

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2014 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

Candidates were generally well-prepared for the format of these examination papers and for the wording of individual questions. Most candidates used the Resource Booklet wisely, selecting suitable plates to use in their responses and drawing on the evidence in the subsidiary plates and captions to inform their responses.

Although some candidates offered rote-learned responses about artists and aspects of art that were not relevant to their selected question, many more candidates demonstrated sound art historical knowledge and critical thinking in answers that addressed and engaged with the specific requirements of their selected question.

Responses across the three standards indicated that Areas 5, 3 and 2 are the most popular areas of study. Question 7, the open question, was a popular choice in all papers.

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 commonly:

- directly addressed the requirements of the selected question
- went beyond description to explain the two specified stylistic characteristics of both selected art works
- supported their explanations of stylistic characteristics with references to specific visual details in their selected 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 commonly:

- did not understand stylistic terms, such as form or line, that were specified in the selected question
- described the selected art works but did not explain the specified stylistic characteristics in those art works
- discussed the meanings or background of the selected art works, rather than style
- discussed art works that were not selected 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 commonly:

- analysed the specified stylistic characteristics in both selected art works
- explained reasons for similarities and differences in the styles of the two art works
- justified their explanations and analysis with references to specific details in the selected art works
- used art historical terminology accurately and appropriately.

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:

- used critical thinking to write perceptive responses that demonstrated clear understanding of the concepts of their selected area of study
- analysed the selected art works in-depth and expanded these analyses to incorporate contextual information that was relevant to the specific requirements of the selected question
- selected art works that were relevant to all aspects of the selected question, and provided the scope for a fully developed response that integrated stylistic analysis and relevant contextual discussion
- used art historical language competently and confidently.

OTHER COMMENTS

This achievement standard requires candidates to focus on style, rather than other aspects of art such as meaning or background. Candidates should be encouraged to discuss the stylistic use of characteristics such as colour or line, rather than symbolism. Lengthy responses that back grounded the selected art works, or related them to prepared discussions of style were not always successful.

The most successful responses were those that engaged directly with the requirements of the question, explaining and analysing the specified stylistic characteristics, and explaining and justifying the reasons for similarities and differences between the two selected art works.

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 commonly:

- directly addressed the requirements of the selected question by explaining aspects of the specified meanings in appropriately selected art works
- connected the meanings specified in the selected question, to features in the selected art works
- began to explain how the specified meanings were conveyed by the features of the selected art works
- used appropriate art historical vocabulary.

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:

- explained the meaning of only one art work, when two art works are required
- selected two art works that were not relevant to the selected question or area of study
- insufficiently identified the selected art works and/or artists
- described the subjects of the selected art works but did not explain the meanings of the art works or did not connect the meanings to features in the art works

- provided prepared responses that did not address 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 commonly:

- engaged with the requirements of the question and provided considered and coherent explanations of the meanings specified in the selected question
- clearly explained relevant meanings in two appropriately selected art works, and provided detailed explanations of the connections between these meanings and features of the art works
- expanded their explanations into expansive discussions of how features of the selected art works have been used to convey overall meaning
- used art historical language accurately and coherently.

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:

- demonstrated perceptive understanding of the specified meanings of the selected art works by explaining how and why those meanings were constructed and conveyed in the selected art works
- supported their explanations by integrating relevant contextual information about meanings and concepts that were relevant to the specific requirements of the selected question
- demonstrated comprehensive understanding about the ideas and themes of the selected area of study
- displayed confident and accurate art historical language in fluent and expansive responses that were well-supported by evidence from art works and context.

OTHER COMMENTS

The focus of this achievement standard is the connection between specified meanings of selected art works and how they are conveyed by features of those art works.

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 commonly:

- demonstrated some understanding of the context specified in the selected question by explaining aspects of that context
- connected art of the appropriate area of study to aspects of the context specified in the selected question
- explained one or two aspects of the context specified in their selected question, and began to explain appropriate links between art and that context.

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:

- responded with prepared information that was insufficiently adapted to the specific requirements of the selected question
- provided broad discussions of the general contexts of art but did not address the specific requirements of the selected question
- described art works but did not discuss their contexts and did not explain the relationship(s) between art and context
- identified and explained symbolic meanings of the selected art works, rather than context
- discussed the styles of the selected art works but did not relate this to context

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- directly addressed the specific requirements of the selected question and provided an expansive discussion of the specified context and art of the appropriate period
- provided clear and detailed explanations of the relationship(s) between relevant art and art works and the context specified in the selected question
- supported their ideas and explanations with specific evidence from appropriately selected and identified art works, and/or other sources.

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:

- addressed the specific requirements of all parts of the selected question with an evaluative discussion that went beyond the context specified in the question to consider other relevant aspects of the relationship(s) between art and context in the selected area of study
- demonstrated critical understanding of the contexts and art of the selected area of study by using pertinent evidence from relevant art, art works and contexts in their response
- provided a fluent and insightful evaluation that focused on the requirements of the selected question and led to convincing conclusions
- arrived at conclusions about the relationship(s) between art and context that demonstrated critical judgement and insight
- used confident and fluent art historical language.

OTHER COMMENTS

Although there was a noticeable decline in the number of rote-learned responses this year, these continue to present barriers to achievement for many candidates who are unable to adapt prepared responses to the specific requirements of a selected question.