

GCSE Art & Design: Resource Sheet 5

Producing written responses

Although GCSE Art and Design courses are mainly concerned with the development of visual responses, there is also a requirement to record your ideas, observations, insights and personal judgements, not only in visual terms, but also through written annotation. Some may wish to make use of more extended writing to support the processes and outcomes of their work. However, in both GCSE components this will be assessed *holistically*, meaning that written responses will not be marked separately.

Why is writing to be included in my work?

Written responses will obviously feature in *My Creative Statements* for each component. Writing activities, including annotation, are included because they are intended to:

- develop your ability to 'engage' with works of art/craft/design by devoting thought, time and energy to study them so that you can relate and respond to them personally
- enable you to successfully communicate your ideas, helping you to understand the meanings of the visual methods and approaches you use as well as to analyse those used by others
- allow you to demonstrate understanding of the different contexts in which particular artefacts and artworks were originally made and are currently being considered.

Where can it be included in my work?

- In A01 *Critical Understanding*, it can be used alongside visual work to show critical skills and deeper contextual understanding.
- A02 *Creative Making* gives the opportunity to use written commentary to consider the relationships between practical working methods and outcomes, and to document critical reviews of your work as it progresses.
- In A03 *Reflective Recording*, it can be used, in conjunction with drawing and photography, as a means of recording observations and showing critical reflection and insight into your investigations.
- A04 *Personal Presentation* offers the possibility of using writing to add meaning to your work and evaluating the processes and outcomes of your studies.

Annotation

This must always have a purpose and should add to the visual information you are dealing with. It should be legible and make sense; among other things it can be used to develop and extend your thinking and communicate fresh ideas, compare and contrast visual references and identify and describe visual elements in your practical enquiry.

Other forms of writing

If you use other forms of writing, they should be applied thoughtfully to add to your work without substantially reducing the time you spend on practical work. It should not be tackled as a bolt-on, disconnected activity. There are many suitable forms of writing including illustrated essays, exhibition catalogues, review of a gallery visit, newspaper/magazine articles, zines, audio-visual scripts to accompany PowerPoints, private blogs and webpages. Whatever the format, you should use a style of writing that is well suited to the purpose of your study, includes appropriate specialist vocabulary, can easily be read and is clear and coherent.