

CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

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

JUNE 2006

VISUAL ARTS

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VISUAL ARTS 2006

GENERAL COMMENTS

Five thousand, three hundred and thirty-four candidates registered for the examination compared with 5603 in June 2005. Drawing, Imaginative Composition, Graphic Design and Surface Decoration were the most popular options with between 2100 and 3276 candidates registering. This was followed by Decorative Craft with approximately 1300 candidates. All the other options had less than 1000 candidates registering.

Generally there was a vast improvement in the quality of work submitted, particularly in the two dimensional Options A-D. In these options candidates made excellent use of the six (6) hours. Many pieces demonstrated a high level of technical skills.

In the three dimensional options E-J, the quality of the work was generally weak. The pieces demonstrated little preparatory work and research. The wrong choice of materials and techniques and very little creativity and originality were evident.

Since candidates are given two weeks in which to prepare responses, they need to research and plan in order to produce effective and highly creative pieces. Students have more than enough opportunity to seek assistance, to read and fully comprehend the requirements of specific questions.

Candidates must be directed to read the entire question booklet, particularly page three of the booklet which gives general instructions.

Work must be produced according to dimensions where specified.

The instructions for Option B – imaginative compositions states that colour **must** be used, yet some responses were submitted in black and white.

DETAILED COMMENTS

Production Papers

OPTION A – DRAWING

Question 2 was the most popular question and question 3 was the least popular. Generally the responses were of a high standard. In many instances candidates drew from photographs.

Question 1

Self portrait

A significant number of candidates attempted this question with some very good responses. A variety of media such as pencils, pastels and pencil crayons were utilised. There were some issues and with proportions tonal values. Many candidates drew from photographs instead of doing observational drawings and this should be discouraged.

Question 2

Bunch of coconuts

This was the most popular question with some excellent interpretations. Candidates explored a wide variety of drawing media and demonstrated high levels of skill. Compositions were excellent. Various techniques were also explored.

Question 3

Table set for breakfast

This was the least popular question and responses were generally weak. Responses demonstrated a lack of understanding of the principles of perspective. Ellipses were poorly executed. Many persons focused on the entire setting instead of the drawing plane. The treatment of tonal values was very weak.

Question 4

Detailed studies – sections of a live flowering plant

There were a few good responses but generally there were poor, with candidates drawing a potted plant in various positions instead of detailed studies of the stem, leaves, roots or flowers.

OPTION B – IMAGINATIVE COMPOSITION

This was a popular option. Many responses were average and lacked creativity and imagination with a few excellent interpretation of the subjects.

It was obvious that candidates lacked a sound knowledge of the elements and principles of design, and the emotive use of colour, knowledge of elements and principles of design, the emotive use of colour and perspective.

There was a very little exploration of medium and techniques.

Question 3 was the most popular and Question 2 was the least popular.

Question 1

Traffic

There were a few excellent and creative interpretations of the subject. Many candidates confined themselves to the conventional interpretation of vehicular traffic – a safe response.

Others produced varied interpretations of the theme focusing on fish, animals, insects as well as vehicles and people.

Craftsmanship was generally weak in this option.

Question 2

Mix and Match

Most candidates who attempted this question had difficulty in interpreting the topic, because the concept was an unusual one or perhaps too abstract for this age group. There were, however some excellent responses.

Question 3

Nocturnal

This was the most popular question in this option, varied and interesting interpretations emerged. However there were large numbers of responses which lacked originality.

Candidates just painted a night sky with a nocturnal animal or bird.

Question 4

HIV and AIDS

Generally candidates produced interesting responses. Some good pieces demonstrated an awareness of the consequences of AIDS, data on HIV infections as well as activities and behaviour that can put persons at risk.

There was not enough exploration of materials and combination of techniques.

OPTION C – GRAPHIC DESIGN

Responses ranged from weak to excellent. The most popular question was Question 3 and the least popular was Question 4. Spatial organisation, layout altering and illustration need to be paid a lot more attention.

Question 1

Poster – persons with disabilities

Most candidates did not adhere to the specified dimensions and no preparatory studies were submitted for the computer generated designs and others. Generally the messages were quite clear and effective.

Question 2

Book Jacket for Island Craft Magazine

This question was poorly represented by most entrants. The concept of a book jacket was not brought out in most of the pieces.

Good design and layout techniques were ignored. Some illustrations were not relevant to the theme. Preliminary sketches were not submitted in most cases.

There were very few good responses.

Question 3

Illustrated Text

Though not a popular question, the attempts were largely satisfactory. Some good lettering was seen, but quality illustrations were absent from many. The selection of text and illustrations did not always relate to the stanzas of the poem.

Question 4

Cartoon – Youth against violence in schools

This was the least popular but the most successful in terms of responses. The highly successful ones portrayed excellent skills in depicting the forms, figures and setting for each frame, and a strong story line was present.

In others the story line was weak and standards were low in terms of design, composition and craftsmanship.

Nevertheless, it encouraged candidates to explore and express a relevant, social and cultural problem.

OPTION D – PRINTMAKING

Paints were generally fairly good with some excellent responses. Many candidates used stencils, but this technique does not lend itself to the production of an edition of three prints. More suitable techniques would have been lino, wood cut, etching and screen-printing.

Questions 1 and 2 were equally as popular. Question 4 was the least popular.

Some candidates are still submitting work on fabric instead of paper.

Question 1

There were some interesting responses which demonstrated the expressive power of lines, texture, shape and tonal value.

Question 2

There were some good responses demonstrating good design and composition.

Question 3

There were very few responses to this question, but some were very outstanding. Designs were very basic with little contrast and variation in lines, textures tone, contrast and shapes.

Question 4

This question was poorly represented. There is still a general lack of understanding of the concept of an edition of prints.

Colour changes were done for each print. Many were poor in terms of execution of the concept and registration.

OPTION E – 3 DIMENSIONAL DESIGN

Entries in this option have increased and improved over the past few years.

Question 2 was the most popular and Question 3 was the least popular.

Question 1

Sculpture based on your country's folklore.

There were many excellent responses to this question, including 'Anansi' and other local folkloric characters. Pieces were well made and designs were good.

Question 2

Sculpture of a person with a walking stick

This was the most popular question and responses were of some highly expressive figures which spoke of aging. A variety of materials and techniques were explored.

Question 3

Sculpt an animal from a block of plaster/wood. This was the least popular question. Although a few pieces were realised the majority were poorly done.

Question 4

Relief – 'Down and Out'

The responses were generally varied and well executed. Some were excellent in terms of craftsmanship, design and composition and originality. A variety of materials were explored.

OPTION F – FIBRE ARTS

Work in this option was moderate to fair. This was as a result of poor craftsmanship, design and use of inappropriate materials and techniques.

Question 2 was the most popular and Question 4 was the least popular.

Question 1

Responses were fair to moderate. The main problem was the inappropriate selection of materials used.

Question 2

This was the most popular question. Some excellent responses were seen, but they were not really practical as hats to be worn, as the material from which it was made was much too heavy.

Question 3

There were some excellent pieces with good craftsmanship. Several pieces demonstrated a lack of proper planning and preparation. Several pieces were submitted on the loom.

Question 4

On a whole, responses were weak and were more decorative craft than fibre arts responses. Hardly any fibre arts materials or techniques were used.

OPTION G – SURFACE DECORATION

There were an unusual low number of candidates who selected this option. Responses were fair to moderate. Design, layout and use of techniques and colour were moderate. There was evidence of poor research, planning and choice and suitability of fabrics.

Both Questions 2 and 3 were equally as popular and Question 1 was the least popular.

Question 1

Responses to this question were moderate to weak. Most pieces were presented like throw cushions rather than wall hangings. There was a lack of understanding of the trapunto technique. Embroidery techniques were very poorly done.

Question 2

Generally responses to this question were weak. This was not removed from many pieces. Designs were weak and demonstrated a lack of research and planning.

Fabrics used were unsuitable for these techniques.

Question 3

Most responses were basic. A lot more could have been done with the background. Border designs were basic and did not flow. Designs were weak and pieces demonstrated a complete lack of preparation. Use of colour was weak.

Question 4

Moderate work was seen and motifs were basic. More exploration and experimentation was needed. Design concepts were weak.

OPTION H – CERAMICS

There were not as many responses in this option as usual. There were however a few excellent pieces.

Pieces need to be properly packaged. It is important that registration numbers must be inscribed or written on pieces. The stipulation and requirements of the question must be observed. Pieces must be photographed before they are fired and photographs must be submitted with the pieces.

Question 1

Responses were fairly good, but design quality was poor in most cases.

Question 2

Most of the pieces were well executed.

Question 3

Responses were moderate. Craftsmanship and design were weak.

Question 4

Responses were moderate. The theme was not evident in many pieces. Construction was weak.

OPTION I - LEATHERCRAFT

Responses ranged from moderate to fair. Generally the pieces were weak in terms of design and craftsmanship.

Question 1

Generally responses to this question were moderate.

Question 2

There were a few outstanding pieces. In general the work was way below the expected standard. Attention needed to be paid to the areas of design and tooling.

Question 3

Responses were poorly executed.

Question 4

Responses were fairly good. Some candidates did not adhere to specifications.

OPTION J – DECORATIVE CRAFT

There were some excellent responses to this option, with good craftsmanship and design.

There was some improvement in the choice of materials and techniques. Question 1 was the most popular and Question 4 was the least popular.

Question 1

There were some strong pieces which were quite marketable. But many showed poor craftsmanship. Many dolls fell apart during packaging and transportation.

Question 2

There were some varied interpretations. A variety of materials and techniques were employed. There were major problems with craftsmanship, as many pieces were falling apart.

Question 3

A pair of floor cushions

Although there were some excellent responses, many responses were poor and unresolved. Many cushions were non-functional.

Some were decorated with glass which was not practical. Some candidates did not understand the term traditional motifs and embellishments.

Candidates simply purchased ready-made motifs and applied them.

Question 4

Cricket souvenir

This question produced some excellent responses. They demonstrated a lot of innovation and original ideas were presented.

In many cases the pieces were marketable.

ILLUSTRATED PAPER

Fewer candidates attempted the illustrated paper this year, but there was an improvement overall. Some topics were too vague and open. Candidates should be discouraged from using topics such as Ceramics, painting or 'David Brown'. There were many papers without titles.

There was evidence that information was copied directly from sources. Some even cut and glued the information from other sources directly into their papers. Decorative content was weak in many instances it was incomplete, untidy or neglected.

The handwriting of many candidates was illegible and very often obscured by a painted or decorative background.

Little attention was paid to layout. Photographs and other illustrations were quite often not labelled.

Most papers fell down in the area of critical analysis.

Some topics were not related in anyway to the Caribbean.