

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2013 Assessment Report

Visual Arts Level 1

**90916 Produce a body of work informed by established practice,
which develops ideas, using a range of media**

COMMENTARY

Overall, candidates showed a good understanding of the requirements for AS 90916. It appears that schools are making good use of national exemplars and previous school benchmarks to make sound grade judgments for their candidates. It was heartening for teams of verifiers to be able to affirm the majority of school assessor decisions.

STANDARD REPORT

90916 Produce a body of work informed by established practice, which develops ideas, using a range of media

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- sustained a development of more than one idea over two panels by modifying and developing their approach as they made consecutive art works
- produced a body of works that were thematically or pictorially linked and informed by a proposition (visual or conceptual) that was introduced early on the first panel
- made reference to established practice in their own work across both panels
- demonstrated some understanding of art-making conventions when producing art works
- demonstrated limited skill in one medium when three or more media were used (e.g. pencil and paint used well, but lack of skill shown with sculpture)
- applied still and moving image conventions in the case of moving image submissions.

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 demonstrate sufficient evidence of idea development
- did not produce sufficient work to fill two panels (i.e. large gaps between works, or only one panel completed) or presented many incomplete works
- produced some work at Level 6 of the Curriculum but did not sustain this across two panels
- demonstrated inadequate handling of media, often evident in the inability to render form using wet media
- showed a lack of reference to established practice when producing work
- showed limited awareness of spatial and compositional concerns
- used only one medium across the two panels
- showed inappropriate media use (e.g. large brushes for work requiring detail)
- produced highly repetitive work with little or no development (e.g. a photograph presented multiple times with various digital filters applied)
- presented works which did not relate to the theme or proposition, or which did not develop ideas
- showed use of only one medium and lack of understanding of still and moving image conventions in moving image submissions.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- ordered and edited their works to show a systematic approach to decision-making
- demonstrated meaningful development of a range of ideas, making appropriate use of pictorial conventions, media, and techniques
- produced a body of works that clearly related to the proposition
- used drawing as a thinking and working process towards the specific idea or technique they were working with
- showed appropriate selection, understanding and use of conventions from established practice
- sized works to effectively show development of ideas (smaller developmental works, and larger more final works)
- showed control of media and understanding of still and moving image conventions in moving image submissions.

At the lower end of the Merit grade range candidates often demonstrated varied control of media, or inconsistencies in the systematic development of ideas.

At higher end of the Merit grade range candidates often demonstrated episodes of fluency, but this was not sufficiently sustained across both panels. Frequently in design-based submissions at this range of the Merit grade candidates showed some fluency in the use of design conventions but did not identify their most successful images for further development.

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:

- showed consistent fluency with all media used
- made relevant and considered choices when editing and ordering their work
- were consistently able to identify their most successful works for further development and clarification
- showed clear understanding and meaningful use of a wide variety of pictorial and conceptual approaches from relevant established practice
- logically developed and clarified their ideas from the proposition
- took risks and showed independence of thought
- showed a high level of awareness and ability to apply still and moving image conventions across moving image submissions.

OTHER COMMENTS

Schools are reminded to follow the assessment specifications regarding candidate NSN size and placement. It was disappointing to see inappropriately large spaces allocated for the number on some submissions, reducing the opportunity candidates had to meet the requirements of the standard.

It was pleasing to see a range of visual arts fields being explored on many folios. Schools are reminded that when designing cross-field programmes that candidates must still demonstrate clear links between series of work in different fields, to show idea development and clarification. Candidates must also have sufficient opportunity to become

competent in all media used on a folio, so that they are not let down by a lack of control or fluency with one particular medium.

While there is still a strong presence of conventional approaches to making art such as still-life and portraiture, pop cultural and illustrative contexts continue to be a popular and engaging choice of theme for many candidates. Even the more traditional genres, which were interpreted through non-conventional means such as installation, digital media, photograms, collage, stencilling, and spray painting appeared to sustain candidate interest and support high achievement.

In most cases, candidates demonstrated appropriate choice, understanding and use of established visual arts practice to inform their own work. Programmes of work that specified artist models for candidates to closely reference on their second panel sometimes resulted in restricted opportunities for the development and clarification of candidate ideas.

Presenting well-edited short sequences of works enabled candidates to show a convincing depth and clarification of ideas for Merit and Excellence. It is likely that those candidates who presented five or more works on their second panel would have been exposed to multiple opportunities to clarify ideas in their learning programmes.

It was good to see a strong presence of printmaking in successful submissions, using techniques such as stencilling and screen printing, and combinations of digitally and traditionally printed imagery. Sculptural and installation approaches and were also successfully used, often to generate ideas or extend them in new ways.

When presenting work as digital moving image, or as digital prints for design or photography-based submissions, candidates must ensure that more than one medium has been used in the production of the work. While in conventional wet-media based submissions this was seldom a problem, it was difficult to identify the necessary range of media in some digital submissions.

It was pleasing to see an overall improvement in the quality and number of moving image submissions. Candidates are reminded to pay close attention to art-making conventions such as camera angle, framing, composition and contrast when producing moving image works, as there was a tendency in some submissions for the candidate to become overly involved with a narrative, at the expense of developing visual art conventions. Candidates should be aware that moving image submissions are viewed on a 42in HD television screen, and ensure images are of an appropriate size and resolution for this presentation format.