

GCSE Art and Design

Your companion
guide to our new
specification

First teaching
September 2016

First assessment
summer 2018

Find out more at:
aqa.org.uk/art-and-design

GCSE Art and Design is changing

We've created this guide to help you understand how the new GCSE changes from Ofqual and the Department for Education will affect you and your students.

These changes will apply to all exam boards for GCSE Art and Design with first assessment in summer 2018.

All GCSEs will be linear

All external assessment will take place at the end of the course.

GCSEs will be graded 9–1

All new GCSEs will be graded 9–1, rather than A*–G. Grade 9 will be the highest and equivalent of an A** (which doesn't exist currently).

GCSE Art and Design key dates	
Download our draft specification from aqa.org.uk	May 2015
Download our draft specimen assessment materials from the GCSE Art and Design page on our website	May 2015
Book your place at our free launch events (also available online)	June to September 2015
Download our accredited specification from aqa.org.uk	Autumn term 2015
Start teaching	September 2016
First assessment	Summer term 2018

For more information about GCSE changes, visit aqa.org.uk

A specification for you and your students

Creating a new GCSE Art and Design qualification that meets the needs of you and your students is important to us. We've worked with teachers and subject experts to design a new specification that both you and your students will enjoy.

What you need to know

1. There will be no changes to the assessment structure. We have retained both the Portfolio and Externally set assignment.
2. The new assessment objectives and assessment criteria are similar to the current ones, but we've clarified and refined them.
3. The maximum mark available has increased from 80 to 96, to allow for more differentiation amongst high ability students.
4. All awarding organisations now require students to provide evidence of drawing and written annotation. To support you to teach and assess these new requirements, we will produce in-depth guides.

We're here if you need us

Want to speak to someone in the GCSE Art and Design team?

T: 01483 437 750

E: art@aca.org.uk

Explore our draft specification:
aca.org.uk/art-and-design

Find out more about the new GCSE grades:
aca.org.uk/new-GCSE-grades



Reasons you'll enjoy teaching this new AQA specification

- It offers **choice and flexibility**, allowing you to tailor your course to your students' interests and your school's strengths.
- We developed it with **input from teachers, higher education institutions and key figures from the creative sector**, making it both engaging and relevant to students.
- There is a **clear progression to further study**, equipping students with the skills to succeed not only in their GCSEs, but in their A-levels as well.

How the new assessment will work

- The new GCSE will continue to be **100% non-exam assessment**. Work will be internally assessed by the school and externally moderated by AQA.
- We've updated the **assessment criteria grid** and **increased the maximum mark** to 96.
- **Component 1: Portfolio**, will be worth 60% of the total specification.
- **Component 2: Externally set assignment**, will be worth 40%.

Specification at a glance

Component 1: Portfolio	+ Component 2: Externally set assignment
<p>What's assessed</p> <p>Students are required to submit a portfolio that comprises a sustained project and a selection of further work which represents their course of study.</p>	<p>What's assessed</p> <p>Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their chosen title.</p>
<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no time limit • The maximum mark has increased to 96 • The portfolio will be worth 60% of the GCSE 	<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students have an unlimited preparation period followed by 10 hours of supervised time • The maximum mark has increased to 96 • The externally set assignment will be worth 40% of the GCSE
<p>Non-exam assessment (NEA) will be set and marked by the school or college, and will be moderated by AQA during a visit. Moderation takes place in June.</p>	<p>Non-exam assessment (NEA) will be set by AQA, marked by the school or college, and will be moderated by AQA during a visit. Moderation takes place in June.</p>

Find out more

You can see full details of the new specification at: aqa.org.uk/art-and-design

Clear assessment and marking support

We know the effort your students put into producing their work, and the care you put into marking it. We also understand how essential it is that the moderation we carry out is fair and reliable.

Moderation and results you can trust

Our team of dedicated moderators will re-mark a sample of your students' work, to ensure it meets the agreed standards. Our moderation process is robust, so you can be confident in the results your students receive.

Clear externally set assignment papers

The seven starting points on each of our papers are clear and accessible for students of all abilities.

Teacher standardisation meetings

Our teacher standardisation meetings and twilight sessions feature live exhibitions of students' work to help you apply our assessment objectives and assessment criteria grid.

More assessment help and advice available

1. Watch our videos on 'assessment explained' or see 'how we create a specification' at [aqa.org.uk/exams](https://www.aqa.org.uk/exams)
2. Analyse student results with our free Enhanced Results Analysis tool [aqa.org.uk/era](https://www.aqa.org.uk/era)
3. More assessment-related help is available at [aqa.org.uk/results](https://www.aqa.org.uk/results)

Assessment support

Specimen assessment materials will help your students prepare for assessment; our concise assessment criteria grid will help you mark your students' work accurately; speak directly to our subject team on **01483 437 750** or art@aca.org.uk

Resources and support service for our new specification

We've worked closely with some fantastic teachers to create resources you'll find useful and inspiring.

Each resource helps you with a specific aspect of teaching: planning your lessons, teaching them, or preparing your students for assessment.

Our holistic resource and support service

- Specification launch events and preparing to teach meetings.
- Teacher standardisation meetings and twilight sessions.
- Schemes of work.
- Specimen assessment materials.
- Comprehensive teacher's guide to support course planning and delivery.
- Detailed exemplar documents including *Reminder notes* and a *Good practice guide*.
- Art and design advisory service.
- Resources from our museum and gallery subject community.



Want to improve your teaching skills?

We can support you throughout your teaching career with practical training, tried, tested and taught by teachers.

Browse and book our professional development events at aqa.org.uk/professional-development



Join the conversation
@AQACPD

Meet the team

Seb Ross
Qualifications
Manager



Neil Pearce
Qualifications
Developer



Keep in touch

To contact the art and
design team:

T: 01483 437 750

E: art@aqa.org.uk

Want to know about our
new specification, launch
meetings and resources?

[aqa.org.uk/GCSE-art-
and-design](http://aqa.org.uk/GCSE-art-and-design)

The information in this guide is based on the draft specification submitted to Ofqual in May 2015 and is subject to change. We will publish the accredited specification and specimen question papers as soon as we receive Ofqual accreditation, which is expected in the summer.

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