Your notes

GCSE Art and Design: revision notes

# The externally set assignment

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## How the ESA works

- The externally set assignment paper is released at the start of January (2 January). It gives a choice of **starting points**, such as a word or theme.
- You choose one **starting point** and have a **preparatory period** (usually several weeks) to research, record and develop ideas.
- The **preparatory period** ends with 10 hours of **supervised time**, in which you produce your final piece. It is worth 40% of the GCSE.
- (OCR) OCR calls it the externally set task (Component 02). It works the same way: the paper comes out in January, you choose a theme, prepare, then make your final piece in 10 hours of **supervised time**.

## Making the most of the preparatory period

- Read all the **starting points** and choose one that interests you and gives plenty of ideas.
- Research artists linked to the **starting point** (AO1), record from first-hand sources (AO3), and experiment with media (AO2).
- Plan and trial your final piece so you can make it confidently in the 10 hours.

## The same skills as the portfolio

- The ESA is marked against the same four assessment objectives as the portfolio.
- Show a complete journey from **starting point** to final piece.

## Key terms

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|---|---|
| **ESA** | Externally set assignment: Component 2, worth 40%. |
| **Starting point** | A theme or word from the ESA paper to respond to. |
| **Preparatory period** | The weeks spent researching and developing before the supervised session. |

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| **Supervised time** | The 10 hours in which the final piece is made under exam conditions. |
| **Response** | Your artwork made in answer to the starting point. |

## Quick questions

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

1. When is the ESA paper released?
2. How much of the GCSE is the ESA worth?
3. What does the ESA paper give you?
4. What happens in the preparatory period?
5. How is the ESA marked?
6. How long is the supervised session?
7. How should you choose a starting point?
8. Why trial your final piece before the supervised time?

### Answers

1. At the start of January
2. 40%
3. A choice of starting points
4. Research, recording and developing ideas
5. Against the same four assessment objectives as the portfolio
6. 10 hours
7. Pick one that interests you and gives plenty of ideas
8. So you can make it confidently in the 10 hours

## 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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