

EXAMINERS' REPORT

ADVANCED ART

FIRST SESSION 2018



L-Università
ta' Malta

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Sixty-nine Candidates registered for the examination. The breakdown of the Grades obtained by the candidates was as follows:

Grade	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Reg
No	2	8	20	12	13	4	10	69
%	2.9	11.6	29	17.4	18.8	5.8	14.5	100

Grade	No. of Candidates	% of Candidates
A - C	30	43.5
A - E	55	79.7
FAIL	4	5.8

Coursework

In general candidates presented their work in line with the syllabus regulations. The work was submitted with each part in a separate folder and duly marked. The work presented did not include any material that might disclose the candidate's identity or material that may create a health hazard. The work was submitted without the use of thick canvas board or canvas stretchers.

The syllabus was in general followed by the majority of candidates and the final works were accompanied by "investigation", "experimentation", and "development" process as required by the syllabus. However, as in previous years, the syllabus is often being taken too literally and misinterpreted and these requirements are being presented as three sections, in separate sheets marked as such and not as one, holistic, ongoing creative experience.

As in previous years a number of candidates overloaded their sheets with downloads from internet. Candidates should note that such secondary material should only serve as a springboard towards a personal interpretation of the theme, and should only be included to show one's source of inspiration, which forms part of the creative process, otherwise such material does not gain the candidate any marks.

As in previous years, a number of candidates submitted coursework that reveal a lack of sustained commitment throughout the two year course, and as a consequence did not reach the required level. Candidates should note that quantity deprived of any quality does not earn the candidate any extra mark.

A few candidates failed to duly indicate the theme or starting point for their Thematic Project / Extended Thematic Work / Personal Project so that the examiners had to revert to guesswork.

Unlike previous years, the work presented in the course work was all well-dried and there was no problem of works inseparably stuck together.

Portfolio

A number of candidates produced a well-studied and organized body of work; the majority of candidates produced work of satisfactory level, while others lacked the commitment required by an A level examination. Candidates should see that the coursework represents a selection of subject matter, media and techniques, reflecting a sustained and holistic artistic education.

Personal Study

The personal study is meant to test the candidates' ability to develop a theme of their own choice. The work presented must show the candidates' focused investigation, development, critical analysis and realization of the selected theme.

Some candidates presented a body of work that demonstrates a focused investigation and critical analysis of the theme selected, which is reflected in the marks. A number of candidates presented a number of finished works on the selected theme, or even copies from photographs deprived of personal interpretation; this fails to meet the requisite of this section.

Visual Journal

A well-kept journal should reflect a continuous process, recorded by sketches, drawings, cuttings and art-historical references accompanied by annotations and personal reflections. The journal should reflect a sustained study over the two-year course. In general there has been an improvement in this regard; however as in previous years, a good number of candidates presented a sketchbook rather than a journal. Teachers are encouraged to guide candidates how to create a journal which reflects their efforts.

Thematic Project

The work presented must show the candidates' focused investigation, development, critical analysis and realization of the selected theme from the given 8 starting points. As in the personal study, candidates are required to communicate their understanding and thinking process through integrated images and annotation.

As in the other sections of the examination, downloads and secondary sources should be best kept to the minimum as these do not serve as a substitute for the candidates' personal work.

Paper I – Extended Thematic Project

The candidates' performance in this paper relies to a great extent on the work carried out in the Thematic Project. In general the candidates sat for this paper with a well-organized Thematic Project, with the work duly affixed to the stipulated number of sheets.

In the great majority of cases the mark obtained in this paper is very much a reflection of that obtained in the Thematic Project. A number of candidates made excellent use of the Thematic Project folder, and utilized the research material as a starting point to produce work that diverged from the work already presented, which helped them to obtain high marks.

Candidates who did not show due commitment in the Thematic Project in general did not do well in this paper.

Paper 2 – Work from Observation – The Human Figure

The marks obtained in this paper vary in range, but it has been noticed that candidates are well-prepared in the rendition of the human form. In a good number of cases the mark obtained in this paper does not reflect the marks obtained in the Thematic and the Extended Thematic – some candidates who obtained a high mark in the former sections obtained a low mark in the paper or vice-versa.

Paper 3 – History of Art

Section (i) Critical Analysis

It was noted that, as last year, candidates found difficulty when answering the critical analysis question. Answers were sometimes lengthy with repetitive descriptions and superficial comments.

Section (ii) Comparative Essay

As in the previous year there were a number of high fliers but in general the standard reached in this section was of an average quality, or low average. It was noted that in general the essays were more flowing and articulated than the previous years. Candidates are urged to place the works in their artistic and historical and social context.

Section (iii) Synoptic Essay

Very few candidates attained the level desired at this stage. Only few candidates presented a coherent understanding of the selected questions, and the implications in the questions themselves. Candidates show a very limited knowledge of styles, artists and works of art.

It is imperative that candidates understand the question well. More reading and greater familiarity with works of art and their general contexts is strongly advised. The discussion of specific examples is of paramount importance in this section. It has also been noted that in their essays candidates refer to examples which are not intrinsically related to the question and which are known to them from the syllabus list. This practice is discouraged.

Chairperson
2018 Examination Panel