

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2012 Assessment Report

Art History Level 3

- 90490 Analyse style in art**
- 90491 Describe the meaning of iconographic motifs**
- 90495 Examine the context of an art movement**

COMMENTARY

This was the final year for examinations to assess these achievement standards.

STANDARD REPORTS

90490 Analyse style in art

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- addressed the question directly, using the wording within part (a) to guide answers
- went beyond description to analyse required stylistic characteristics in each art work
- distinguished between differing stylistic characteristics across the two art works
- used some relevant art history terminology
- made reference to visual details in the works as evidence.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- answered only one of the questions when two were required
- provided unbalanced responses that examined only one of the provided plates sufficiently
- did not use appropriate art history terminology
- described the art works without analysis
- engaged with part (b) of the question without addressing the requirements of part (a).

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- analysed stylistic characteristics competently
- explained reasons for stylistic differences in the plates (rather than continuing to describe differences)
- provided broad contextual evidence for part (b), without being comprehensive
- demonstrated competent control of art history terminology
- provided pertinent supporting evidence from the art works
- used statements such as 'because', 'as can be seen in', 'therefore', etc, that showed thinking beyond descriptive analysis.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- demonstrated in-depth understanding of art works, artists and their contexts
- demonstrated engagement with the given plates

- addressed all aspects of the question confidently
- answered both parts of the question in detail and went beyond the given plates to cite other examples by this artist, or other relevant artists, showing links between them
- understood the wider historical contexts affecting an artist's style, including politics, other artists and/or regional differences
- were able to analyse perceptively and enter into a debate with the reader
- demonstrated conceptual understanding.

OTHER COMMENTS

There was confusion in the use of some of the more basic art history terms such as *sfumato* and *contrapposto*, with these often being used in the wrong contexts. Misspelling of art historical terms and artists' names is common. Mis-use of common terms (eg 'Michelangelo was a sculpture.') is also common.

90491 Describe the meaning of iconographic motifs

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- named two appropriate art works and gave the names of the two artists accurately
- gave an accurate description of at least three motifs within the two art works
- used appropriate art historical terms and provided a clear description of the meaning for the motifs
- demonstrated an understanding of the requirements of the question and answered within its parameters
- attempted to explain the meaning of motifs but did not provide sufficient information to explain clearly enough to meet the requirements for Merit
- provided a response that demonstrated a knowledge of the art works.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- did not name two appropriate art works and/or artists accurately
- did not describe three motifs and/or their meanings correctly
- did not provide sufficient information to clearly describe the meaning of the motifs
- did not meet the specific requirements of the question
- described stylistic or contextual information instead of providing relevant descriptions of three iconographic motifs.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- clearly explained the meaning of at least three motifs across the two art works

- provided links between the different iconographic motifs to demonstrate an understanding of the intentions of the art works and artists
- showed knowledge of why specific motifs were selected by the artists
- began to reflect on their understanding of the contexts within their explanation of the meanings
- were able to identify and discuss another appropriate art work or artist and identify relevant iconography
- attempted to evaluate information through the discussion of other artists and art works but did not provide sufficient relevant information that made links to content and context within the specified Excellence requirements of the question
- selected appropriate art works that allowed the candidate to explain a range of motifs allowing the response to show depth and a clear understanding of the significance of the motifs.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- evaluated the iconography of the given image and a second relevant image to develop a discussion which was relevant to the question asked in the examination
- demonstrated perception in the evaluation of the meanings of iconographic details
- extended their discussion by appropriately using other contextual factors such as style, theory, and influences, and linking this information to the iconographic motifs
- extensively linked individual motifs to a wider context in relation to the overall style of the artworks and the intention of the artist/s
- linked the art works and/or artists to each other, demonstrating insight and an understanding of the role of iconography in art works
- evaluated the significance of iconographic motifs in communicating the meaning and intentions of the artists against other factors such as style or selection of media
- provided a comprehensive and holistic response to the entirety of the question.

90495 Examine the context of an art movement

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- described two aspects of the context specified in the selected question
- described relevant evidence of the specified context in two appropriate art works
- used appropriate art historical terminology in their discussions of context and art works
- demonstrated understanding of the selected area of study by addressing the specific requirements of the question, using relevant information and art works.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- provided rote-learned responses which were not adapted to the aspect of context specified in the question
- provided broad, generalised responses which ignored the specific requirements of the question
- demonstrated limited understanding of the contexts and art of their selected area of study
- identified appropriate art works but did not describe evidence of the specified context in those works
- described stylistic or iconographic aspects of the selected art works instead of describing evidence of the specified context.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- went beyond descriptive writing to provide effective explanations of relationships between relevant selected art works and the specified context
- selected relevant art works that provided the scope for the explanation of the relationships between art works and the specified context
- demonstrated sound understanding of the selected area of study by making appropriate connections between the specified context and the selected art works using appropriate art historical language.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- went beyond the specific requirements of the question to draw on broader contextual knowledge to provide perceptive evaluations of the significance of the specified area of context
- supported their evaluative discussion with accurate and relevant evidence drawn from additional sources such as art works, specific texts and writers
- demonstrated perceptive understanding of the relationships between art historical contexts and art works by constructing a sustained argument to address the specific requirements of the selected question
- demonstrated comprehensive understanding of the selected area of study by using art historical language fluently and perceptively in confident responses that focused on relevant information and art works.

OTHER COMMENTS

There was an improvement in the overall quality of responses this year compared to previous years. This was most apparent in the higher proportion of students who demonstrated understanding of the importance of contextual relationships in art production and reception. Many of these students provided well-constructed responses which addressed all aspects of the selected question in well-constructed arguments which proceeded to pertinent, evaluative conclusions.