

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2013 Assessment Report

Art History Level 3

91482 Demonstrate understanding of style in art works

91483 Examine how meanings are communicated through art works

91484 Examine the relationship(s) between art and context

COMMENTARY

The new format used in the examinations in 2013 provided candidates with a reduced number of areas of study and established equity between each standard in terms of the number of questions to be answered in each standard.

A resource booklet of plates was introduced. For 91482, candidates were required to select two plates from the booklet, however, in 91483 and 91484 candidates could use one plate of their own choice. The use of a resource booklet presented candidates with an increased level of decision-making. This was handled well and the majority made appropriate selections. However, a few candidates failed to select the required number of art works from the selected area of study.

A generic question was introduced in each standard that could be answered with any content and any supporting art works. This question was one of the three most popular questions in all three standards.

Candidates responded well to the revised format of the questions and there was an overall improvement in the depth of knowledge and understanding in responses. Although a number of candidates continued to offer prepared responses that were poorly adapted to the requirements of the selected question, a large number of candidates provided informed responses that demonstrated sound art historical understanding.

STANDARD REPORTS

91482 Demonstrate understanding of style in art works

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- explained some similar and/or different stylistic characteristics across two art works
- provided supporting evidence by referring to specific details in the two art works
- went beyond simple descriptive statements and began to analyse the art works
- used some relevant art historical terminology.

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:

- described the art works but did not identify the specified stylistic characteristics
- discussed the meanings and context of the selected art works without addressing their stylistic characteristics
- selected art works that were not from the resource booklet.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- explained reasons for the stylistic similarities and differences between the two art works

- supported their explanations with relevant supporting evidence that was linked to specific details in the art works
- used appropriate art historical language in their explanations and analyses of the stylistic characteristics of the two art works.

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:

- addressed all aspects of the selected question in an integrated and synthesised discussion
- used art historical terminology fluently, with confidence
- incorporated contextual discussion that was relevant to the specific requirements of the selected question
- arrived at convincing conclusions that demonstrated perceptive understanding of style in art works.

OTHER COMMENTS

This achievement standard is about stylistic characteristics, rather than context or meaning. Therefore candidates should be encouraged to begin their responses by directly addressing the specified aspects of style and avoid long general introductions about artists or periods.

91483 Examine how meanings are communicated through art works

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- provided simple explanations of the meanings of two selected art works
- identified some features used to convey meaning in each of the two selected art works
- used some appropriate art historical language when describing the meanings of the art works
- linked the meanings of some features in the art works to the overall meanings 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:

- described the visual appearance of one or two art works but did not explain the meanings of two art works
- wrote about style or context instead of meanings
- provided prepared answers that did not address the meanings specified in the selected question
- selected art works that did not relate to the meanings specified in the selected question.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- explained the meanings of relevant features of the selected art works and linked these meanings to the overall meanings of the art works
- provided expansive explanatory discussions of the meanings of the two art works that were connected to the specific requirements of the selected question
- used appropriate art historical language in their explanations of how relevant meanings were conveyed in the selected art works.

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:

- directly responded to the specific requirements of the selected question with comprehensive explanations of how and why the specified meanings were conveyed in the art works
- related the meanings of the selected art works to broader thematic and contextual aspects of the relevant period and/or artists
- displayed confident use of art historical language in an articulate and fluent response
- supported their expansive discussion with supporting evidence from other art works and/or other sources
- demonstrated perceptive understanding of the relationships between the contexts of the selected art works and the meanings conveyed in them.

OTHER COMMENTS

The selection of art works is an important aspect of this standard. Care must be taken to ensure that the selected art works are both relevant to the meanings and period specified in the selected question.

91484 Examine the relationship(s) between art and context

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- referred to the context which was specified in the selected question and demonstrated some understanding of that context
- connected art of the appropriate area of study to the context specified in the selected question
- began to explain link(s) between art and the context specified in the selected question.

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:

- submitted brief, incomplete answers that did not refer to the context specified in the selected question

- provided a prepared response that did not address the selected question
- did not make link(s) between the specified context and art
- described art works and discussed stylistic or iconographic features of art works but did not link or relate these sufficiently to the context specified in the selected question
- provided general information about context, art or artists that did not relate to the specific requirements of the selected question.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- focused on the selected question and responded to the specific requirements of the question
- provided sufficient explanation of the context specified in the selected question to demonstrate in depth understanding of the selected area of study
- clearly explained links and/or relationships between art and the context specified in the selected question
- used evidence from relevant art works and/or other sources to support their explanations of links between art and the context specified in the selected question.

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:

- directly addressed the selected question and developed a strong and coherent argument in response to the specific requirements of the question
- provided an expansive explanatory and evaluative discussion of the relationships between the context specified in the selected question and art, going beyond the specific requirements of the question to include other relevant aspects of art and context
- supported their evaluative discussion by integrating relevant evidence from appropriate art works and/or other sources in addition to the two art works originally discussed
- demonstrated comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the art and context of their selected area of study in the breadth, depth and accuracy of their argument
- demonstrated perceptive art historical ability in the coherence and scope of their discussion of relevant aspects of the context and art of their selected question
- arrived at convincing conclusions about the requirements of the selected question and justified these conclusions with the logic and pertinence of their argument.

OTHER COMMENTS

Success in this standard depends on the careful reading of the selected question and the appropriate interpretation of the key words used to specify the intent and focus of the question.