



National
Qualifications
2026

2026 Graphic Communication

Higher

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

These marking instructions have been prepared by examination teams for use by Qualifications Scotland appointed markers when marking external course assessments.

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General marking principles for Higher Graphic Communication

Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the specific marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.

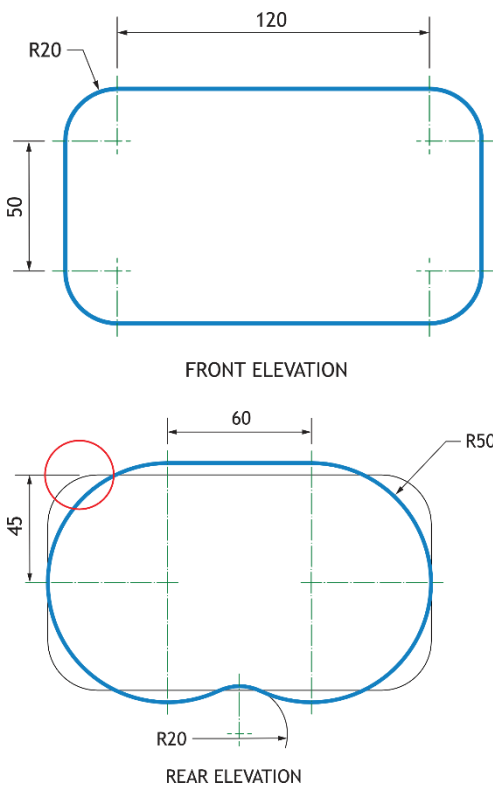
- (a) Always use positive marking. This means candidates accumulate marks for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding; marks are not deducted for errors or omissions.
- (b) If a candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed marking instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your team leader.
- (c) For 'Describe' questions
Candidates must provide a statement or structure of characteristics and/or features, not just an outline or a list. For example, they can refer to a concept, experiment, situation, or facts in the context of and appropriate to the question. The number of marks available for a question indicates the number of factual/appropriate points required.
- (d) For 'Explain' questions
Candidates must relate cause and effect and/or define relationships. This must be in the context of the question, or a specific area within the question.
- (e) For 'Compare' questions
Candidates must demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the similarities and/or differences between things, methods, or choices. This must be in the context of the question, or a specific area within the question.
- (f) Candidates can respond to any question using text, sketching, annotations, or combinations of these. Award marks for the information conveyed. Do not award marks for the quality of sketching.

Marking instructions for each question

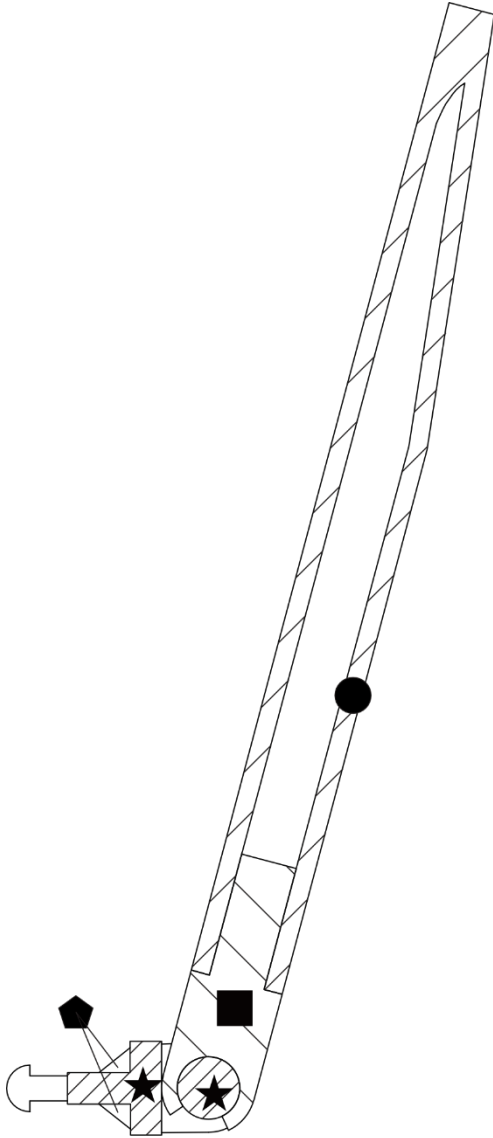
Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
1.	(a)		Describe contrast • straight lines with wavey/curved/angled lines • film reel boxes (left hand side of first panel) and graphic of film • contrast of red outline/circle on blue camera lens • contrasting sizes of text/fonts • use of red and green colours • contrast of font for “Halloween horror night” • contrasting shapes, including shaped graphics	2	In this context, accept white text on a black background. Do not accept references to black text on a white background.
	(b)		Describe rhythm • repeated lens with red lines • repeated alteration of red and green lines on the confectionary prices • repeated use of website in footer • repeated format of subheadings (Animation, Action... or On Set, Off Screen...) • repeated formatting of subheading and image in “coming soon” section • repeated formatting of the “Halloween Horror night!” section	2	On “Halloween Horror night!” section, any combination of repeated elements.
	(c)		Describe value • change in value of red or green dashes • change in value of vertical film reel on page 02 • different values of red used on page 04 and page 05 • change in value in gradient fill on background of “Halloween Horror night!” • high value images on low value background	2	Do not accept reference to transparency. Accept reverse when referencing white text on a black background. Accept only one example of red value on 04 and 05 • vertical bands • text values • lines above and below pull quote
	(d)		Describe depth • drop shadow on lens • drop shadow on popcorn image • transparency on red lines • layering of images/shapes • use of advancing colours	2	

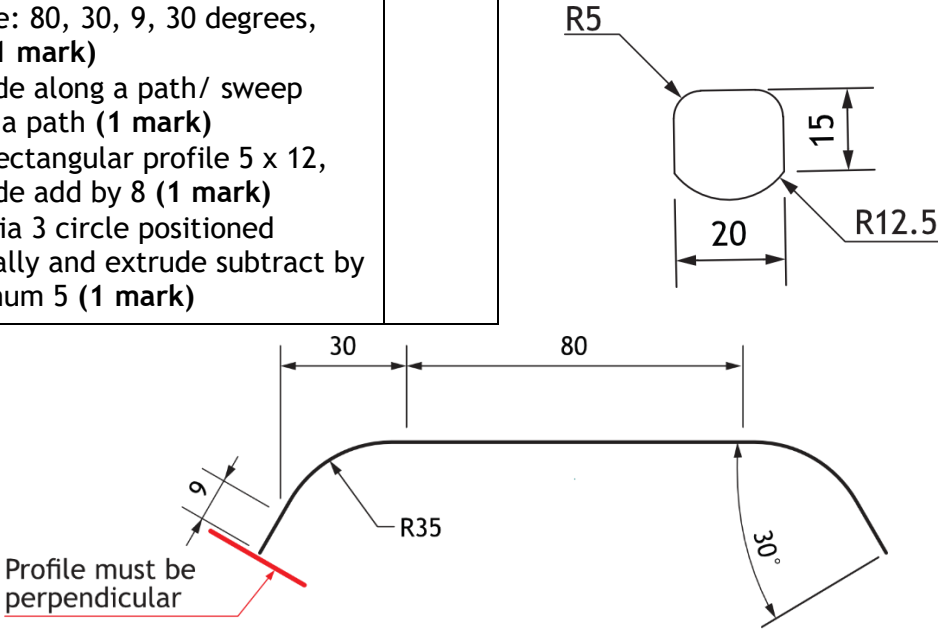
Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
1.	(e)		Describe alignment - alignment of cropped lens vertically - left alignment of the letter I in the title with the end of the red line - left alignment of the movie genres and images - left alignment of the “on set” image with the popcorn image “become a member today” left aligned with the website. “coming soon” horizontally aligned with “cinemazy” - dates and titles left aligned Any instance of two or more items being aligned.	2	Must reference how they are aligned, e.g. left aligned. Must reference two or more items. Do not accept references of justification.
	(f)		Explain emphasis Cause, for example, <i>Page 02 and 03</i> - larger font on headline/subheadings - red “Independent” - red text in footer - red line under “Cinemazy” <i>Page 04 and 05</i> - bold text on “Behind the scenes...” - lines above and below pull quote - formatting of text of pull quote - red outline on lens - formatting of subheadings - red text in subheading - drop shadows on popcorn and lens Effect - draw attention to the item - lead the reader’s eye	1	Must be cause and effect for 1 mark . Do not accept “emphasis” or “emphasises” as the effect.
	(g)	(i)	- scalable without pixelation/loss of quality - colour can be changed within DTP software - small file sizes	2	

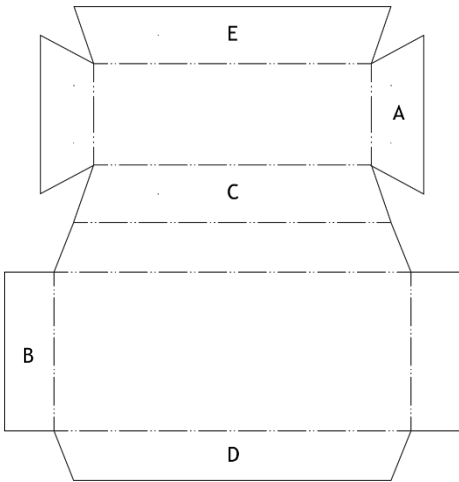
Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
1.	(g)	(ii)	- files can be accessed remotely from anywhere in the world - allows for remote working - accessible on multiple devices - files can be easily shared between coworkers - allows for collaboration - storage can be increased/expanded as required - files can be encrypted - file restoration features (old versions/back-ups)	2	Do not accept references to sending via email.
	(h)	(i)	Image 1: Full crop Image 2: Square crop	2	Accept just Full/Square. Accept Full/Square Cropping.
		(ii)	Any of the following regarding the full crop/image 1 (1 mark): - to apply own background - to remove clutter - to focus on the subject - to provide a circular outline - to create visual interest Any of the following regarding the square crop/image 2 (1 mark): - to frame a specific area of the image or focus on subject of the image - to remove an unwanted area of the image - to allow the image to fit the available space within the layout	2	Must have one example for each. Must be a different effect for each type of crop. Apply follow on rule from 1(h)(i) if correct effect described.
	(i)		- Speeds up the process of creating layouts as the graphic artist does not need to manually type the text required - Allows the graphic artist to consider placement of text without being distracted by the readable content of a page - Allows the graphic artist to consider size to see how much space would be needed allowing for design decisions to be actioned following discussions with client(s) - Allows graphic artist to consider typeface to see what style would suit the theme of the layout without requirement of the actual text	1	Cause and effect for 1 mark .

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
2.	(a)		- components are modelled individually - they can be inserted into an assembly to assemble using constraints - any changes to a component will need to be done by editing it individually	2	
	(b)		Gives a larger view of a specific area allowing for greater clarity in the view.	1	Cause and effect for 1 mark.
	(c)	(i)	stepped section	1	Accept “stepped”. Do not accept “step”.
		(ii)	revolved section	1	Accept “revolved”. Do not accept “revolve”.
	(d)	(i)	- profile 1: 120, 50 and R20 (1 mark) - workplane offset 50mm (1 mark) - profile 2: 60, R50, R20 and 45 locating dimension (1 mark) - loft command (1 mark) - shell wall thickness 5, removing the rear face (1 mark)	5	 The image contains two technical drawings of a mechanical part. The top drawing is the 'FRONT ELEVATION', showing a rounded rectangle with a width of 120 and a height of 50. The corners are rounded with a radius of R20. The bottom drawing is the 'REAR ELEVATION', showing a more complex shape. It has a top width of 60 and a height of 45. The top corners are rounded with a radius of R50. The bottom corners are rounded with a radius of R20. A red circle highlights a specific feature on the left side of the rear elevation. The drawings are labeled 'FRONT ELEVATION' and 'REAR ELEVATION' respectively.
		(ii)	radial array	1	

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
2.	(e)		• profile circle dia 6, 25mm from centreline and 4mm from base in appropriate location (1 mark) • helix command (1 mark) • pitch (15mm), number of revolutions (4), length (60mm) Any two for 1 mark.	3	64mm from base if modelling from the top of the helix.
	(f)	(i)	STEP, IGES	1	
		(ii)	Can open in any CAD modelling software package <i>as</i> it is a universal file type.	1	Cause and effect for 1 mark .
	(g)		Use the modelling tree to move the shell above the extrude subtract (circle) command.	1	Accept above extrude subtract.

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
3.	(a)		 SECTION Z-Z	4	★ 1 mark ■ 1 mark ● 1 mark ◆ 1 mark for not hatching web
	(b)		• leader line of 185 touching the component • auxiliary view in 1st Angle/plan is in 3rd Angle • arc dimensioned as diameter • 3rd angle symbol is the 1st angle symbol	3	Omissions are not errors.

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
4.	(a)	(i)	- correct alignment of components - components do not overlap each other - order of assembly is correct - consistent spacing of components	2	Parts clearly labelled/identified.
		(ii)	- to show how parts assemble - to indicate the order of assembly - to show component quantities - to see hidden components, e.g. fixing screws	2	
	(b)		- correct profile: 20, 15, R12.5, R5 (1 mark) - correct path perpendicular to profile: 80, 30, 9, 30 degrees, R35 (1 mark) - extrude along a path/ sweep along a path (1 mark) 2 of rectangular profile 5 x 12, extrude add by 8 (1 mark) 2 of dia 3 circle positioned centrally and extrude subtract by minimum 5 (1 mark)	5	Candidates can use mirror 
	(c)		- centre axis and mate arm to handle (1 mark) - correct use of orientate 135 degrees (1 mark) Three constraints required for arm and rake: three mates or two mates & one align. A total of 2 marks available: - two or three correct constraints correctly applied (2 marks) - one correct constraint correctly applied (1 mark)	4	

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
4.	(d)	(i)	$3 + 4.5 = 7.5$	1	Sum not required.
		(ii)	$4.5 - 2 = 2.5$	1	Sum not required.
	(e)			5	
	(f)		3D-rendering techniques: • light source • materials • reflections • shade • sited environment	2	Do not accept one-word answers. Must be a description related to the model. Accept reference to illustration techniques: • shadow • texture • perspective
	(g)		• to show the object in a realistic setting • gives an indication of scale • different conditions can be shown i.e. light, dark, weather etc • shows how the object would fit into its surroundings	2	Must reference a setting, realistic lighting would be applied to an illustration of just the object.

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
5.	(a)	(i)	registration mark(s)	1	
		(ii)	header	1	
		(iii)	drop cap	1	Do not accept “Drop Capital”.
		(iv)	column rule	1	
		(v)	crop mark(s)	1	
	(b)		Text 1: Fully justified Text 2: Centre justified	2	‘justified’ is not required. Accept wording similar to fully and centre.
	(c)		- allows edge-to-edge printing - enables colour to be displayed to the edge of the printed layout - stops a white margin from potentially appearing - adds visual interest	1	
	(d)		Any two from: - text and images can be edited separately - layers can be turned off and on to improve clarity during the production of the layout - the layers can provide a master page for similar future layouts that may be required - layers can be edited without affecting other elements of the layout - layers can be ordered by either moving backwards or forwards - layers can be locked to prevent them from being edited or moved by mistake	2	
	(e)		Any two from: - no purchasing costs - no issues concerning copyright of image - the company is not restricted by the stock images available - the company can capture images which suit their needs exactly - the image can be captured in the correct orientation (portrait, landscape) - photos will show quality of their own work - could sell their images to other companies	2	

Question			Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
5.	(f)		Any two from: • can view embedded content (movie clip) to interact with • easy to zoom in or increase size of font to improve accessibility • can expand areas of text to ‘read more’ allowing more information to be included • can view linked material (social media platforms) allowing better user engagement • available in a range of languages broadening target audience • built-in accessibility features such as text to speech allows more people to access content • can copy and paste content making it easier to share • can be read in different lighting conditions, such as in the dark, with justification e.g. device can be backlit, brightness level can be adjusted	2	Candidates must have two valid explanations (cause and effect). Must be a benefit to the consumer of accessing digital content. Do not accept environmental considerations.
	(g)		• the size of the depot relative to the site boundaries/ context • location and number of the car parking facilities • the direction/location of the main entry road to the building • the access path to the building • the location of trees on the site boundary • the grassy areas within the site boundary • the direction the depot is facing relative to North (North Point symbol) • the location of the site boundary	4	
	(h)	(i)	Symbol A: Radiator Symbol B: WC	2	
		(ii)	• same symbols can be used repeatedly • symbols already exist, no need to draw at all • no need to redraw repeated symbols • less chance of errors • speeds up production • symbols to a recognised standards	2	Do not accept unqualified “saves time”.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]