

Subject: Art History

Level: 3

Standards: 91482, 91483, 91484

Part A: Commentary

The examination presented candidates with the ability to meet all levels of achievement in each area of study. The plates in the resource booklet were appropriate to the questions and were generally well-known. The open questions could be applied with equal ease to both modern and Renaissance topics.

Part B: Report on standards

91482: Demonstrate understanding of style in art works

Examination

Candidates were required to select two art works from the resource booklet and analyse two stylistic elements for each in their response.

Observations

The examination provided a range of familiar images, and most candidates were well prepared to analyse the art works. Inclusion of a short clarification of what exactly each stylistic feature means would be beneficial. Some candidates struggled with the difference between space and composition and were confused by these terms.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- used specific evidence from the art works to explain and analyse the treatment of two appropriate stylistic characteristics in their selected art works
- compared the treatment of these stylistic characteristics and identified similarities and/or differences, but did not give reasons or explanations for these
- attempted to give reasons for similarities and/or differences that were based on personal response or speculation rather than knowledge of art works.

Candidates who were awarded **Not Achieved** commonly:

- demonstrated a misunderstanding of the terminology of the question, e.g., discussed the characteristic of “tone” with regards to mood rather than how light or dark colours appear or are treated
- discussed characteristics of stylistic elements, making reference to art works that were not appropriate

- discussed only one art work, or selected art works that were not included in the booklet
- did not discuss their selected two characteristics with regard to BOTH art works
- analysed both selected art works but failed to identify similarities and/or differences
- did not reference evidence in the art works that related to their selected stylistic elements.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Merit** commonly:

- gave reasons and/or justifications for the similarities and differences in the treatment of the selected stylistic characteristics in their chosen art works
- related some general contextual evidence about the artist, time period, or art movement to the selected art works, but did not link this sufficiently to the similarities and differences in style.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Excellence** commonly:

- compared the treatment of stylistic characteristics throughout the body of their response
- showed a comprehensive knowledge of the art works, artists, and the time period in which the works were created, and used this to support their analysis
- provided contextual reasons for the differences and/or similarities, where the candidate was able to draw from social or artistic developments that went beyond broad historical shifts.

91483: Examine how meanings are communicated through art works

Examination

Candidates were required to answer one question from the paper and select two art works to refer to in their response.

Observations

The trend of longer and seemingly pre-prepared answers continued. This was apparent in the common occurrence of answers about Humanism, Neoplatonism, Feminism, and mortality that were not directly answering any of the set questions. This was particularly common in the Renaissance questions, where candidates bypassed the questions about wealth and nature and discussed art works that were not specifically connected to the question but just indirectly referred to the question in their answer.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- provided explanations of the meanings of the features of the art works and identified suitable motifs and features in the art works to support their answers
- selected two appropriate art works to refer to in their response
- explained the meanings of the art works that were linked to the requirements of their selected question
- used art historical language with appropriate accuracy

- related their discussion of meanings to the subject specified in the question.

Candidates who were awarded **Not Achieved** commonly:

- provided a description of the subject matter of the art works without explaining the meanings of the features
- explained the background or contexts of the artists without providing information on the features of the art works and their meanings
- answered the question referring to only one art work
- selected art works that did not fit the requirements of their selected question
- misidentified art works and/or gave inaccurate meanings for the art works
- did not provide enough specific details in their explanation of the meanings of motifs and features in the art work
- selected art works from the wrong area of study
- did not read the question properly or misinterpreted the question and theme in relation to art works.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Merit** commonly:

- chose art works that were well suited to their selected question
- linked many features to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the overall meanings of the art works
- wrote a response that varied in quality between the two art works
- provided a detailed, in-depth explanation of meanings conveyed by the art works
- explained some aspects and understanding of how meanings were constructed in the art works
- demonstrated an informed understanding of the art works in relation to some general information about their contexts.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Excellence** commonly:

- provided a coherent and fluently written response that was well-targeted to their selected question
- provided an in-depth explanation of how artists use motifs, features, and methods to construct meaning in art works
- demonstrated perceptive understanding of how artists communicated specific meanings to specific audiences at different time periods
- used relevant and specific contextual information to discuss how meanings are constructed to support their response
- provided a consistently strong response across the two art works
- demonstrated critical understanding by choosing art works that allowed them to discuss the question in depth, rather than trying to fit art works to the question
- integrated the subject of the question throughout their answer.

91484: Examine the relationship(s) between art and context

Examination

Candidates were required to answer one question from the paper and select two art works to refer to in their response.

Observations

Candidates performed better when they used the structure of their chosen question to shape their response. For example, candidates who directly answered the question while linking details of their chosen art works to the context, continued to clarify their response in relation to the question and comfortably gained Merit. Some candidates who struggled to achieve did so because they selected difficult or even irrelevant art works in relation to their chosen contextual question. Candidates would benefit in preparing for the examination by selecting two art works from their chosen area of study that they have a deep interest in. They could then consider a range of potential contextual evidence that they could discuss in those art works. Candidates could reduce their workload in preparation by considering how they might repurpose and apply particular aspects of knowledge for given art works across different contexts.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- selected appropriate art works that addressed the specifics of the question directly
- made links between the specified context in the selected question and art from the appropriate area of study
- showed an understanding of key works and used correct art historical terminology in their selected question
- demonstrated an understanding of the relationship(s) between the art of the time and their context(s).

Candidates who were awarded **Not Achieved** commonly:

- provided prepared answers or general descriptions of the art works that did not relate to the selected question
- selected difficult or even irrelevant art works in relation to their chosen contextual question
- described aspects of art and/or a context but did not select relevant art works or explain the relationship between their chosen art works and context
- did not make links between the specified context and art works of the time.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Merit** commonly:

- linked details of their chosen art works with the context and clarified their response in relation to the question
- demonstrated a depth of understanding by discussing relationships between the context and art works using detailed explanatory language and integrating supporting evidence
- explained relevant links between the context specified in the selected question and aspects of art and art works of the time
- used evidence from relevant art works and/or other sources to support their explanations.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Excellence** commonly:

- demonstrated a perceptive understanding in a well-structured, fluent response to their chosen question, using relevant evidence
- explained a range of relationships between art works and the context in depth

- demonstrated a comprehensive knowledge of the question using analytical and evaluative language that provided a coherent evaluative discussion
- evaluated the relationship(s) between the context specified in their selected question and art, supporting their discussion with evidence from art works and other sources.