External assessment trial — Visual Art

Examiner's report
August 2017



 $\hbox{@}$ The State of Queensland (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) 2017

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Introduction

In Semester 1, 2017 the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) trialled external assessment in Year 11 Visual Art.

The External assessment trial — Semester 1, 2017 familiarised schools and students with subject-based external assessments and tested processes for their delivery. The trialled assessment was aligned to the Visual Art Senior Syllabus 2007 and developed in consultation with subject experts from schools and universities. It was administered under secure conditions and marked externally.

A total of 1013 students from 62 participating schools and 15 host schools and test centres were involved in the Visual Art external assessment trial, and 35 teachers participated in the online marking operation.

This report provides information on the Visual Art external assessment trial specifications, students' performance characteristics and aggregated results from all participating schools. The assessment was formative and provided an alternative to a task already being undertaken at participating schools.

The QCAA appreciates schools' participation in the external assessment trial. The teachers and students who participated in the trial have made a valuable and significant contribution to Queensland's new system of senior assessment.

To provide feedback on the trial or further advice, please contact Assessment Operations on telephone 1300 381 575 or by email at seaops@qcaa.qld.edu.au.

Claude Jones

Director, Assessment and Reporting Division Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

Overall commentary

The Visual Art external assessment trial was a QCAA-developed examination conducted under supervised conditions on 2 June 2017.

The assessment was devised from the *Visual Art Senior Syllabus 2007*. It required students to demonstrate their understanding of the *Appraising* objective.

Schools were provided with supplementary materials to support the development of teaching and learning experiences.

The assessment required students to write an essay of approximately 600 to 800 words in response to one of three questions, supported by discussion about, and reference to, two artworks selected from a collection of seven images of artworks in the stimulus book.

The following list shows the distribution of images selected from the stimulus book:

| Image | % of students |
|-------|---------------|
| 1 | 34 |
| 2 | 11 |
| 3 | 37 |
| 4 | 32 |
| 5 | 29 |
| 6 | 46 |
| 7 | 11 |

A statement about each artist's practice accompanied every image, from which students could establish a context to inform the meaning communicated by an individual artist in their artwork. There was no formula or combination of artworks that matched a particular question. All artworks in the stimulus book were suitable to answer any of the three questions.

The following list shows the distribution of questions selected by students:

| Question | % of students |
|----------|---------------|
| 1 | 23 |
| 2 | 55 |
| 3 | 23 |

Overall, 80% of students achieved a passing grade — 15% at A standard, 44% at B standard, and 21% at C standard.

Statistics in this report may have been rounded, resulting in totals not equal to 100%.

Figure 1: Statewide student results — Appraising

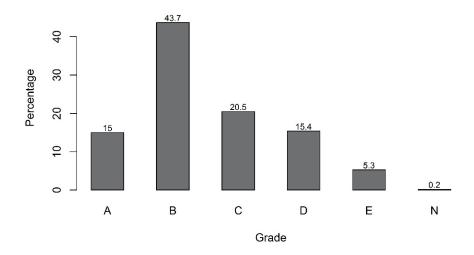


Figure 2: Statewide student results by gender — Appraising

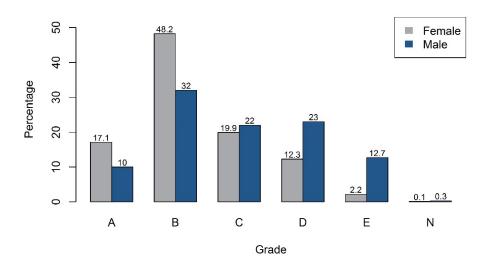


Figure 3: Question 1 student results (227 students)

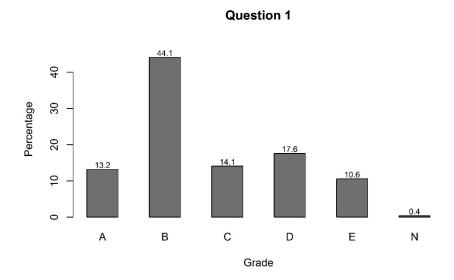


Figure 4: Question 2 student results (551 students)

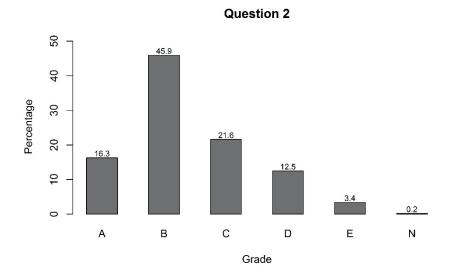
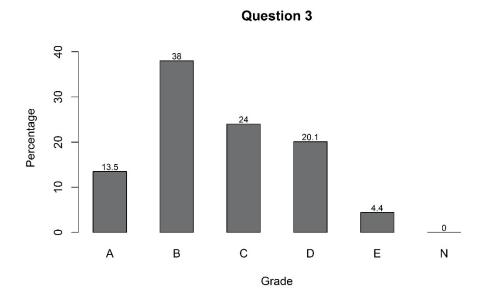


Figure 5: Question 3 student results (229 students)



Sample responses and commentaries

The following section provides commentary on sample responses across the three questions in the external assessment trial. The samples provide indicative student responses to the questions about the two artworks selected. These responses have not been corrected for grammar, spelling or accuracy and are not necessarily exemplary.

Each question was constructed specifically for Year 11 students who are at an early point in time in the two-year course. Questions provided students with the opportunity to justify their viewpoint through the analysis, interpretation, evaluation and synthesis of information about visual language, expression and meanings in artworks related to the question and concept.

The selection of the stimulus artworks was guided by the global aims of the syllabus and encompassed a range of media and medium, styles and artists, and a mix of conceptual, literal and narrative pieces. Artworks were carefully selected so as to be accessible to all students across Queensland.

Each artwork in the stimulus book was represented in various combinations in student responses across the state. Context statements provided some information about the artists' practice, titles and the materials used, to assist students in their interpretation of meaning. Students demonstrated understanding and offered explanations relating to the artists' expression of the concept. The works by Ian Abdulla, Rosie Barkus (Ware) and Tony Albert were very popular, suggesting that students related to these contemporary pieces. Students used the knowledge in the context statement in a range of ways. The more successful responses acknowledged the reference and used key pieces of information to support their viewpoint. Less effective responses paraphrased this information with minimal or no reference to the artworks.

The assessment technique required students to use visual art terminology and the language conventions of an essay. Nearly all students responded in essay format, using complete sentences and constructed paragraphs, and discussed two artworks to answer the question.

The questions enabled the full range of standards to be met within the syllabus guidelines of 600–800 words. There are no penalties applied for responses that differ from this length. In the trial, markers assessed what the student wrote, even if it was less or more than the word guidelines.

Every effort was made to mark responses, even where scanned scripts were difficult to read because students used a pencil, wrote in very small script, wrote illegibly or heavily edited their responses.

The following section provides commentary that highlights the strengths in indicative sample student responses to the three questions on the supervised examination.

Questions

Each question proposed a thesis, which allowed students to develop a viewpoint in their response.

Students were required to select two artworks from the stimulus book that enabled them to respond to a specific question.

For the purpose of the trial, the concept or focus referred to the ideas identified by artists whose work was included in the stimulus material.

Question 1

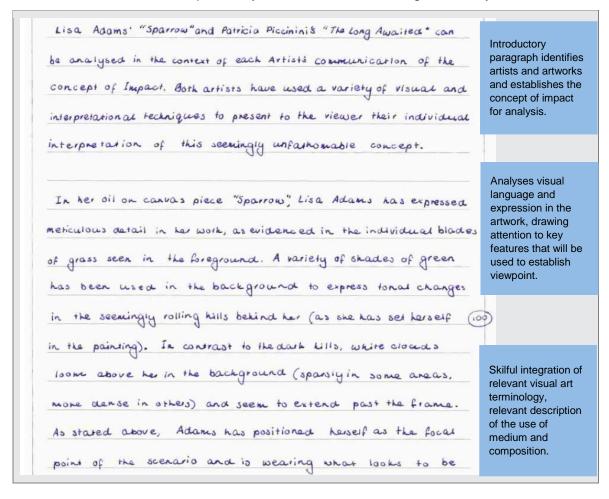
How do the artists of the two selected artworks communicate the concept of 'impact'?

Students could justify their viewpoint through the analysis, interpretation, evaluation and synthesis of information about visual language, expression and meanings in artworks related to the concept of 'impact'.

In this response, the student interprets the concept of 'impact' as artworks that 'make a difference' in confronting the viewer and how they then see the world. The focus and viewpoint refers to the way the selected artists manipulate the visual devices to communicate meaning.

Sample response

The selected artworks were Sparrow by Lisa Adams and The long awaited by Patricia Piccinini.



camouflage outfitting, with contrasting mass green checkened boots. Standing out against the pare, sickly grey of the clouds the gauntlet, upon which sits the tethered sparrow. The sparrow sits comfortably, as if it has no intention of attemping an escape. These deliberations within the frame can be analysed in the context of Adams' understanding of impact; Adams has posititioned herself as the focal point of the painting, as if to specifically draw the attention to herself, yer she wears camouflage as if to blend into he surroundings. The concept is self-contradictory and speaks of inner conflict, of wanting help but not being able to ask for it. The oparrow that nests upon her gountlet is not a bird of prey and is representative of her some crying out for help but not having the inner strength of vay, someone who has an eagle of a hawk as a soul. The rolling hills in the background are representative of the ups I downs of dealing with whatever has impacted her, above which she rises now, the last step to emotional liberation being her soul (the sparrow) breaking the tethers by which it is grounded. Adams' attempts at understanding her reality have made

Synthesises ideas and independent interpretations to express a viewpoint that the artist communicates personal impact through the use of symbols, composition and contrast.

Expresses an independent interpretation of the concept of impact in the artwork.

for a very emotional interpretation of the concept of impact.

In her scurpture "The Long Awaited", contemporary artist Patricia Piccinini has combined hyper-realism and unfamilia morphism to portray a very different understanding of the concept of impact. Piccinini has used industrial materials such as silicon, fiberglass, steel and human hair to produce a sculpture of a young chila embracing a futuristic morphed creature with human-like features. The creature has grey hair and wrinkled, leathery sun-spotted shin, as if to symbolize age. The pale pink of the creature contrasts heavily with the dark stained, seemingly wooden bench. The embrace in which the boy holds the creature is meaningfus, related and trusting and that combined with the fully trusting, complient, sleep-like state of the creature makes the scenario contained within the frame have a peaceful and accepting hue, so to speak, when it is percieved by the viewer. In regards to Piccininis interpretation of the concept of impact, one of her focal points in creating this piece was to evaluate how humans function and respond to diversity, in this context, Piccinini has looked at the positive consingencies of this

Signposts an alternative interpretation of the concept of impact, to sequence evidence in response to the question.

Explains how media and realism communicate meaning through analysis of fine details and full display.

Expresses an independent interpretation of the concept of impact in the artwork.

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of the boy and the creature. In this scenario it can be interpreted that there is an underlying theme of longing for acceptance, which links directly to the name of the scurpture. The embrace of the creature by the boy speaks of long-awaited acceptance, of a long period of emotional baggage finally being offloaded. This piece disprays the physical visible form of impact; the wrinkled stress lines, the excess weight, with worn expression speak of a soul that has been pining after the kind of social, physical and emotional acceptance that is disprayed in this embrace for a very long time, and can now finally relax.

Consistently synthesises independent interpretations to express a viewpoint that the artist communicates the impact of diversity through the use of visual expression, artwork title and form.

Both Adams and Piccinini have used visual and interpretational methods to express their understanding of the concept of Impact; "Adams" "sparrow" portraying the struggle for emotional liberation and Piccininis "The Long Awaited" portraying the way impact a how itself though physicality, as a long awaited embrace is finally abtained.

Conclusion answers the question in a succinct statement and summarises the interpretation of the concept that was developed in the response.

Question 2

How do the artists of the two selected artworks visually communicate meaning related to their experiences and observations?

This was the most popular question, and typically, students used 'experiences and observations' as the concept in the question.

This response demonstrates the qualities of a well-constructed essay, using appropriate language conventions: beginning with an introductory paragraph, constructing sentences within paragraphs to construct the body of the essay, and finishing with a conclusion.

Throughout the body of the essay, the ideas in the sentences are connected, enabling the development of the viewpoint discussion and linking each paragraph to the next. Evidence is provided, directly discussing and referring to the artworks, which is consistent with the question and the student's focus. The essay fully resolves through a summary and reference to the question and artworks in the conclusion.

Sample response

The selected artworks were *Shipwrecks* by Rosie Barkus (Ware) and *Sorry* by Tony Albert.

| Australian artists Rosic Barkus and Tony Albert both discuss | |
|--|---|
| Australian Aberginal history in their work. The two artists visually communicate meaning relating to their personal experiences and observations. in their work. | Introductory paragraph identifies artists and artworks, and establishes a connection between the meaning they communicate. |
| Borhus and Albert achieve this through the use of aspects such as colour, texture, linearly space. Barkus's piece, Suparack's depicts a confrontation between Torres Strait tribal warriors and a group of marround | |
| soilors. She draws from her cultural heritage for her subject matter. Albert refers to the Apology to Australias Indigenous People made by Parliment in in Sorry, he too focuses on Abortainal Australia. | Develops a thesis by identifying the concepts communicated in each artwork and elaborating on meaning related to artists' experiences. |
| Barkus makes use of colour in Shipwrecks to convey a deeper meaning. The viewers eye is immediately | |

the territated image of Skilful integration of relevant visual art terminology and analysis of how formal elements and compositional techniques create focal point and emphasise artist's meaning. mages. a deeper MEANING man such i magery. deeper meaning wower through texture is also prominent in Shaurecks. Analysis of visual language and expression with reference to media and detailed explanation of how line, movement, imagery in the background g pattern, repetition and layered imagery images is so effective largely impact the communication of meaning. maprity lines

the images to exclively create a sense linus extend out from the attention draws in oreground Concerning images buckground muroened composition are impact nueaning conveyed

Accurate language conventions and visual art terminology used in the sequencing of evidence to support viewpoint. Interrelationships developed between imagery composition and the artists' communication of observed history.

The Torres Strait. In her work Resolved viewpoint in relation to the shown physical question by summarising the connections between the key features of the artwork that communicate the landscape artist's concern for culture and the land. wallo! As an Australian citizen as well as a mouher politically charged manage Gramay reoph, by his has great piece, warm, earthy colours used in Explains how choice out back of media and method of display only with the racially create contrast, emphasising the interrelationship between meaning of word and interpretation of objects.

This seperation is Interpretation of how key features of artwork communicate artist's meaning. d. Viverce continue palifinalia haphaza/o statement Synthesises viewpoint related to artist's personal experience and observation of a his WE historical event. Analyses the made contrast created by placement of objects as a visual obvous clear technique to communicate meaning.

Rosie Barkus and Tony Albert Synthesis of ideas topics that contribute to the resolution of the techniques response (comparison of artists' experiences space and observations) and how these maring influence the meanings they these meanings communicate. personal comes Both artists

Question 3

How do the artists of the two selected artworks visually use metaphor or symbolism to communicate meaning about their concerns or issues?

This question established the 'expression' of the artist, their use of metaphor or symbolism in their artworks (which is how they visually communicate meaning about the concept).

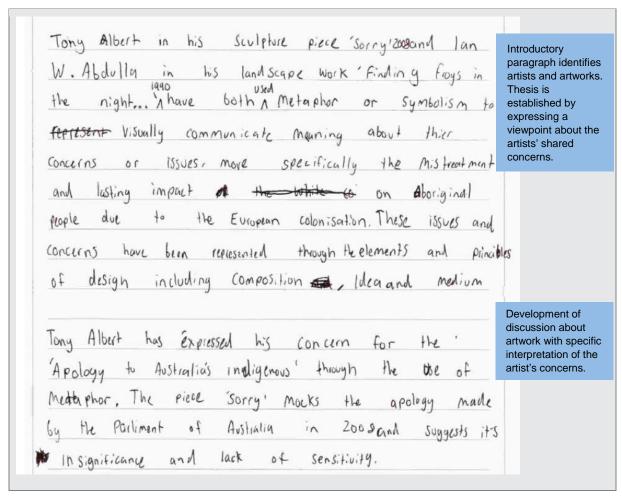
Students examined the artist's use of metaphor or symbolism in order to communicate meaning. Students could justify their viewpoint through the analysis, interpretation, evaluation and synthesis of information about visual language, expression and meanings in artworks.

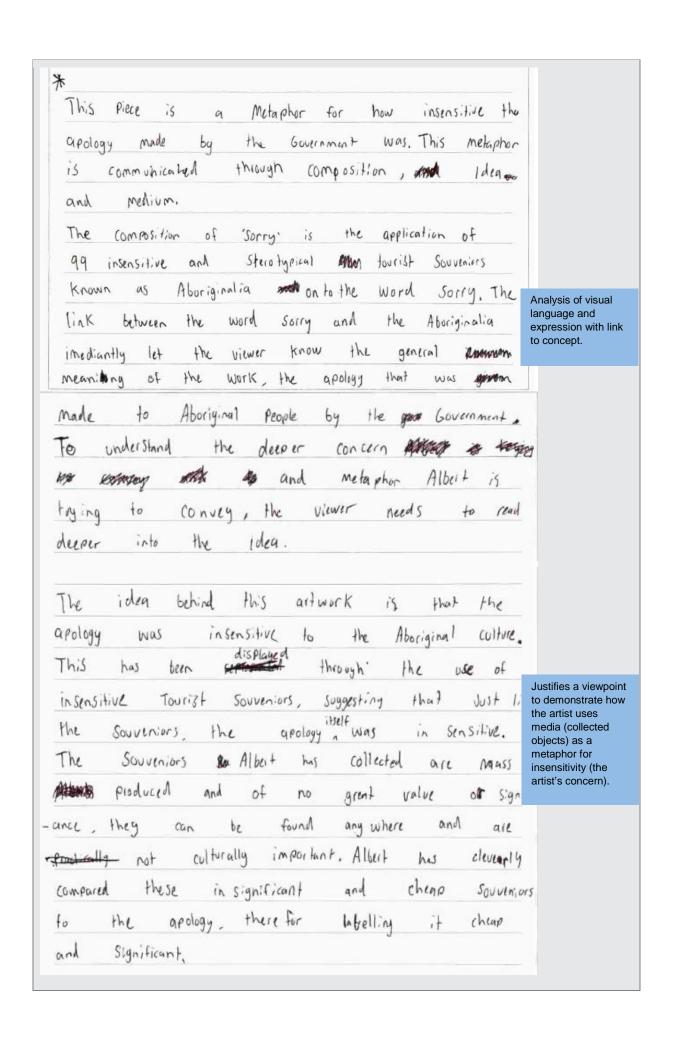
The focus and viewpoint refers to the way the selected artists manipulate the visual devices to communicate meaning. The concepts referenced by students are derived from the artist's concerns or issues, not metaphor or symbols used in the work.

The response provided below demonstrates how students made connections between the artist's use of symbolism or metaphors and the concept.

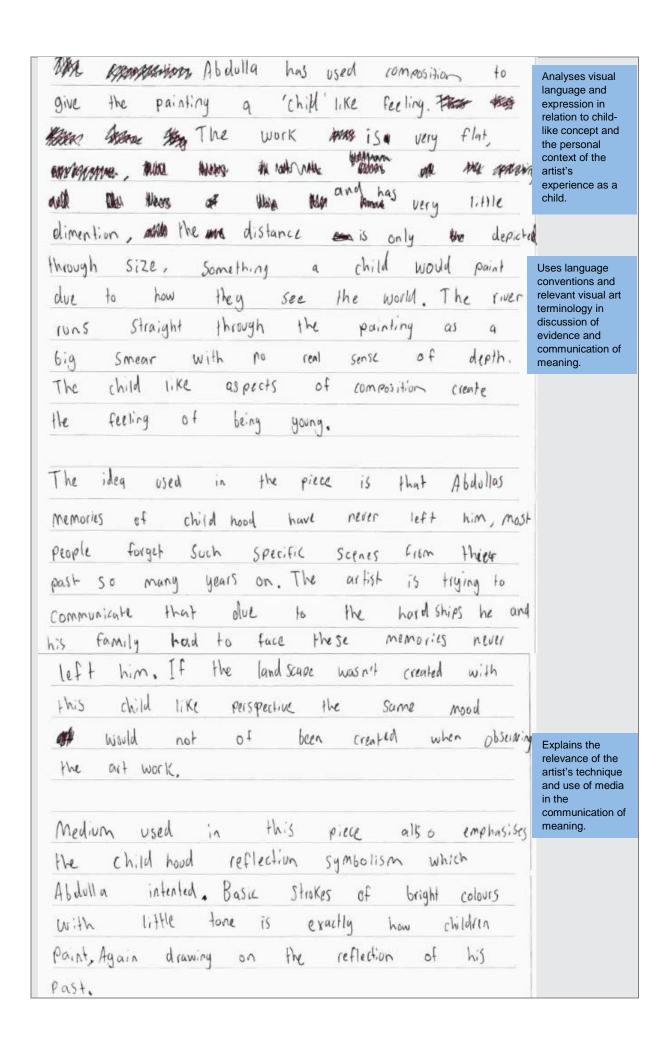
Sample response

The selected artworks were *Sorry* by Tony Albert and *Finding frogs in the night to put on the crossline to catch a Ponde or Pilarkie over night* by Ian Abdulla.





The hard Vinyl letters and the of Sorry Albert Cheap Souveniors has used as his feeling medium Scrapp 4 the Create Piece ittle and like 1+ has value Interpretation of appears no artwork and media creation , 靴 to justify viewpoint. into Put 145 This medium care Metaphor effectivly to adds emphasis. the of this piece, + hat the Government Apology was heart felt but Merely rough not cheap and Production. Albert, Ian W. Abdulla like Tony has communicated Compares artists' his treatment the of Aborig. MI concerns with approaches to develop thesis. had the effect this them. and People ōn. Presents a specific interpretation of the artist's concerns done this Symbolism However has through that are expressed rather in this artwork. than Metaphon, his land Scape Work inding frogs in the night to put the ponde Crossline to catch Pilarkie a night. over child, this Abdullas Style that WOT'N Creates an 15 interrelationship of between the artist's Symbolises how the child hood his challenging memories meaning and symbolic technique. to dispossesed Aboriginal his home boy land. This symbolism child painting style NA and through displayed composition. iden medium. and



Abdullas style of painting child through the LIKE a of composition, idea and nedium USP te chaiques symbolism Create which his concein (Onvey European ablu of the settlement Australia and childhood memories 1611 him. h.s NEULT how Iar W. Abdulla Actists Tony Albert and use metaphor and symbolism techniques Work in Heir visually communicate meaning about the they Concern Share for the mistreatment af Aboriginal People from the time Settlement of future. Prosecution the and Such as design , composition, idea and and princibles of Medium Were used Tony Alberts emphasise Conclusion expresses a Meta phorical that piece viewpoint about the represents MONEY MAN the artists' communication of Masserrey towards geology Aboriginal in Sincere People concerns and summarises the. made 2008 64 the Gauvernment individual approaches with Symbolism 04 never metaphor or being able le t 90 symbolism. OF the lan W. Abdulla. past 64

Recommendations and guidelines

- The Visual Art Senior Syllabus 2007 should be used to engage students for learning and prepare for assessments.
 - Occasionally, students referred to 'frames'/'frameworks' or other analytical structures that are not consistent with the course components of the *Visual Art Senior Syllabus 2007*.
- Teachers can support students to develop their literacy skills by designing teaching and learning around essay structure, language conventions, and genre awareness.
- Teachers can support students to develop their capacity to appraise artworks by structuring learning around the discussion of artwork, including their own and the work of their peers, in an informal context.

This will assist students in developing ideas and making decisions around the use of visual language and expression. These strategies could help students understand that they are constantly appraising during their own making of artworks, and that this thinking and analytical process is integral to both making and appraising. To address *Appraising* effectively, students need to be able to:

- describe artworks using visual language and expression
- justify a viewpoint
- understand how to reference artworks, and the language conventions in an extended written response (e.g. essay, review, critique, catalogue)
- analyse, interpret and evaluate artworks using visual art terminology
- consider the production and display of artworks
- demonstrate the use of visual language and expression to communicate meaning in artwork related to the concept and/or focus
- understand the influence of context and culture in the meaning and aesthetic appreciation of artworks
- consider how artists use techniques, processes and compositional considerations to engage the viewer
- value the contemporary artwork of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples,
 Australian, Asian and other international artists
- understand the use of symbols and metaphors in conceptual art-making
- engage in discussions about artworks across two- and three-dimensional media
- consider how and why artworks relate to the meaning of the concept and/or focus.

Appendix 1: Instrument-specific standards matrix

| | A | В | С | D | E |
|------------|--|--|--|---|---|
| | The student work has the fol | lowing characteristics: | | | |
| Appraising | critical analysis, interpretation, evaluation and effective synthesis of information about visual language, expression and meanings in artworks, emphasising the interrelationship between the chosen focuses, contexts and media relevant to concepts | critical analysis, interpretation and evaluation of information about visual language, expression and meanings in artworks, relevant to concepts, focuses, contexts and media | analysis and interpretation of information about visual language, expression and meanings in artworks, relevant to concepts, focuses, contexts and media | consideration of information about meanings in artworks relevant to concepts, focuses and media | description and classification of artworks related to concepts and media |
| | an informed viewpoint substantiated by development and resolution | a considered viewpoint justified by effective development and resolution | a viewpoint justified by adequate development and resolution | an opinion based on some development and resolution | identifies artworks |
| | consistently accurate and skilful use of relevant visual art terminology, referencing and language conventions. | skilful use of relevant visual art terminology, referencing and language conventions. | use of relevant visual art terminology, referencing and language conventions. | occasional use of suitable visual art terminology and language conventions. | use of some language conventions. |

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Appendix 2: Marking guide

| Item 1: Media/medium, techniques and processes (MMTP) | |
|---|---|
| Explains the relevant media/medium and/or techniques and processes used by the artists to communicate meaning in both artworks. | 2 |
| Identifies the media/medium and describes how it has been used by the artists in both artworks. | 1 |
| Does not satisfy any descriptor above. | 0 |
| Item 2: Concepts and context (C&C) | |
| Analyses the concept, context, visual language and expression used by the artists in both artworks. | 2 |
| Identifies both artists' concepts and contexts. | 1 |
| Does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. | 0 |

| Item 4: Viewpoint (View) | |
|--|---|
| Synthesises ideas of a resolved viewpoint in relation to the question by articulating the interrelationships of key features of both artworks and artists' practices that communicate meaning. | 6 |
| Justifies a viewpoint in relation to the question supported by selecting and discussing key features of both artworks and artists' practices that communicate meaning. | 5 |
| Establishes a viewpoint about meaning communicated by artists by interpreting features of both artworks in relation to the question. | 4 |
| Shapes a viewpoint by describing features of both artworks in relation to the question. | 3 |
| Expresses an opinion about both artworks in relation to the question. | 2 |
| Expresses an opinion about both artworks. | 1 |
| Does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. | 0 |

| Item 3: Conventions (Con) | |
|---|---|
| Uses language conventions, accurate visual art terminology, artists' names and titles of artworks when crafting and sequencing evidence in response to the question throughout the essay. | 4 |
| Uses language conventions, relevant visual art terminology, artists' names and titles of artworks when crafting evidence in response to the question into paragraphs. | 3 |
| Uses visual art terminology, artists' names and titles of artworks in response to the question. | 2 |
| Refers to artworks using suitable visual art terminology. | 1 |
| Does not satisfy any descriptors above. | 0 |

Appendix 3: Assessment glossary

| Term | Explanation |
|------------------|---|
| analyse | dissect to ascertain and examine constituent parts and/or their relationships; break down or examine in order to identify the essential elements, features, components or structure; determine the logic and reasonableness of information; examine or consider something in order to explain and interpret it, for the purpose of finding meaning or relationships and identifying patterns, similarities and differences |
| apply | use knowledge and understanding in response to a given situation or circumstance; carry out or use a procedure in a given or particular situation |
| appreciate | recognise or make a judgment about the value or worth of something; understand fully; grasp the full implications of |
| appropriation | the incorporation of a borrowed idea or image that is reconceptualised to give new meaning |
| art practice | relates to the techniques, skills and procedures that artists develop to create their artwork and to work in the arts industry |
| comprehend | understand the meaning or nature of; grasp mentally |
| concept | an idea; unit organisers that direct student learning and integrate making and responding. Unit concepts engage students in learning experiences that allow them to develop their own focuses for artworks with an understanding of related artworks from a range of contexts; for the purposes of the external assessment trial, concepts and/or focuses refer to those identified by artists whose work is featured in the stimulus material. It does not relate to the concepts and/or focuses specified by each school in their work program. |
| consider | think deliberately or carefully about something, typically before making a decision; take something into account when making a judgment; view attentively or scrutinise; reflect on |
| contemporary art | the work of artists who are living and producing in the 21st century; contemporary art mirrors contemporary culture and society |
| context | frames of reference that inform the concepts and focuses, allowing intended and suggested meaning to evolve. These contexts include formal, personal, cultural and contemporary perspectives |
| culture | diverse knowledge, beliefs, values and perspectives that members of a group share and embody in their rituals, roles, relationships and customs |
| describe | give an account (written or spoken) of a situation, event, pattern or process, or of the characteristics or features of something |
| develop | elaborate, expand or enlarge in detail; add detail and fullness to; cause to become more complex or intricate |

| Term | Explanation |
|--------------|--|
| display | involves presenting art images and objects through public exhibition or personal display. Display is an important part of providing and responding to inherent meaning in artwork and is an intrinsic process in art making. Display can be physically installed in a space or place; or it can be virtual or digital, particularly when used to demonstrate intended ideas that cannot be realised in a practical sense |
| evaluate | make an appraisal by weighing up or assessing strengths, implications and limitations; make judgments about the ideas, works, solutions or methods in relation to selected criteria; examine and determine the merit, value or significance of something, based on criteria |
| explain | make an idea or situation plain or clear by describing it in more detail or revealing relevant facts; present a meaning with due regard to the order of statements in the explanation; give an account; provide additional information |
| express | convey, show or communicate, e.g. a thought, opinion, feeling, emotion, idea or viewpoint, in words, art, music or movement; convey or suggest a representation of; depict |
| focus | individual student pathways that define interpretations and responses to the concepts. Over the two-year course, the teacher will structure units of work emphasising a progression from teacher-directed focus, through teacher-student negotiated focus, to the students' selecting and interpreting their own focus to resolve work |
| identify | distinguish; locate, recognise and name; establish or indicate who or what someone or something is; provide an answer from a number of possibilities; recognise and state a distinguishing factor or feature |
| interpret | use knowledge and understanding to recognise trends and draw conclusions from given information; make clear or explicit; elucidate or understand in a particular way; bring out the meaning of, e.g. a dramatic or music work, by performance or execution; bring out the meaning of an artwork by artistic representation or performance; give one's own interpretation of; identify or draw meaning from, or give meaning to, information presented in various forms, such as words, symbols, pictures or graphs |
| justify | give reasons or evidence to support an answer, response or conclusion; show or prove how an argument, statement or conclusion is right or reasonable |
| manipulate | adapt or change to suit one's purpose |
| materials | physical resources, equipment and information |
| reflect (on) | think about deeply and carefully |
| resolve | consolidate and communicate intent through a synthesis of ideas and application of media to express meaning, especially in the visual arts |
| symbol | something that stands for something else or represents an idea; may be in the form of visual forms, gestures, words, sounds |
| synthesise | combine different parts or elements, e.g. information, ideas, components, into a whole, in order to create new understanding |
| techniques | procedures or skills used in a task |

| Term | Explanation | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| viewpoint | the lens, perspective or position from which things are judged and represented | |
| visual language and expression | where the discourse of the subject is used to interpret or communicate meaning about a concept or focus in an individualised style or art form | |
| visual literacy | communicating meaning through visual forms. It involves reading images, perceiving images, thinking with images, recording images, communicating images, processing images manipulating, classifying, recalling, discriminating, selecting, arranging constructing images whether they stem from ideas, concepts, focuses, contexts, trains of thought, memories or insights | |