examiner comments



**9** The candidate presents different types of doorways, some open, some closed with varying backgrounds. AO1, AO3, AO4.

**10** Ideas of what may be viewed beyond the open door are explored with the examples of a forest and eyes looking back at the viewer. AO3.

**11** A quote relating to what a doorway may represent is included here, which indicates the candidate's intention to communicate a message through their work. AO4.

**12** Delicate colour mixing and sensitive application is apparent, particularly on the brickwork surrounding the door and some understanding of textural surfaces with the portrayal of foliage and dry, cracked earth. AO2.

**13** It is again unclear where the imagery originates from and the work would be strengthened by the use of directly observed examples perhaps even with the inclusion of photographed doorways. More exploration of how text can be integrated with imagery would lead to a more informed outcome.

## Example Candidate Response – low, continued

## Examiner comments



**14** The candidate includes a copy of an artist's work. The selection is relevant due to it depicting a door but it is not utilised by the candidate to inform style, concept or application. AO3, AO4.

**15** A variety of artists' work that expands the overall concept beyond doors or that inspires the candidate to explore additional processes and/or media would demonstrate a more competent level of critical understanding.

**16** A careful and sensitive application of paint is evident particularly in the selection of colour where shadows are indicated. AO2.

## Example Candidate Response – low, continued

## Examiner comments



**17** This page indicates the development of an idea. The decision to include fog in the image is explained within the annotation and shows a basic investigation of ideas. AO3, AO4.

**18** Although the imagery again shows satisfactory handling of media and level of skill, it is repetitive. This idea could be expanded by including a range of other visual representations of a 'clouded' mind. Also, perhaps including examples of how other artists have tackled this concept.

Mark for AO1 = 5/25

Mark for AO2 = 6/25

Mark for AO3 = 4/25

Mark for AO4 = 5/25

**Total Mark awarded =  
20 out of 100**

## How the candidate could have improved their answer

- The candidate displayed a limited ability in recording from a variety of sources. A small selection of secondary sourced imagery was included in the preparatory studies. This was relevant to the overall theme but was very narrow. This restricted the candidate in forming and evolving multiple ideas. Alternative starting points, (perhaps by beginning with a form of mind map) could have given the candidate greater scope to develop ideas from. With such a basic foundation, the images were merely copied and not developed or explored sufficiently to show intentions beyond literal ideas.
- The strongest aspect of this candidate's work was awarded in AO2. The candidate demonstrated a satisfactory exploration of media using a variety of mediums including pen, ink and watercolour.
- Although skill in colour mixing and control in application were seen, the candidate could have improved these with more experimentation.
- If the candidate had engaged in direct observation rather than copying from secondary sources, they would have improved their command of the visual elements and could have used these skills to project their ideas and describe forms and textures beyond the basic reproduction of existing imagery.
- The development of technical skill could have been further enhanced with a relevant choice of artist to study. The candidate's choice of artist showed a link with the project in terms of subject matter but did not encourage them to investigate method or process. Therefore, there was no opportunity to develop ideas as a result of critique and understanding.
- Development was the weakest aspect of the work as the fundamental idea was limited and repetitive. The candidate could have improved in this area by making further enquiries into what lies beyond a doorway and the elements that may conceal one's thoughts. This was merely hinted at.
- The exploration of text could also have improved the candidate's development and greater comprehension of the visual language. There was an investigation into how text could integrate with visual elements. Experiments with different font styles and layout ideas could have added more depth to the project and could possibly have encouraged a wider range of imagery to be produced for the candidate to work with towards the final outcome.
- The candidate's intentions were clear throughout the preparatory work and were realised in the final outcome. However, lack of deviation or experimentation prevented the work from evolving or for deeper connections to be made.
- The candidate could have improved their personal connection to the work by not relying so heavily on secondary sourced imagery. The candidate mentioned in the introductory page a dream of tree houses in a forest. This was another possible area to explore.
- The project followed a comprehensive progression through each stage and presentation was logical.
- A greater depth of understanding and demonstration of purposeful visual language was required to raise this candidate's work beyond a basic level.

## Common mistakes candidates made

- Relying on secondary sources.
- Not practising a change in scale.
- Not selecting a relevant artist whose work inspired and promoted development of own work.
- Working from photographs rather than direct observation.
- Limited development of ideas by repeating the same idea.
- Not clearly indicating the origins of work and/or references.
- Relying on the written word to convey intentions rather than developing a visual language to communicate with.

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