

# Art & Design



**T**HE Art & Design courses involve you in three assessable elements: Expressive, Design and Art & Design Studies (Critical Activity at Standard Grade).

Expressive Activity offers you the opportunity to develop skills in areas such as drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking and photography.

Observational drawing is an important part of this activity. Also important is the ability to research your ideas and gather visual information about the theme you find yourself working in. Portraiture, Still Life, Figure Composition and the Natural Environment are popular themes.

This activity leads you to the production of a final outcome – a single piece of work in which you can express your ideas.

Design Activity challenges your problem solving abilities. You work from a brief which outlines requirements, constraints and issues relevant to a particular area of design. Graphics, product and fashion are popular areas of design in schools.

You are required to investigate and research the design brief. This will involve you making notes and gathering visual information in the form of sketches, drawings, diagrams and/or photographs.

From your research you will be required to work towards a solution of the design brief and to

present your ideas in a visually interesting way. Once completed, you will be asked to evaluate your work.

Art & Design Studies involves you in the study of the work of artists and designers relevant to your practical work. If you are working on a portraiture theme you will study the work of artists famous for their portraiture. Similarly, if you are working on a graphic design you will study the work of important graphic designers.

This activity increases your critical awareness of

art and design issues. At Standard Grade, this part of the course is known as Critical Activity.

## ASSESSMENT

At Higher level you will be required to provide a Practical Folio for external assessment. The folio will be sent to SQA on or before May 4 2007 and will consist of:

- Your Expressive Activity, worth 80 marks.
- Your Design Activity, worth 80 marks.

You will also be required to sit the written Question Paper on Thursday May 31 2007. This exam is worth 60 marks.

At Standard Grade there are three assessable elements:

- Expressive Activity
- Design Activity
- Critical Activity

There is a five-hour Expressive exam. Design Activity is assessed in schools and moderated by SQA. Critical Activity consists of two pieces of written class work, one Expressive, one Design of 1500 words maximum for each which are sent to SQA for assessment. All three activities are of equal value.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

DAVID Hay is a graduate of Edinburgh College of Art and Moray House School of Education. He started his teaching career in Moffat, Dumfriesshire, then Greenville, Pennsylvania, before becoming principal teacher of Art at Kelso High School in 1978.

Since then he has also worked as regional trainer in Art & Design for Scottish Borders Council, associate assessor to HM Inspectorate of Education and as subject advisor for the General Teaching Council in Scotland. He has over 20 years experience as a marker and examiner with SQA.



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**STANDARD GRADE**

There is a **Practical Exam** on a day to be arranged by your school between Monday 23 April and Friday 4 May. Check with your school for your date.

There is no written exam. Your two Critical Activity pieces have been sent to SQA for assessment. Your Design Activity has been assessed by your own Art & Design teacher and moderated by SQA.

The **Practical Exam** is five hours long with a lunch break of one hour. You are required to produce a single expressive piece.

This is a long exam. Pace yourself to produce your best work. Don't rush.

To many people the next piece of advice will be boring and out of fashion but have a good breakfast before the exam. During the exam, ask the invigilator to open a window and have a bottle of drinking water with you. Fresh air, food and water are very important to keep you focused during such a long exam.

Whatever materials you need should be prepared in advance. Don't get yourself in a panic situation a few minutes before the exam is due to start.

After lunch, take a long critical look at your work and sort out any aspects you are not happy with.

In class, during the weeks prior to the exam, you will have had the opportunity to experiment with various media and compositions based on the themes issued by SQA.

You may take into the exam room up to two A2 sheets of preparatory work to refer to and help with your exam. This preparation is vital. In response to your theme, have a good idea and be clear how you will communicate your idea. Markers will look for expression of your thoughts, skill in media handling and use of visual elements.

The expressive piece you produce in the exam may be 2D (maximum A2 size) or 3D (maximum 30cms) and in one of the following forms – drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, fabric craft, 3D work or photography. Your choice should obviously be negotiated and planned with your Art & Design teacher.

**HIGHER GRADE**

Both your Expressive Activity and Design Activity are sent to SQA for marking. You are required to sit the written exam, the **Art & Design Studies Question Paper**. The exam is one-and-a-half hours long. There are two sections to the paper.

In each section you should answer one full question parts (a) and (b).

Part (a) questions are critical evaluations of examples of Art & Design work reproduced in the paper. Part (b) questions provide you with the opportunity to write about the artists and designers you studied in class. The questions are within the themes available to you for practical class work – portraiture, figure composition, graphic design, etc, etc.

Preparation is vital to your success in this paper. Refer to your own Art & Design Studies work and to any resources provided by your school. Study them carefully.

Part (a) questions test your critical evaluation skills. In the Art Studies (a) questions you will be asked to respond to and analyse examples in terms of visual elements, media handling, communication and meaning. You will also have to give personal responses and opinions.

In the Design Studies (a) questions you will be asked to comment on aspects such as form, function, communication and the methods and materials used by designers. Personal opinions will also be asked for.

The questions will have a structure to them. Read them carefully and use their structure for your answer, eg the question may ask you to comment on subject matter, composition, visual elements and personal opinion. Answer in that order. Don't confuse yourself.

Part (b) questions test your historical knowledge and understanding of your chosen topics e.g. Still Life and Graphic Design.

These questions are sufficiently open-ended to enable you to write about the artists and designers you have studied in class. At a



See past question, Portraiture 1a: John Bellany *My Father* (1966) oil on board (122 x 91.5cm)



Printed by kind permission of the artist

minimum you will have to know about the work of two artists from different periods or movements and two designers from different periods or styles. Be prepared to write about examples of their work. Know their nationality and the period of time they worked in. If they were associated with a particular movement or style, be able to explain the aspects and characteristics of their work which are typical of that movement or style. Be able to write about the methods and materials used by them to communicate their ideas or design solutions. Also, be able to discuss the historical context of your artists and designers and know who or what influenced them and what influence they have had on others.

Thorough preparation will give you the confidence to juggle all of this information and enable you to answer the part (b) questions successfully, no matter how they are worded.

#### EXAMPLES OF PAST QUESTIONS

Example of question on **Portraiture:**

**1(a)**, worth 10 marks

*Discuss the methods used by the artist to reveal aspects of his father's character to us. Comment on the composition, use of visual elements and handling of paint. Explain your personal reaction to this portrait.*

Take a minute or two to absorb what is in front of you. Note the content of the painting, the artist, title, date, medium and size. Then use the structure of the question to form your answer.

You are asked to discuss the methods used by the artist to reveal aspects of his father's character to us and to comment on composition, use of visual elements and handling of paint.

Bellany's father is dressed in working clothes. He looks strong and his ruddy complexion makes us think he works out of doors. His tattoo and rolled up cigarette also suggest workman-like qualities. Compositionally the figure is supported by the crossed arms resting on one of Bellany's paintings. The stern outward gaze of his father is interesting. Bellany's handling of paint is thick and crusty. It is particularly successful in the treatment of texture. Look at the weathered skin of the face and hands and also the clothing. Bellany's use of cool blues and greys against the quiet rich brown gives importance to the figure.

Your opinion of the painting is invited by asking for your personal reaction. Explain your thoughts and reaction to the painting. There may be parts of the painting you admire and think are successful and other aspects you do not. Whatever your reaction, it is very important to fully explain your opinion.

Ten marks are available for this question and if you make ten fully explained statements in your answer you will do well!

**1(b)**, worth 20 marks

*Discuss contrasting approaches to portraiture by two artists from different movements or periods. Comment on their choice of subjects, styles and working methods. Explain why you consider your artists important.*

Read the question carefully and use the structure of the question to form your answer. Know examples of portraiture by two artists and be able to discuss them. Good preparation prior to the exam will give you confidence to do this successfully. Remember your artists must be from different movements or periods.

Be able to name and describe examples of portraiture by each artist. The question requires you to discuss the work of artists with contrasting approaches to portraiture. By writing about artists from different movements you will satisfy that requirement. For example, a Cubist painter will have had a very contrasting approach compared to an Impressionist.

The question asks you to comment on the artists' choice of subjects. This may be as simple as friends, family and people from everyday life. The artist may have been commissioned to paint portraits of particular personalities or members of a Royal family.

You are also asked to comment on the styles and working methods of the artists. This is once again where thorough preparation will help. You need to know as much as possible about the movement your artists are associated with. One of your artists may have been, for example, associated with Cubism. Be able to explain aspects of the artist's work that are typical of Cubism. Have that information at your fingertips.

ART & DESIGN EXAM TIMETABLE	
Level/Paper	Time
Thursday May 31	
Intermediate 2	1pm-2pm
Higher	1pm-2.30pm
Monday April 23-Friday May 4	
The Practical Test for Standard Grade Art & Design will take place at your school's discretion on the most convenient date during this period	

Working methods would cover issues such as media and scale. The artists may work on a large scale in oil paint or perhaps produce miniature watercolours. They may be photographers or sculptors. They may work directly and spontaneously from observation or from sketches and photographs.

You need to find out as much as possible about the artists and their work. This takes time and lots of study.

You may write about your artists completely separately but it may also be possible to compare their work and discuss the differences in their approach to portraiture. It is possible that one artist may have been influential in the development of the other.

To conclude your answer you are required to explain why you consider your artists to be important. You cannot gain full marks without doing this. Four marks are held back for this part of your answer. A good way to answer this would be to explain the contribution made by the artists to their associated movements. For example, Picasso and Braque were very important painters in the Cubist Movement because of their new ideas on composition and emphasis on underlying geometric forms. They were the first to use collage in finished paintings.

Example of question on **Product Design:**

**8(a)**, worth 10 marks

*Style, function and target market are important considerations in the development of a design concept. Comment on each of these in relation to Douglas Clarkson's wheelchair design. In your opinion how successful is the design and why?*

Once again take time to look at the example carefully. Take note of all you can see and read. Use the structure of the question to form your answer. The question asks you to comment on the designer's consideration of style, function and target market in this design for a wheelchair.

The styling of the wheelchair has clearly been considered. Its clean lines and unusual use of complementary colour give the wheelchair a contemporary look.

The function of the wheelchair is obviously to assist mobility for disabled people. In this example the designer has come up with a new way to propel and manoeuvre a wheelchair. The diagrams show how the handlebars are used to power and steer. This is quite different from traditional wheelchairs.

Who would buy and use this wheelchair? The designer has perhaps targeted a young market. The distinctive styling, with the lever system to power the wheelchair, would probably appeal to young disabled people with good upper-body strength.

You are asked to give your opinion of the success of the design. Whatever your opinion is, you must fully explain your thoughts in order to



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gain marks. There will be aspects of the design you admire and think are successful and possibly other things you do not. Does the styling of the wheelchair appeal to you? Do you think the lever system would work? How easy would it be for the disabled to push and pull? Would the chair be comfortable?

Whatever your views are, remember to explain your thoughts fully.

Ten marks are available for the question. If you make at least ten well explained points in your answer you will be rewarded.

**8(b)**, worth 20 marks

Select two designers working in different periods or styles, with reference to examples of their work discuss how they have contributed to the development of everyday products. Which of the two do you consider the more important designer and why?

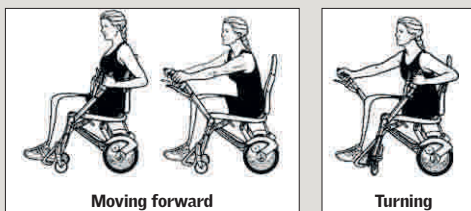
For this question and all (b) parts, thorough preparation is required. You must have knowledge and understanding of the main design issues relating to product design. These would include function, appearance, safety, market, technology and materials. You must be prepared to write about examples of product design by two designers in terms of those design issues. The two designers must be from different periods or work in different styles.

Read the question carefully and use the structure of the question to form your answer.

This particular question focuses on the demands of the market place by asking about the development of everyday products. Product design relates directly to the public because good design enhances our lives.

Start by naming your designers and state the movement or style they were associated with or the period in which they worked, then give a description of at least one example of product design by each. In doing so, explain how you consider they have contributed to the

**EXAMPLE OF PRODUCT DESIGN QUESTION**



**8(a)** Style, function and target market are important considerations in the development of a design concept. Comment on each of these in relation to Douglas Clarkson's wheelchair design. In your opinion how successful is the design and why? (10 marks)

**8(b)** Select two designers working in different periods or styles, with reference to examples of their work discuss how they have contributed to the development of everyday products. Which of the two do you consider the more important designer and why? (20 marks)

development of everyday products. This is where you should discuss the main design issues that relate to your designers' work. For example, you may consider a design to successfully meet the needs of the public because of the appearance of the product and the materials used in its manufacture. Of course, you would need to justify those opinions by explaining why its appearance would appeal to the public and why the materials used are appropriate.

Conclude your answer by explaining who you consider to be the most important designer. You may discuss the commercial success of their work and the influence they have had on other designers. This may have been achieved through the innovative use of new materials or technology. A good knowledge and understanding of the work of your designers is needed to give you the confidence to answer this part of the question. Remember you cannot gain full marks unless you answer the final part of the question. Four marks are held back for this part of your answer.

Hours of preparation are required to give you the confidence to do this.

**FOOTNOTE**

- Success in Art & Design comes down to preparation, preparation, preparation.
  - Prepare for practical exams. Know what you are going to do and how to do it.
  - Prepare for written exams. Put in hours of study. Know your stuff.
  - Prepare yourself. Especially during exam time, have a healthy diet, drink plenty of water, take exercise and get plenty of sleep.
  - Put the work in and with good preparation you will enter the exams in a calm, confident state of mind.
  - And finally – don't underestimate the importance of your teacher's advice. Listen to it and act upon it.
- Good Luck!

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