

GCSE Art & Design: Resource Sheet 6

Drawing

The GCSE specification requires you to use drawing skills for different needs and purposes, appropriate to the context in which these skills are used. All students must use drawing in order to support the process of development within each chosen area of study. However, this does not necessarily require you to show technical mastery of drawing skills unless this is relevant to your area of study.

Why the requirement for drawing?

Drawing uniquely increases our ability to see and understand the visual and tactile world. Importantly, it enables us to think visually and communicate these thoughts to others. In assessing GCSE work, moderators often comment that reluctance to visualise ideas through drawing seems to limit the vitality and scope of a student's creativity.

The following quotations may help explain this more fully:

- *Too often the aim of drawing is 'to make a drawing' rather than to use it as a means for communication and thinking or for the expression of ideas and feelings. **Bob Clements***
- *I may live in an age of photography and films, but what I do could not be photographed because I don't in fact copy objects. Instead, I observe an object and then regurgitate it. It has passed through the 'sausage mincer' of my consciousness. If that is interesting, then it acquires interest. **Erich Bauer***
- *In learning to draw, you learn to look. You teach yourself to see and to feel what you see. **David Hockney***

We draw for many different purposes, just as we write for different reasons. One important purpose for drawing is to record from first-hand observation or experience. This is not the same as drawing from photographs or from images produced by other people. Drawing from direct experience is not simply an act of recording what is seen with technical accuracy. It requires, from the person drawing, a personal response and an element of interpretation of the subject being studied. The central purpose of this kind of drawing is concerned with observing, investigating, reflecting and seeing. We draw then in order to visualise ideas, research and develop possibilities, such as in problem-solving, designing or composing, and to explore and express emotions and feelings.

Where is drawing to be included in my work?

Even if you have only a basic level of ability, you can still make purposeful use of drawing. There is need to develop competence in forms of drawing that are appropriate to the option you are studying. There are many different uses for drawing that are appropriate to areas that range from fine art through to animation and photography.

What forms can drawings take?

Drawing may take the form of sketches, analytical observational studies, storyboards, thumbnail sketches, layouts and roughs, experimental or expressive studies, 2D or 3D modelling, detailed designs and elevations. It can be undertaken with the use of digital tools such as a stylus and software program, or with traditional media such as charcoal or pen. It can be particularly effective when digital technologies are integrated with more traditional processes. These can be presented on loose or mounted sheets. Sketchbooks or craft/design workbooks provide, particularly effectively, the means to: record (through drawing and annotation) interesting snippets of information, try out new possibilities and explore materials and techniques.