

Learner Guide

Cambridge IGCSE[®] / Cambridge IGCSE[®] (9–1) Art & Design 0400 / 0989

For examination from 2020



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Section 1: About this guide

This guide explains what you need to know about your Cambridge IGCSE or Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) Art and Design course and examinations.

It will help you to understand:

- what skills you should develop by taking this IGCSE course
- how you will be assessed
- what we are looking for in the work you create
- how you should prepare for both components of the course
- how you can check and evaluate what you have achieved.

Cambridge IGCSE Art and Design provides opportunities for you to engage in a personal and independent study. This should allow you to develop a wide range of skills, and a critical understanding of art. The syllabus will encourage you to explore, through practical work as well as experience, new media and technologies alongside traditional media and processes.

Section 2: Syllabus content – what you need to know

This section gives you an outline of the syllabus content for this course.

The broad areas of study are:

- painting and related media
- print making
- three-dimensional design
- photography, digital and lens-based media
- graphic communication
- textiles and fashion.

You can work in any of the areas of study for both Component 1 and Component 2. You can choose the same area for both components or you can choose a different area for each component.

Make sure you always check the latest syllabus, which you can access from our public website [Cambridge IGCSE syllabuses](#)

Section 3: How you will be assessed

You will be assessed using two components:

- **Component 1** – Coursework
- **Component 2** – Externally Set Assignment

Each component is **50%** of the final qualification.

Components at a glance

The table below gives you an overview of each examination paper/component:

Component	Time and marks	Skills assessed	Details
Coursework	130 guided learning hours 100 marks	AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4	<p>Portfolio and final outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio is 4 x A2 sheets • Final outcome is up to A2 size <p>Choose one area of study and produce a project with a theme set by your teacher. This is marked by Cambridge International. It is worth 50% of the final qualification.</p>
Externally Set Assignment	8 hour test 100 marks	AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4	<p>Supporting studies and final outcome during an 8 hour examination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting studies is 2 x A2 sheets • Final outcome is up to A2 size <p>Choose one question from the exam paper and produce a project in response to it. This is marked by Cambridge International. It is worth 50% of the final qualification.</p>

About each component

Component 1 Coursework

There is no question paper for this component. Coursework is set by your teacher and is marked by Cambridge International.

There are **two** parts to Component 1:

- a portfolio **and**
- a final outcome

You can choose to work in any of the areas of study (outlined in Section 2: Syllabus content). You should explore a theme by producing a portfolio of work that leads to a resolved final outcome. You may decide to explore the same area of study for the Externally Set Assignment, but you do not have to.

First-hand studies from primary sources should be included where possible. Examples of where you could collect these could be visits to local galleries, tourist attractions or areas of interest. You could also make contact with visiting speakers, local artists, designers or craftspeople.

Portfolio

During your course you will have been experimenting with different materials and processes, developing your skills and ideas and learning how to evaluate and improve your work. You will be confident in how to produce a project that covers the areas you will be assessed in.

When the time comes to produce a portfolio for Component 1 you will be well practised in this way of working and will explore a theme set by your teacher to produce a project. Guided by your teacher, you will then select a small sample of this work to be used for your portfolio.

The portfolio will contain a sample of work that has been selected because it shows the research, exploration, development and evaluation relevant to the final outcome. It will consist of up to **four** sheets of A2 (both sides). Work may be created in any size appropriate to the media but if it is fragile, three-dimensional or larger than A2, it must be photographed, mounted and clearly labelled. This also applies to work for the final outcome.

The Portfolio should show that you have carried out the following.

- Recorded ideas and observations from first-hand studies, such as your own drawings and photography as well as secondary imagery and sources.
- Explored and developed ideas and experimented with different media, techniques and processes.
- Developed ideas by making reference to what has influenced you and acknowledging contextual sources where appropriate, e.g. artists, key art movements, historical events or local or national art, craft and design.
- Presented your selected, reviewed and refined ideas to show how your work progressed to inform your final outcome.

You can support your practical work with annotation or written analysis but you do not have to.



Final outcome

The final outcome is a resolved, individual piece of work that has been created based on your research and development. It can be up to A2 in size and will be submitted with your portfolio.

Cambridge International will assess the **portfolio** and **final outcome** together against the assessment criteria and award a single mark out of 100 for Component 1.

Component 2 Externally Set Assignment

You will be given a question paper for Component 2 as soon as your teacher receives it from Cambridge Assessment International Education.

Cambridge International will mark this component.

There are two parts:

- supporting studies created during the preparation period **and**
- a final outcome, produced during a supervised test of 8 hours' total duration.



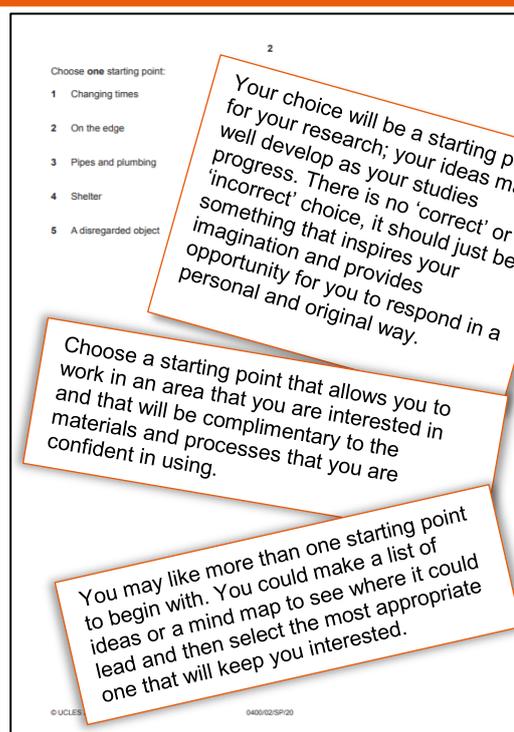
Supporting studies

Supporting studies are made in response to one of the starting points set by Cambridge International on the test paper that you will be given. You will be allocated a period of time by your teacher in which to complete your supporting studies before the controlled 8 hour test. Make sure you plan your time so that you are well prepared.

You can work in any of the areas of study (outlined in Section 2: Syllabus Content), you can use the same area of study as for Component 1 but you do not have to.

The purpose of the supporting studies is to explore and develop ideas, skills and processes to prepare for and inform your final outcome that will be produced during the supervised test.

Supporting studies can be up to **two** sheets of A2 (both sides). Any work that is fragile, three-dimensional or larger than A2 should be photographed, mounted and labelled onto the sheets.



Final outcome

Your **supporting studies** will be taken with you into the test to help inform the final outcome. They will be the experiments and ideas that you have selected that best help to convey the journey you have made in order to arrive at the final outcome. They will show how you have arrived at the final outcome through an artistic process that has fully encompassed all of the Assessment Objectives. The test will be of 8 hours' duration and may be split over a number of sessions. Make note of when and how long these sessions are and plan how you will use each session to obtain the optimum use of time.

Cambridge International will assess the **supporting studies** and **final outcome** together against the assessment criteria and award a single mark out of 100 for Component 2.

Section 4: What skills will be assessed

The areas of knowledge, understanding and skills that you will be assessed on are called **assessment objectives** (AO).

The assessment objectives that the examiners will be assessing your work against are:

- Record (AO1)
- Explore (AO2)
- Develop (AO3)
- Present (AO4)

Each AO is worth 25% of the total mark for **both** components.

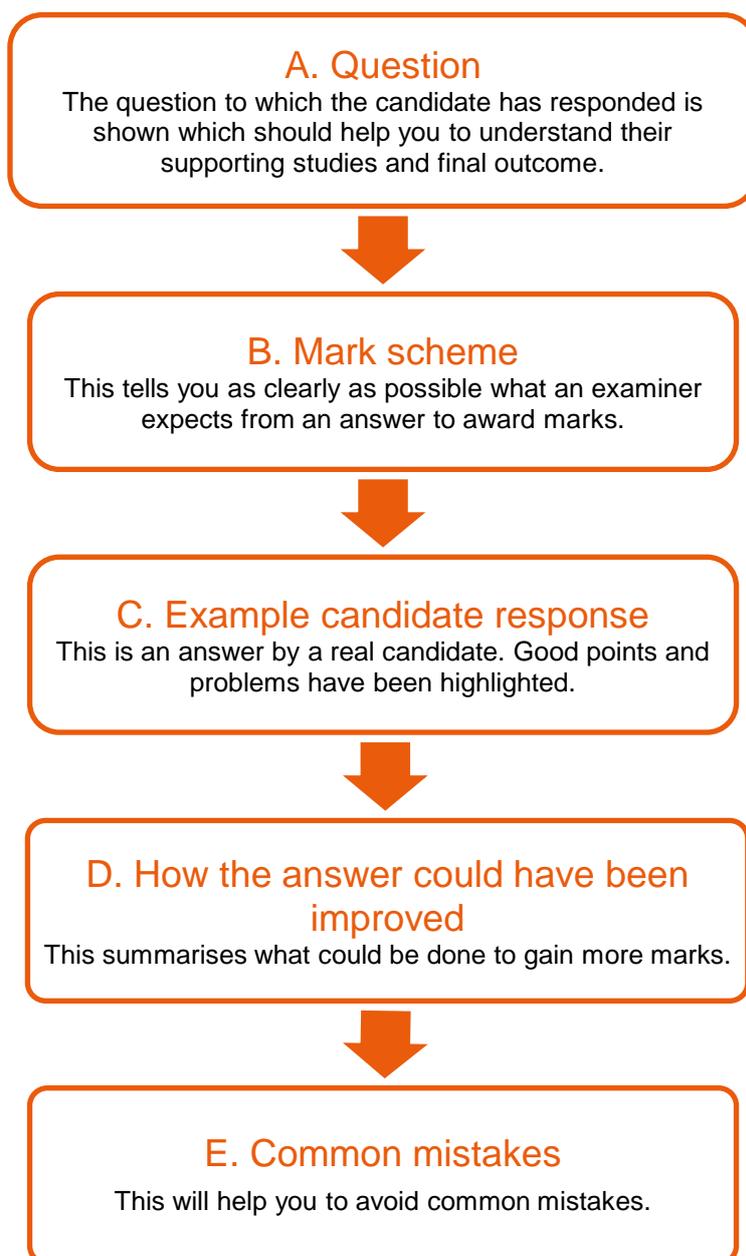
Assessment objective	What you need to be able to do	Weighting %
AO1 Record Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses	Show evidence of your research and ideas. You may choose to use photographs, sketches, written notes or other appropriate ways of recording. You should include examples of primary and secondary sourced research.	25
AO2 Explore Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes	Experiment with various media and processes. Develop your skills to gain the confidence to select the most appropriate media or technique to convey your intentions.	25
AO3 Develop Develop ideas through investigation, demonstrating critical understanding	Show how your ideas evolve and what your intentions are. Evaluate your progress and make decisions about what is working well. Indicate what has influenced your work (possibly artists, places of interest, etc.).	25
AO4 Present Present a personal and coherent response that realises intentions and demonstrates an understanding of visual language	Ensure your work is an original and independent study that demonstrates a logical journey through your ideas and experimentations, culminating in a relevant final outcome.	25

Section 5: Example candidate response

This section takes you through an example question and learner response from a Cambridge IGCSE Art and Design past paper. It will help you to understand what is required in your response.

All information and advice in this section is specific to the example question and response being demonstrated. It should give you an idea of how your responses might be viewed by an examiner but it is not a list of what to do in all questions. In your own examination, you will need to pay careful attention to what each question is asking you to do.

This section is separated as follows.



A. Question

The question used in this example is from Component 1.

9. Flowers in a garden or public park

[100 marks]

B. Mark scheme

The examiner used the descriptions in this table to determine what mark to award. This candidate was marked **69 marks**.

Assessment criteria for Component 1 and Component 2							
AO1: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses 25 marks		AO2: Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes 25 marks		AO3: Develop ideas through investigation, demonstrating critical understanding 25 marks		AO4: Present a personal and coherent response that realises intentions and demonstrates an understanding of visual language 25 marks	
Excellent skill in recording observations from a variety of relevant sources, showing intentions effectively 21–25	Excellent exploration of media, materials, techniques and processes, showing effective selection of relevant resources 21–25	Excellent development of ideas through investigation, demonstrating effective critical understanding 21–25	Excellent realisation of intentions, demonstrating effective understanding of visual language 21–25				
Confident skill in recording observations from a variety of relevant sources, consistently showing intentions 16–20	Confident exploration of media, materials, techniques and processes, consistently selecting relevant resources 16–20	Confident development of ideas through investigation, consistently demonstrating critical understanding 16–20	Confident realisation of intentions, consistently demonstrating understanding of visual language 16–20				
Competent skill in recording observations from a variety of relevant sources, showing clear intentions 11–15	Competent exploration of media, materials, techniques and processes, showing clear selection of relevant resources 11–15	Competent development of ideas through investigation, demonstrating clear critical understanding 11–15	Competent realisation of intentions, demonstrating clear understanding of visual language 11–15				
Satisfactory skill in recording observations from several relevant sources, showing some intentions 6–10	Satisfactory exploration of media, materials, techniques and processes, showing some selection of relevant resources 6–10	Satisfactory development of ideas through investigation, demonstrating some understanding 6–10	Satisfactory realisation of intentions, demonstrating some understanding of visual language 6–10				
Limited skill in recording observations from one or more sources, showing basic intentions 1–5	Limited exploration of media, materials, techniques and processes, showing basic selection of resources 1–5	Limited development of ideas through basic investigation 1–5	Limited realisation of intentions, demonstrating a basic understanding of visual language 1–5				
No creditable response 0	No creditable response 0	No creditable response 0	No creditable response 0				

C. Example candidate response and examiner comments

Some example pages from the candidate's work are presented on the left-hand side. The examiner comments are included inside the orange boxes.

The examiner marks the answer as a whole, taking into consideration the overall Level.

Component 1 example pages from candidate response



Example pages from the portfolio

This preparatory page shows the observational drawings the candidate has made based on photographs of plants. They have used a range of different media.

The studies demonstrate a competent ability in recording the flowers. The candidate has considered colour, texture and form.

The annotations describe the use of materials and how they can be used to give form and definition. There is some evaluation of how the materials work.

The candidate has carried out individual studies of different species of flowers which have been used to inform the final piece. This is a lively and engaged page of preparatory work.

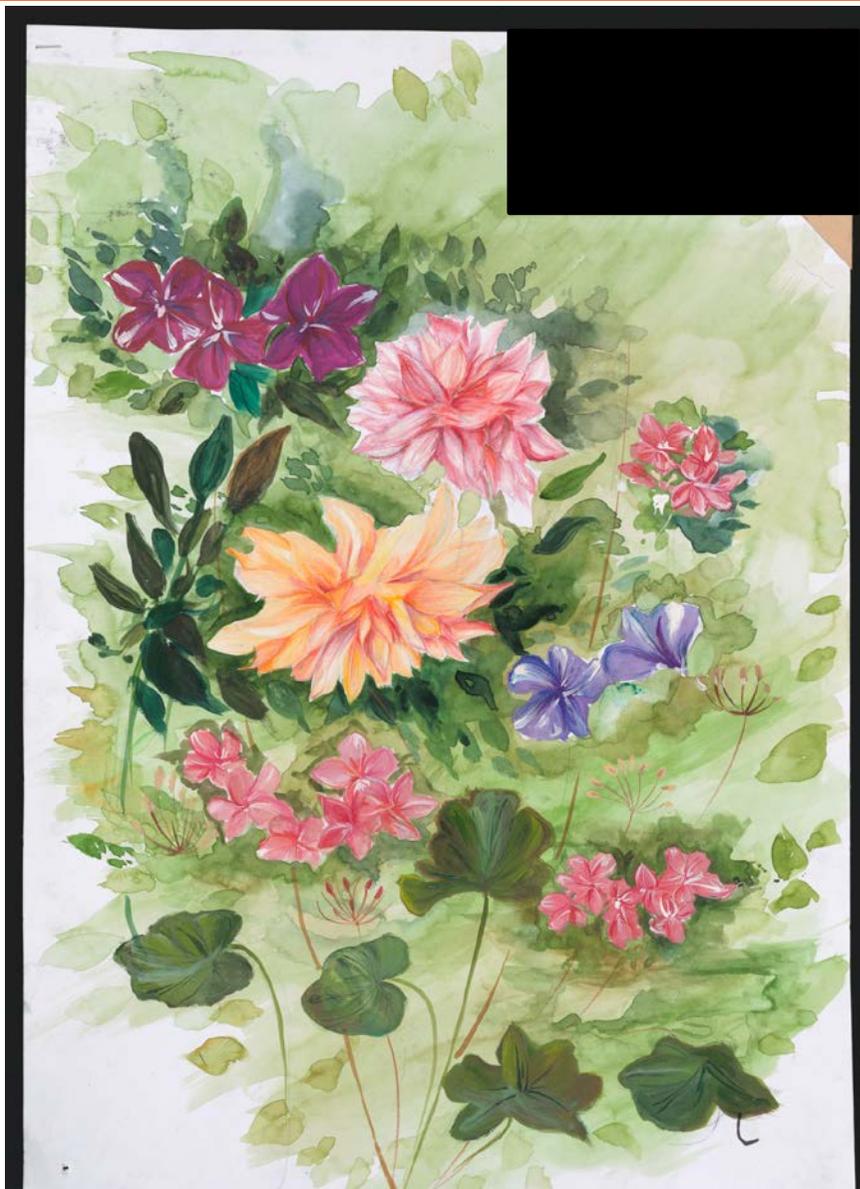


Here the candidate has explored the context of the imagery by looking at natural scenes as opposed to individual flowers. This is suggested as a possible idea for the final image.

The application of the selected media is carried out with confidence and flair. The candidate has used the technique of washes, dry on wet and dry on dry to describe the scenes.

The images have a sense of depth which has been created through the manipulation of the media and selection of colour.

Their commentary describes the process but there is little in the way of evaluation or critical analysis.



Final outcome

The final image demonstrates a competent exploration of media and forms.

The overall aesthetic shows a clear understanding of how to organise visual elements to create a cohesive composition.

The piece shows sensitivity in the application of colour and the manipulation of the media.

To develop this further the candidate could have been more experimental in their use of media and looked at other ways to compose and structure the work.

The journey from the initial phase of the preparatory studies to the final piece doesn't seem to have travelled very far.

D. How the answer could have been improved

The candidate could have improved their submission by exploring the media and processes more fully and manipulating their initial images to develop ideas. Researching more than one artist and analysing their work in more detail would have informed their choice of media and generated ideas as to how they could develop their work. All of the drawings are from copies of photographs and although this is a good way of gathering visual information, they could have improved their research skills by recording from a wider range of sources. For example they could have added more drawings from direct observation, gathered extra second source imagery and used alternative scales or viewpoints.

Before the candidate produced the exam piece they could have explored composition options. For example different combinations of images, varying the background colour, trying out different colour ways, using a restricted colour palette and using only contrasting or harmonious colours.

E. Common mistakes

Below are some common mistakes that candidates make across both components:

- A lack of planning for the final composition often results in unresolved outcomes. Simple thumbnail sketches done during the supporting studies allow candidates to plan the composition in advance.
- Producing a final outcome in the exam that uses media that has not been explored first in the supporting studies.
- Only using descriptive language to analyse their own and others work limits the candidate's ability to reflect on their work and make informed decisions.

Section 6: Preparation

The checklists below will help you prepare for both components.

Use the tick boxes to keep a record of what you have done, what you plan to do or what you understand.

Check list for Component 1 Coursework – Portfolio

- I have a starting point, design brief or theme.
- I have recorded my research from primary and secondary sources.
- I have experimented with different materials and processes and organised my ideas and intentions.
- I have developed my work by making connections and trying alternatives ideas.
- I have evaluated what has been successful in my work and have finalised my design or composition.
- I have produced up to four sheets of A2.

Checklist for Component 1 Coursework – Final outcome

- I have decided on the size of my work.
- I have experimented with different materials and processes and have selected which to use.
- I am confident that my final outcome relates to my portfolio work.
- I have completed my final outcome.

Checklist for Component 2 Externally Set Assignment – Supporting Studies

- I have found out the dates and times of the test and planned the time remaining to produce my supporting sheets.
- I have chosen a question to focus my work on (I might have explored multiple questions before making my final selection).
- I have recorded my research from primary and secondary sources.
- I have experimented with different materials and processes and organised my ideas and intentions.
- I have developed my work by making connections and trying alternatives ideas.
- I have evaluated what has been successful in my work and have finalised my design or composition.
- I have produced up to two sheets of A2.

Checklist for Component 2 Externally Set Assignment – Final Outcome

- I have planned how I will use the 8 hours allocated for the supervised test.
- I have gathered and prepared the materials that I will need during the supervised test.
- I have decided on the size of the final outcome (informed by previous trials in supporting studies).
- I am confident that my planned final outcome relates to and is informed by my supporting studies.

As you near the set assignment period, ask your teacher for advice if you have not been able to tick any of the boxes. You will need to concentrate on these areas.

Checklist for Component 2 by Assessment criteria

- record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses
 - I have done this by recording ideas from first-hand studies such as my own drawings and photographs, as well as from secondary imagery.
 - I understand the importance of continually evaluating my work.
- explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes
 - I have done this by exploring methods to develop themes and ideas throughout the preparatory period.
 - I have done this by trying to find more appropriate ways to communicate my ideas.
- develop ideas through investigation, demonstrating critical understanding
 - I understand the importance of the context.

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- I have developed my ability to clearly show the differences between my ideas and the ideas of others.
- I have carried out in-depth research into artists, designers and cultural influences to help develop my ideas where appropriate.
- present a personal and coherent response that realises intentions and demonstrates an understanding of visual language.
- I have planned and produced a personal outcome which expresses what I want to communicate
- I understand the principles and conventions of visual language.

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