

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2014 Assessment Report

Art History Level 1

**90915 Demonstrate understanding of formal elements of art works,
using art terminology**

COMMENTARY

Successful candidates were well prepared for this standard, although almost all candidates chose their own art works rather than using the works given in the examination resource booklet. Candidates generally knew the art works well enough to write in detail about the formal elements they had chosen.

Painting was the field chosen by almost all candidates.

The art historical language that is used to discuss photography, sculpture and architecture should be practised by candidates. Candidates should write using formal language and should ensure that they support their ideas with explanatory examples from the art works.

Successful candidates showed clear understanding of art terminology.

The formal element 'Form' – the creation of three dimensionality within images, particularly in painting, is one area which candidates found problematic in demonstrating a clear understanding when describing this element within art works. Space and composition were sometimes confused by weaker candidates.

STANDARD REPORTS

90915 Demonstrate understanding of formal elements of art works, using art terminology

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- chose appropriate formal elements
- chose appropriate art works and knew the art works they were discussing well enough to discuss formal elements
- demonstrated an ability to organise ideas so that each element and each work was discussed evenly and repetition was avoided
- described the formal elements accurately, making reference to the art work
- understood the distinction between each formal element
- used some art terminology accurately
- expressed ideas coherently.

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 commonly:

- wrote about only one art work
- wrote only about one formal element
- offered only a generalised description of the art works
- used art terminology inaccurately, misunderstanding key terms
- discussed meaning and context rather than formal elements
- addressed the question in insufficient detail

- failed to make reference to the art works to support their answer.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- used a range of art terms accurately
- addressed all three formal elements giving accurate examples from both art works
- described the art works and formal elements in detail
- interpreted the art works, rather than just describing them
- wrote fluently to explain the points they made.

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 commonly:

- wrote in a clear and succinct manner to explain the points they made
- drew from a wide range of art terms in supporting their answer
- showed a clear understanding of the distinction between the formal elements in each art work
- demonstrated an assured grasp of the analysis of art works
- described the formal elements thoroughly with specific detail from both art works
- integrated information appropriately into their responses.