

ART

Paper 6090/01 Observational Assignment
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Key Messages

- Some examples of excellent observation were seen which thoroughly explored shape, surface, form and space.
- More successful candidates made convincing connections between the particular objects chosen and the media selected to observe them.
- In many of the weaker submissions the use of materials was less well controlled and the scripts lacked sufficient first hand observation.

General Comments

All questions were attempted across this session's submissions. However, **Questions 1, 4 and 5** attracted very few responses. The most popular question was **Question 6**. **Question 2** was the next most popular, followed by **Questions 2 and 3**. **Question 5** was the least popular. A broad range of work was seen across questions and among individual scripts. In many of the weaker submissions the use of materials was less well controlled and the scripts lacked sufficient first hand observation. The more successful candidates made convincing connections between the particular objects chosen and the media selected to observe them. Some examples of excellent observation were seen. These thoroughly explored shape, surface form and space. Some good work was seen depicting sports subjects like bats, rackets or balls. Most candidates were seen to have worked from first hand observation in the first instance and some attractive personal qualities were in evidence.

Question 1 *Documents, diaries or deliveries*

This was the fourth most popular question. Very few candidates attempted this question. Therefore a discernible pattern was not seen.

Question 2 *Seen through a window*

This was the second most popular question. Candidates were required to understand a passage of observation from one space to another. Most candidates chose to view an exterior space from inside a building. Some candidates included the frame of a window while others merely suggested it concentrating instead on what could be seen through it. Most candidates used graphite or coloured pencils with some using paint. Candidates using this medium recognised the potential to explore subtleties of colour and surfaces. However this approach would have benefited from a consistent focus on form and space. Weaker scripts would have benefited from greater concentration on the challenge of using objects, forms or surfaces to convey space and a sense of distance. Some of the best submissions had used appropriate materials with skill and confidence. These scripts also sought to convey a sense of surprise and delight in what was seen through a window.

Question 3 *A disregarded object*

This was the third most popular question. This question attracted some very strong responses and some excellent work was seen. The most successful submissions demonstrated a good technique and appropriate selection of materials. These candidates clearly and confidently established a relationship between their materials and the task. Higher scoring candidates had successfully observed the character of the disregarded objects chosen. Most candidates used graphite or coloured pencils. Most candidates had prepared the subject appropriately. This question presented some candidates with challenges as the objects chosen tended to be distorted, damaged or worn in some way. Those candidates who addressed this

challenge were appropriately rewarded. Among lower scoring scripts, although candidates were seen to use an appropriate range of materials and techniques, a more limited command of visual language was evident. Such scripts would attract higher marks if the rendering of surface texture, description of shape, and the depiction of space were more convincing.

Question 4 *Snapped, sawn or cut*

This was the least popular question. Very few candidates attempted this question. Therefore a discernible pattern was not seen.

Question 5 *A person preparing a meal*

This was the fifth most popular question. Very few candidates attempted this question. Therefore a discernible pattern was not seen.

Question 6 *Three objects from sports, games or hobbies*

This was the most popular question by far and a broad range of responses were seen. Candidates approached this question confidently and stronger submissions were characterised by a good command of their chosen media. This question challenged candidates to closely and carefully examine both the form and sometimes complex structure of the objects chosen. The appropriate selection of materials allowed higher scoring candidates to scrutinise the surface of their chosen objects. Some lower scoring scripts acknowledged the overall form and structure of their chosen objects but often overlooked distinctive details which are characteristic of persuasive observation. Where marks were frustrated, greater attention could have been paid to the way in which surfaces describe form and the rendition of spaces between objects. Some ambitious and confident pastel drawings were seen; these scripts were seen to explore colour, texture and surface whilst recognising the variety of forms found in the objects chosen.

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Paper 6090/02 Interpretative Assignment
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Key Messages

- Candidates should be encouraged to develop their ideas from the starting points given on the question paper in the preparatory period.
- Candidates are not encouraged to work solely from a photograph and this is noted when the submissions are all almost identical in theme and composition.
- Candidates are encouraged to explore and research other artists and their work and this should be appropriately credited and should fuel the candidates' research and development.

General Comments

Candidates should make full use of the preparatory period to research and develop their ideas before the examination. In some cases the exam piece looked hurried and candidates were ill-prepared. Candidates should have a minimum of two weeks to prepare for both their chosen exam components but they can make a start as soon as they receive the question paper. This is a period for developing ideas and in some cases candidates had merely drawn a layout out several times then copied it during the examination, thus missing opportunities for research, development and refinement of ideas.

Question 1 *The popular choice*

This was the most popular question and a broad range of responses were seen. The most successful submissions had tackled figurative narratives with some success and works in the middle range were characterised by research into accessible themes such as pop art and celebrity culture. Weaker submissions would have benefited from working initially from direct observation and then developing towards a conclusion as works seen were characterised by a series of unconnected studies, often without a clear starting point or connecting theme.

Question 2 *Work and play*

This was a popular question and a broad range of responses were seen. Many candidates explored a figurative theme with the strongest starting their research by photographing people at work and play in their own locality. These were then developed into compositional studies and the strongest submissions had made appropriate choices over the materials and media chosen for the preparatory work and final piece. Weaker submissions were characterised by a lack of development and scant research.

Question 3 *Cellular*

This question was the least popular but candidates were able to find a range of suitable themes to research in order to develop their ideas. Candidates explored mobile devices and honeycomb as starting points with the most successful submissions looking at scientific imagery.

Question 4 *Travelling light*

This question attracted very few responses but those that were seen had really engaged with the interpretative nature of the paper and produced some strong compositions. Works were aesthetically pleasing with candidates beginning to produce abstract outcomes. In the middle to top bands, candidates successfully used lighthouses and figurative work with shadows and lighting as their starting points and developed their ideas towards a resolved conclusion.

Question 5 *Waste*

This was the second most popular question. Candidates explored ecological themes and research mainly featured humans and rubbish dumps. Weaker submissions tended to be based around food waste and had not developed ideas significantly from the initial idea. Stronger submissions had a more conceptual approach to their ideas developed and explored ideas of laziness and human nature, studying such ideas as a wasted life and wasted opportunities.

Question 6 *Tall and small*

This question was the third most popular but tended to attract candidates who were not interested in developing their ideas or producing research. No notable strong submissions were seen and weaker work was characterized by little or no research and exploration of the theme. An overwhelming amount of cartoon giraffes and ants were seen but ideas about scale and proportion had not been explored. There was little evidence of strong technical skills with media, no aesthetic understanding about composition and layout and in some cases it felt as though the exam work was hurried and little thought had been given to the ideas during the preparatory period.

ART

Paper 6090/03 Design Assignment
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Key Messages

- Some examples of excellent design work were seen. These thoroughly explored the visual potential of the question.
- Some attractive personal qualities were in evidence from candidates who showed integrity in their abilities in personal evaluation and critical thinking.
- In many of the weaker submissions the use of materials was less well controlled and the scripts lacked investigation and research.
- Where candidates answered questions concerned with typography some very commendable work was seen which demonstrated a sound understanding of the creative potential of the arrangement of letterforms.

General Comments

All questions were attempted across this session's submissions except **Question 6**. However, **Questions 4** and **5** attracted very few answers from Centres submitting scripts. The most popular question was **Question 1**. **Question 3** was the next most popular, followed by **Questions 4** and **2(a)** and **2(b)**. **Question 5** was the least popular. In many of the weaker submissions the use of materials was less well controlled and the scripts lacked investigation and research. The more successful candidates made careful selections of media. There was evidence that candidates used both wet and dry media confidently and effectively. Some examples of excellent control of media were seen. These thoroughly explored the visual potential of the question. Some attractive personal qualities were in evidence from candidates who showed integrity in personal evaluation and critical thinking. Where candidates answered questions concerned with typography some examples of very commendable work were seen. Such scripts demonstrated a sound understanding of the creative potential of the arrangement of letterforms.

Question 1 *Time and motion....*

This was the most popular question by far. The question attracted submissions across the ability range. Candidates approached this question confidently and with a conviction that some complex responses could creatively address the question. This approach presented interesting ideas. However a more confident handling of formal elements would have helped to release the potential of such ideas.

Questions 2(a) and 2(b) *Found or discovered letterforms and Memories and dreams*

This was the fourth most popular question. Too few scripts were seen to determine a clear pattern.

Question 3 *Patterns in places*

This was the second most popular question. The most successful submissions demonstrated commendable levels of skill and a careful selection of materials. These candidates clearly established a convincing relationship between their materials and the topic. These candidates had successfully recognised patterns found in the world around them. Such work recognised both formal patterning and those less obvious patterns found in the physical environment. Among lower scoring scripts candidates typically made attempts to research, manipulate images and organise visual elements were somewhat restricted.

Question 4 *Stone Matrix*

Too few scripts were seen to determine a clear pattern.

Question 5 *Textures and Surroundings*

Too few scripts were seen to determine a clear pattern.

Question 6 *Confused Spaces*

No scripts were seen for this question.