

VISUAL ARTS

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The syllabus aims to test candidates' knowledge of art and their ability in visual expression.

Candidates will be expected to demonstrate:

- an ability to express themselves aesthetically
- an understanding of visual logic
- an awareness of the historical and social development of art and design

THE EXAMINATION

The examination will consist of Part One (Papers 1/2/3/4) and Part Two, a Portfolio assessed by Assessors. The duration for each paper, together with the allocation of marks, will be as follows:

Part One	Papers 1 / 2 / 3 / 4	(3 hours)	50% of the subject mark
Part Two	Each candidate should submit 6 pieces of artwork to the HKEAA		50% of the subject mark

General

1. Candidates will be required to select one paper from Part One only.
2. All papers required for Papers 1 to 3 will be supplied at the examination centres.

Paper sizes supplied:

For Western-style work:

- White cartridge paper — A2 (420mm x 594mm, 150 g/m² approx.)
- Rough paper — A2 (420mm x 594mm)

For Chinese-style work:

- Xuanzhi (宣紙)/Mianzhi (綿紙) — 350mm x 1000mm approx.
- Rough paper (草稿紙) — 350mm x 1000mm approx.

3. Candidates should bring their own tools and materials for drawing, painting, print-making and design to the examination centres.
4. For papers 1 to 3, apart from oil paint, spray paint and slow-drying printing ink, any medium may be used provided that it is suitable for the question paper. Dangerous methods such as using fire for burning or smoking techniques will not be allowed.
5. Candidates must not put their names, signatures or seals on their scripts.
6. All submitted artwork in Part Two (Portfolio) must not be used for other public examinations.

PART ONE (50%)

Part One is intended to test the candidates' ability

- to depict and make personal response to the structure and form of objects through observation
- to demonstrate the understanding of the characteristics of the media chosen and to apply their knowledge of visual and tactile elements in pictorial expression.
- to express and communicate their ideas and meanings through materials and processes
- to critically analyse and judge artwork and art phenomena created by their own and artists of diverse contexts

Candidates are allowed to work in any styles and to choose any media that they prefer, in either colour or monochrome.

Candidates are required to choose ONE of the following:

Paper 1 Life Drawing — from Still Life or Examination Scene (3 hours)

Candidates will have a choice to make a drawing from the given still life objects, e.g. fruit, vegetables, flowers, stationery, household objects, tools, etc.

Or to make a drawing of the examination scene including the candidates and the environment of the examination centre.

(Candidates must indicate their choice of either Question 1 (A) Life Drawing - from Still Life or Question 1 (B) Life Drawing-from Examination Scene on the entry form.)

Paper 2 Painting (3 hours)

Candidates will be required to work in two dimensions in any media (please refer to item 5 under the 'General' heading), technique and style, choosing one of three questions. Reference material, in the form of photographs or real objects, may be included in some questions. This paper aims to test candidates' ability in organizing visual elements and in the sensitive and creative use of media.

(Note: Producing a pencil, charcoal or monochromatic crayon drawing is not an adequate response to the requirements of a painting paper. The use of a totally photomontage or collage approach is also not acceptable, but either of these may form the smaller part of a work which is primarily painted.)

Paper 3 Graphic Design (3 hours)

Candidates will be asked to produce a piece of graphic design such as a poster, a book-jacket, a greeting card, a logo, a package etc. Three alternatives will be offered. This paper aims to test candidates' originality in design ideas, in organising visual elements such as colour, shapes, pattern and graphic presentation. Candidates will be required to solve specified problems and to communicate a specific message.

Typography / Lettering and / or Chinese characters will be an integral part of the design. Working drawings, if any, may be submitted.

Paper 4 History of Art & Art Criticism (3 hours)

This paper allows candidates to bring reference materials to the examination centre(s). It tests candidates' ability in understanding, analysis, critical thinking, reflection and application of visual arts in context. It will cover the areas of art history, contemporary art, visual arts in daily-life and applied art. The questions set will involve the plates provided for comparison study and analysis by candidates. The paper aims to assess candidates' understanding in works of art in context, and problem-solving skills in visual arts, reasoning ability and comprehension of art in context. The questions set will cover the history of art and will relate to the appraisal of visual arts in daily-life.

(Note: The assessment criteria will include the background and context of the works of art, interpretation of ideas, the evaluation of works of art in terms of organisational structures, techniques and special features used on the works of art, materials and media used, aesthetics, functions and application, visual effects, characteristics and schools or styles of art, schools of art, artistic effects and influences, candidates' personal response to art works, the meaning, significance and value of the art in the art period, etc.)

PART TWO (50%)

Portfolio

Part Two (Portfolio) is compulsory for all candidates. The assessment of portfolio aims to reflect the artistic development of the candidate based on a selection of his/her artwork over a period of time. For each candidate 6 pieces of artwork* in various media (at least three different media) will be assessed. Each piece of artwork should be accompanied with a draft and development of idea.

Candidates will be required to submit their portfolios to the HKEAA in January of the examination year. They may be required to attend an interview to explain their work of art.

Candidates' performance in each piece of work will be assessed based on the following criteria:

1. draft and idea development — ability to select, research, evaluate and explore visual and other source materials to generate and develop ideas for independent work;
2. ability to select and apply techniques in a range of media;
3. ability to apply visual elements and principles to realize aesthetic/design intentions;
4. ability to express visual ideas with fluency and imagination to achieve an individual style;
5. ability to express a clear message of the theme; and
6. ability to construct a completed work as a whole and to solve problem in the completed work.

* Visual Arts genres include the following:

- Drawing
- Painting/Print-making/Relief
- Photography/Mixed Media
- Sculpture/Ceramics/3D Design/Installation Art (Note: All 3D works of art must be presented in photographs and must be mounted.)
- 2D Design (including Computer Aided Design)
- Chinese Calligraphy/Western Calligraphy
- Fashion Design/Interior Design/Publishing Design/Packaging Design
- Critical Art Study (including Art and Design Critiques, Comparison of Art Works/Artists, Design Works/Designers, Art & Design Styles of Different Periods in Art History) — (different assessment criteria will be used)
- Cartoon/Comics/Illustration
- Animation/Multi Media (e.g. Web-page design, video, etc) — (different assessment criteria for media art will be used)

(Note: Candidates should not limit themselves to the reproduction of artwork, which may restrict the development of their own creative imagination and problem-solving skills.)