Your notes

GCSE Art and Design: revision notes

How art is assessed: the four assessment objectives

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How the GCSE is structured

- Component 1, the **portfolio**, is worth 60%. It is a selection of work from your course, including at least one **sustained project**.
- Component 2, the **externally set assignment** (ESA), is worth 40%. You respond to a starting point from the exam paper, finishing with 10 hours of **supervised time**.
- Both components are marked against the same four **assessment objectives**, each worth a quarter of the marks.
- (OCR) OCR GCSE Art and Design (J171) is set up the same way: Component 01, the **portfolio** (60%), and Component 02, the externally set task (40%), with the same four **assessment objectives**.

The four assessment objectives

- AO1 Develop: develop ideas through investigations, showing critical understanding of sources (such as artists and designers).
- AO2 Refine: refine work by exploring ideas and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.
- AO3 Record: record ideas, observations and insights relevant to your intentions, in visual and other forms (drawing, photography, annotation).
- AO4 Present: present a personal and meaningful response that realises your intentions and shows understanding of **visual language**.

Using the objectives

- A strong project shows all four objectives working together: research (AO1) inspires experiments (AO2), recorded through drawing and notes (AO3), leading to a final piece (AO4).
- Check your sketchbook against each objective as you work, so no area is weak.

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Key terms

Portfolio	Component 1: a selection of coursework, worth 60%.
Externally set assignment	Component 2: a project set by the exam board, worth 40%.
Assessment objective	One of the four skills the work is marked on.
Sustained project	An in-depth project developed over time.
Supervised time	The 10 hours in which the ESA final piece is made under exam conditions.
Visual language	The formal elements and how they create meaning.

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. How much of AQA GCSE Art and Design is the portfolio worth? (AQA)
2. How many hours of supervised time are there in the ESA?
3. Which assessment objective is about experimenting with media?
4. Which assessment objective is about researching artists and sources?
5. Which assessment objective is about drawing, photography and annotation?
6. Which assessment objective is about the final personal response?
7. How are the four assessment objectives weighted?
8. What must the portfolio include?

Answers

1. 60%
2. 10 hours
3. AO2 Refine
4. AO1 Develop
5. AO3 Record
6. AO4 Present
7. Equally, a quarter each
8. At least one sustained project

What to do next

Practise 10 questions on this topic

Try 3 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

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