

Principal Assessor Report 2003

Assessment Panel:

Art and Design

Qualification area:

**Subject(s) and Level(s)
Included in this report**

- 1 Art and Design: Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2**
- 2 Art and Design Studies: Intermediate 2 – Paper 2**
- 3 Art and Design Studies: Intermediate 1 – Summary**

Statistical information: update

Number of entries in 2001	Intermediate 1	Intermediate 2
Pre appeal	199	1,308
Post appeal		

Number of entries in 2002	Intermediate 1	Intermediate 2
Pre appeal	341	2,038
Post appeal		

Number of entries in 2003	Intermediate 1	Intermediate 2
Pre appeal	468	2,324
Post appeal		

General comments re entry numbers

- 1 The increase in numbers at Intermediate 2 is very encouraging from the subject's point of view. It appears that some departments are entering S4 candidates at Intermediate 1 (35%) and Intermediate 2 (5%).
- 2 There was a similar increase at Intermediate 1.

General comments

1 Intermediate 2

The overall performance was very good and a large number of candidates achieved excellent grades. The standard of work was higher than the previous year. There were, however, fewer very poor scripts which suggests that candidates were appropriately placed. The cohort appears to have settled with former borderline Higher candidates now being placed at Intermediate 2. Approximately 40% gained band 1. It is worth noting that two pupils gained perfect marks.

2 Intermediate 1

The standard of work at this level was very high in Expressive Activity although there was a general drop in performance and an overall drop in the mean of -10. Again the increase in numbers and the shift of candidates into Intermediate 2 would account for these figures. 38.6% gained band 1. The fact that there were very few *no awards* suggests that this course is meeting the needs of pupils within our schools.

Grade boundaries at C, B and A for each subject area included in the report

Intermediate 2

Grade boundaries out of a total of 310 marks were:

- C – 155 marks, representing 23.2% of candidates
- B – 186 marks, representing 35.2% of candidates
- A – 217 marks, representing 33.9% of candidates.

Intermediate 1

Grade boundaries out of a total of 280 marks were:

- C – 140 marks, representing 25.9% of candidates
- B – 168 marks, representing 27.6% of candidates
- A – 196 marks, representing 38.6% of candidates

General commentary on passmarks and grade boundaries

- While SQA aims to set examinations and create mark schemes which will allow a competent candidate to score a minimum 50% of the available marks (notional passmark) and a very well-prepared, very competent candidate to score at least 70%, it is almost impossible to get the standard absolutely on target every year, in every subject and level
- Each year we therefore hold a passmark meeting for each subject at each level where we bring together all the information available (statistical and judgmental). The Principal Assessor and SQA Qualifications Manager meet with the relevant SQA Business Manager and Statistician to discuss the evidence and make decisions. The meetings are chaired by members of the senior management team at SQA
- We adjust the passmark downwards if there is evidence that we have set a slightly more demanding exam than usual, allowing the pass rate to be unaffected by this circumstance
- We adjust the passmark upwards if there is evidence that we have set a slightly less demanding exam than usual, allowing the pass rate to be unaffected by this circumstance
- Where the standard appears to be very similar to previous years, we maintain similar grade boundaries
- An exam paper at a particular level in a subject in one year tends to have a marginally different set of grade boundaries from exam papers in that subject at that level in other years. This is because the particular questions are different. This is also the case for exams set in centres. And just because SQA has altered a boundary in a particular year in say Higher Chemistry does not mean that centres should necessarily alter boundaries in their prelim exam in Higher Chemistry. The two are not that closely related as they do not contain identical questions
- Our main aim is to be fair to candidates across all subjects and all levels and maintain standards across the years, even as syllabuses evolve and change

Comments on grade boundaries for each subject area

Intermediate 2

Mean scores were up by several marks at the 70th and 30th percentiles, showing a stronger candidature this year.

The pass mark was set at 155 (half marks) as last year, suggesting the candidature is settling down at this level.

The high number of Grade A's may be accounted for by the influx of candidates who would previously have been presented at Higher. Many of these candidates were of Higher standard in one or other of the practical components, but owing to their weaknesses in Art and Design Studies (written paper) had been presented at Intermediate 2.

It is gratifying to note the small percentage of no awards, suggesting that centres are now presenting candidates appropriately at this level.

Intermediate 1

Mean scores were significantly down at the 70th and 30th percentiles, representing a poorer overall performance. A high percentage of candidates is now drawn from S4. There was a bigger spread of marks this year and marking was robust and concordant at all levels within Intermediate 1.

Pass mark was set at 140 (half marks) as last year.

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

1 Intermediate 2

- The overall standard in Expressive folios very good and improving steadily. This year the Design units were more impressive than last year with candidates showing a very good understanding of the Design process.
- Wide range of skills demonstrated. Increased and good use of technology in the development sheet was noted.
- The Research and Investigation sheet was much improved.
- The three-sheet unit presented no problem in marking. At this level, three sheets assists the candidate in producing a more focused folio.
- Successful Practical Assignments consisted of **one** well-finished piece – one sheet – usually developing a different style or technique. Practical Assignments mostly attempted in the Expressive folios.

2 Intermediate 1

- Standard of work really very good – especially in the Expressive units.
- At this level, the work was seen as dynamic and exciting.
- The Research and Investigation sheet much improved.
- Most pupils showed a good understanding of the Practical Assignment.

3 Art and Design Studies – Paper 2

- Although there were some outstanding responses, the results were a little disappointing with very few candidates achieving full marks.
- A significant number of candidates had difficulty in completing the paper.

4 Intermediate 1 Summary

- Full range of ability and standard was in evidence.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates performed well

1 Intermediate 2

- Expressive folios demonstrated some excellent drawing and painting using a wide variety of media. It was encouraging to see so many very good (and in some cases outstanding) pieces of 3D work.
- Still life, portrait and landscape the most popular in the Expressive folio.
- Excellent work in both the Design and Expressive folios.
- Most candidates showed evidence of market research and context in design.
- Jewellery, textiles and product were the most popular areas of study in the Design folio.
- It was clear that the more structured the Brief, the better the unit.

2 Intermediate 1

- Still life was handled very well and there was some evidence of fine media handling.
- Majority of candidates handled the Development stage well.
- Some evidence of good understanding of the Design process.
- Technology was handled well at this level.

3 Art and Design Studies – Paper 2

- Design and Expressive areas were both tackled well considering the time constraints.
- Still life, portrait and landscape were the most popular. Excellent responses to the mobile phone question.
- Candidates answer part (a) of questions particularly well.

4 Intermediate 1 Summary

- Some excellent work that was more Standard Grade compare and contrast than Summary but nonetheless very good.
- Generally good work given the wordage.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates had difficulty

1 Intermediate 2

- Too many candidates were drawing from second hand sources in the analytical drawing studies.
- All too often candidates were penalised in Design for no market research/context.
- Development in general proved a problem for candidates.
- The Practical Assignment showed a noticeably drop in standard compared to the folio work. Often Practical Assignments did not articulate with the unit of work.
- 3D problem solving was varied in quality from very poor, with drawing as outcomes, to very good.
- In the Design folios, fashion was not treated as a 3D problem solving task.

2 Intermediate 1

- The Practical Assignment was often inferior in quality to the folio work.
- Analytical drawing was of a poorer standard.
- Poor Design Briefs hampered some candidates.

3 Art and Design Studies – Paper 2

- Art and Design Studies is structured to assist candidates, but often parts of the questions can present problems. Part (a) usually requiring a description of the image, often gains a response which includes critical analysis (the focus part (b)) and leaves little else to be said for part (b). Part (c) requires recall of work studied in the course and all too often this is the least well done.
- Several candidates lost marks by answering from more than one question.
- Several candidates appeared to have run out of time in the question paper.
- Question 3 (a) and (b) caused some confusion and difficulty and many candidates responded as if the image was a painting or photograph.

4 Intermediate 1 Summary

- Personal critical comment was all too often absent from these submissions.
- The work was below the required wordage in many cases.
- All too often candidates failed to identify or conform to a theme.
- Some centres candidates were still submitting two items of work.

Recommendations

Feedback to centres

1 **Intermediate 2**

Expressive

- Investigation and Research requires analytical drawing from first hand sources.
- 3D work should be relevant to the unit.
- Submissions must be three sheets only.

Design

- Investigation and Research must show market research/context.
- Brief must have a distinct problem to solve.
- Submissions must be three sheets only.
- Work should be correctly assembled for assessment.

2 **Intermediate 1**

- The comments for Intermediate 2 practical work apply to this level also.

3 **Art and Design Studies – Paper 2**

- Candidates must be clear about the difference between part (a) and part (b). Part (a) is a description of the image and part (b) is the critical analysis of the image.
- In part (c) candidates should study the work of more than one artist or designer but historical perspective is not required.
- Candidates should be encouraged to study prominent or significant artists and designers.

4 **Intermediate 1 Summary**

- There must be an element of personal opinion in the submissions.
- A theme should be identified at the outset.