

CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

**REPORT ON CANDIDATES' WORK IN THE
SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS**

JUNE 2004

VISUAL ARTS

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GENERAL COMMENTS

This was the first year of examination for this new syllabus. All production options are now given the same completion time of six hours. In Syllabus A candidates were required to submit pieces for two practical papers as well as research work in the Illustrated Paper. There were entries in all ten of the practical options however, Drawing, Imaginative Composition and Graphic Design were the popular options.

DETAILED COMMENTS

Production Papers

OPTION A – DRAWING

There continues to be a very good standard of work in this option. In a few cases, water-colour paintings were submitted but this medium is not recommended for this option as painting rather than drawing skills are emphasized. All drawings had to be done from observation. Candidates had the choice of drawing an arrangement of fruits on a fruit tray, a collection of organic materials, a collection of items used for wrapping a gift and a character from a theatrical for questions 1 - 4 respectively.

Question 1

This was the most popular question in this option. From the work submitted, it was evident that attention was given to the placement of items in the arrangements. The most outstanding pieces were produced from centres in which the stimulus was carefully arranged.

Question 2

There were some good submissions in black and white as well as in colour. In the pieces which received high marks, variety was seen in tone, shape, size and texture.

Question 3

In the outstanding pieces there was differentiation between the textures of various objects. Candidates demonstrated an appreciation of spatial relationships and a good understanding of perspective.

Question 4

This was the least popular question in this option. Some pieces showed good control of the medium with adept use of fore-shortening. In depth studies from observation resulted in the excellent execution of drawing skills needed for the human figure.

OPTION B – IMAGINATIVE COMPOSITION

The submissions in this option were well researched and this resulted in a wide variety of interpretations. There were excellent studies which in turn produced excellent submissions. Candidates were required to produce a collage, painting or any type of pictorial/abstract composition using different themes.

Question 1

The theme for this question was ‘The Domino Game’. Many original interpretations were presented as responses. The settings varied from indoor to outdoor and from daytime to nighttime activities. In the responses it was evident that many of the elements and principles of design were explored.

Question 2

The theme ‘Ecstatic’ provided an opportunity for the exploration of different types of subject matter but there was little variety in the interpretations. Generally, the match between the facial features, the postures and the theme was not evident.

Question 3

The theme of this question was ‘Sunlight’. This was the most popular question in this option. The subject matter included seascapes, landscapes, portraits and flowers. In the exceptional pieces candidates were able to produce a unity of design, excellent surface quality (including the collage), colour harmony and good compositions. The pieces in which crayons were used, were generally of a high standard and candidates were able to successfully explore the textual and expressive qualities of the various components of their pieces.

Question 4

There were many innovative responses to this question which had as its theme ‘Forgotten’. The interpretation showed subjects such as a dripping tap, unfed pets, discarded clothing and family members. Many responses explored environmental issues.

OPTION C – GRAPHIC DESIGN

For this option candidates were required to use black and white only, colour only, or a combination of colours. The products were different for the four questions in the option and the candidates who submitted pieces are to be commended for their research work.

Question 1

Candidates were required to produce the front panel of a brochure advertising a tourist attraction in their country. Candidates had the option to use Computer-Aided Design (CAD) software in the development of their responses. Most brochures showed that a lot of preparatory work was done. Even though there was evidence of experimentation, generally, the layout was good and the lettering was appropriate. Candidates who submitted pieces which were developed using CAD also included their preliminary sketches and studies. Candidates showed their resourcefulness as they used images from a variety of sources.

Question 2

This was the most popular question in this option. Candidates were required to design a logo for a company which provided internet services. The best responses came from candidates who engaged in research. The pieces which received high marks showed features such as good layouts, balance in imagery, good colour distribution, creative use of shapes and the use of borders. The style of lettering complemented the shape and size of the composition.

Question 3

In this question candidates were required to create a design for a CARICOM passport cover. The responses were well researched and candidates displayed a high level of creativity in the execution of the designs. There was great variety in the designs of the outstanding pieces, they contained creative lettering and illustrations. Candidates demonstrated their ability to solve spatial problems.

Question 4

This was the least popular question in this option. Candidates had to design an advertisement for an international teenage magazine, which would be used to encourage students to complete their secondary education. The interpretations included good layout and lettering. However, the use of letter cut-outs is not a recommended technique for this type of task.

OPTION D – Printmaking

In this option candidates used a single or combination of techniques to produce a monoprint for questions 1 and 2. Candidates could also have chosen to produce an edition of 3 prints as was required in questions 3 and 4.

Questions 1 and 2

The themes for these questions were ‘Reflection’ and ‘The Smile’ respectively. The successful monoprints contained features such as detailed cuts on linoleum, correct application of colours, the appropriate choice of ink, excellent use of negative space and a clean finish.

Questions 3 and 4

The themes for these questions were ‘Rainy day’ and ‘Bird eating a fruit’ respectively. In these questions candidates had the opportunity to use multiple colour printing for subtle textures. They could also have used dominant shapes and colours associated with the themes. Very few submissions were of a high quality.

OPTION E – 3 Dimensional Design

In this option candidates were required to use appropriate modelling and carving techniques in the production of their pieces. Candidates had the choice of working with wood, wire, clay, plaster or papier mâché.

Question 1

In this question candidates were required to design and make a relief sculpture with the theme ‘Workers’. Candidates interpreted the theme in various ways and, the productions ranged from figures to animals and insects. Candidates realized more success working with clay than with the other materials. Some pieces were not properly packaged which resulted in their breakage during shipping and handling.

Question 2

In this question candidates were required to make a maquette for a bust of a national hero in their territory. This was the least popular question in this option although there were some outstanding pieces among the submissions.

Question 3

In this question candidates were required to make a model of an aircraft. This was the most popular question in this option. Most candidates chose appropriate materials and the finished pieces indicated that their planning was detailed, and catered for the employment of problem-solving skills. Generally the packaging was suitable but pieces such as these have to be fully protected against impact, when they are being transported.

Question 4

In this question candidates were required to make a mask using local or discarded materials. There were well researched pieces which depicted good concepts of the chosen topics. From one centre there were outstanding submissions which were glazed in one colour only or a combination of colours.

OPTION F – FIBRE ARTS

There was generally a satisfactory standard of work in this option. Ninety-four percent of the candidates who were entered had profiles A – C.

Question 1

Despite the number of queries about the dimensions of the fruit basket, this was the most popular question in the option. Some very creative interpretations were received from candidates in one territory. A variety of materials was used to create the decorative flaring rim. The pieces showed good planning concepts.

Question 2

In this question candidates were required to make a high-relief wall hanging, depicting a river scene. In a few of the outstanding pieces, the theme was well explored. Generally there was creativity in the use of techniques. Many candidates submitted plans or preliminary studies which showed how problems would be solved

Question 3

In this question candidates were required to use weaving and plaiting techniques to produce a matching set containing a place-mat, coaster and serviette. A high degree of creativity was displayed in the choice of weaving and plaiting techniques. In a few submissions natural fibres were used.

Question 4

In this question candidates had to construct a free standing abstract form which would be mounted in the office of the Mathematics Department in a university. This was the least popular question in this option. Generally, the standard of the pieces indicated that candidates demonstrated a good understanding of the concepts and the skills needed for execution.

OPTION G – SURFACE DECORATION

The submissions in this option were of a high standard. A number of exceptional designs were of marketable quality.

Question 1

In this question candidates were required to produce a print on a T-shirt that would be used to advertise and promote an annual boat racing competition. This was the most popular question in this option. The outstanding pieces showed a high level of concept development and skill. In some responses too many words were used at the expense of imagery. In a few cases, words were painted instead of printed.

Question 2

In this question candidates were required to use a combination of appliqué and embroidery techniques in the design of and making of a seat cover panel. This was the least popular question in this option. However, the outstanding submissions were utilitarian, combined two techniques and were well designed and executed.

Question 3

In this question candidates were required to use one or more resist dyeing processes to decorate fabric that could be used as a headwrap. They had to use the theme of ‘Ripples and Pebbles’. In the pieces that were well executed, the resist processes that were used, were suited to the fabric. Some candidates concentrated on ripples or pebbles only and did not fully answer the question.

Question 4

Candidates were required to create a realistic or stylized design based on a cross-section of a tomato or pumpkin. This design had to be used to decorate a pair of place mats as well as matching table napkins. Excellent responses were submitted by candidates who chose to stencil or use screen printing. A high level of preparation was seen in the registration of prints. These prints were used to produce good designs.

OPTION H – CERAMICS

Pieces submitted for this option **MUST** be photographed before firing. Generally the work that was submitted by the candidates was of a satisfactory standard.

Question 1

In this question candidates were required to make a relief wall plaque. They had to depict either the front or side view of the head of an animal or person. Generally the pieces were well planned. In the outstanding pieces, clear images, telling facial expressions and creativity were seen.

Question 2

In this question candidates had to make two decorative tiles. They had to use a subtractive technique on one tile and an additive technique on the other using the same motif. This was the most popular question in this option. The requested techniques were not properly executed by many candidates. In a few cases there were two parts on a single tile. The outstanding pieces however, showed good knowledge of the additive and subtractive techniques.

Question 3

In this question candidates had to use a combination of techniques to construct a ceramic sculpture. The responses showed that candidates researched their pieces. The designs were quite detailed. In most cases the theme ‘Sea-horse’ was interpreted well. Generally candidates paid attention to the surface finishes.

Question 4

In this question candidates were asked to design and produce two thrown or hand-built bowls. In the best submissions the high skill level of candidates was demonstrated. The weaker pieces were too heavy with limited decorative technique.

OPTION I – LEATHERCRAFT

Generally the submissions in this option were of a highly satisfactory quality. Ninety-seven percent of the candidates who were entered for this option had profiles of A – C.

Question 1

In this question candidates were required to use at least two decorative techniques in the making of a plaque based on the theme ‘Birds’. This was the most popular question in this option. There were some excellent responses in which candidates demonstrated excellent insight and a high level of creativity. Candidates also demonstrated good problem solving skills and mastery through the effective use of tooling and stamping.

Question 2

In this question candidates were asked to produce a picture mount (frame) as a gift for Mother’s Day. They were required to decorate the frame using one, or a combination of the techniques of stamping, carving and laminating. This was a fairly popular question. There were many good responses with appropriate designs and good levels of craftsmanship.

Question 3

In this question candidates were asked to produce a cushion. There were many submissions which showed that candidates had a good understanding of the requirements. There was good application of the elements and principles of design. Generally, the pieces were quite functional with the fringe complementing the design on the cushions.

Question 4

In this question candidates were required to use a variety of ‘scraps’ of leather/leatherette to create a collage based on the theme ‘Flower Garden’. There were outstanding pieces in which there was a successful combination of material and design. In a few cases the collage was done on wood or paper instead of leather, but the overall quality was satisfactory.

OPTION J – DECORATIVE CRAFT

Ninety percent of the candidates who entered for this option received profiles of A to C. Generally the quality of work was highly satisfactory.

Question 1

In this question candidates were required to make a wall plaque for hanging keys using frogs as the motif. This was the most popular question in this option. Candidates used a wide variety of materials and exhibited a high level of creativity. Most of the responses were appropriate for use as utilitarian objects.

Question 2

In this question candidates were asked to create a picture frame based on the theme ‘Underwater’. Generally the candidates’ submissions were innovative. Greater attention must be paid to how attachments are secured to the various surfaces.

Question 3

In this question candidates were asked to decorate a bottle of their choice for use as a lamp base. Paint and découpage techniques were to be used for decorating. There were some outstanding responses, which skilfully combined painting techniques with découpage.

Question 4

In this question candidates were required to make a soft toy based on a character from the folklore of their territory. There was evidence of preparatory work and this led to good development of concepts. The execution in most cases was fair.

ILLUSTRATED PAPER

The content for this paper has been expanded and the area “Critical Analysis of Works of Art” has been included in the syllabus. The marks for this paper have been increased to 90 from 60.

Quality and Topics

Most topics were appropriate and related to the Caribbean. Some were well thought out, well researched and quite original, while others lacked the required analysis of the work of artists.

Verbal Presentation

- (i) Generally there was a good use of language though there were a few cases of poor grammar and weak sentence structure.
- (ii) In many cases the title page was not identified.
- (iii) A few candidates from the same centre presented papers which were duplicates of the work of other candidates. This is unacceptable and teachers need to give more guidance to candidates in this area.
- (iv) While some candidates submitted the interviews and questionnaires, they did not submit the data that was collected.
- (v) There were numerous cases of plagiarism. This practice is unacceptable and teachers are expected to give guidance to candidates about this issue.

Visual Presentation

- (i) The majority of booklets were well presented and contained a cover page, title page, table of contents, appropriate illustrations, legible text and good layout.
- (ii) Generally, the artistic embellishments had a high aesthetic appeal and the papers became a work of art in themselves. There were very good border designs with motifs and decorative work that was relevant to the theme.

SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENT

The moderation of the SBA took place in Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. The new moderation feed-back report, summary sheets and list of assignment forms were intended to simplify the process of capturing data. Teachers are asked to pay careful attention to CXC instructions and ensure that the correct forms are being used.

Fair and objective marking by teachers will reduce the number of adjustments that were made in the moderation exercise. Teachers must adhere to the mark scheme.

Samples MUST be submitted for each option that is identified on the record sheet.

Pictures must accompany the three-dimensional pieces, especially those done in clay. However, they are not a substitute for actual submissions. If shattering occurs during the firing process, the pieces must still be submitted with the pictures.

Generally, more attention must be paid to the labelling and packaging of items. Candidates are put at a disadvantage when either of these two processes is not properly done.