

CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

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

MAY/JUNE 2007

VISUAL ARTS

**VISUAL ARTS
GENERAL PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION
MAY/JUNE 2007**

GENERAL COMMENTS

Five thousand three hundred and thirty four candidates registered for the examination compared with 5334 in 2006.

On a whole, there were some outstanding pieces demonstrating a strong understanding of form, value, texture, composition, use of media and creativity. There were, however, many pieces that were not up to the required standard. It was apparent that very little preparatory work was done, and that the two weeks allotted for this purpose was not utilized.

There was evidence of inappropriate materials and techniques being utilized and many instances where requirements for individual questions were either ignored or misinterpreted. It was also noted that specific dimensions and a required number of techniques to be utilized were also ignored. There were many instances where examiners came across pieces of work responding to questions in options for which the candidate had not registered.

Candidates must take the time to read the general instructions in the question booklet before beginning the exam.

DETAILED COMMENTS

Production Papers

OPTION A – DRAWING

Question 4 was the most popular and Question 1 the least popular. Overall, drawings were average. Candidates presented incomplete work in spite of the fact that six hours is the allotted time. There were however, some outstanding works demonstrating great use of space, composition, tonal values and media.

Question 1

Reclining figure

Only a few candidates attempted this question. There were a few outstanding pieces. Generally they demonstrated good use of media and creativity in the arrangement of the objects. Weak pieces had difficulty with proportion and tonal values, use of space, composition and basic drawing skills. Very few candidates handled the draped fabric well.

Question 2

Composition of root crops

Some outstanding pieces were produced. The majority of candidates misinterpreted the question by drawing rooted plants instead of root crops, and the objects were not arranged on two different levels as required by the question. Some compositions seemed to be drawn from memory instead of observation.

Question 3

Detailed studies – tree bark

A few candidates mastered this question. Although the question required emphasized, detailed studies, some drawings were very basic, and in some cases rubbings were done. Weak examples showed very little details and almost no variation in texture and tone. In other drawings candidates concentrated on drawing a branch instead of zooming in on the bark.

Question 4

Composition of shoes

This was the most popular question with some outstanding pieces demonstrating creativity and mastery in handling the media.

The majority of the pieces demonstrated poor compositions and use of media. Many candidates experienced difficulty with foreshortening and lack of skill with tonal values and texture. Many candidates overworked the background, and this became a distraction.

OPTION B – IMAGINATIVE COMPOSITION

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

Question 1

Night life – monochromatic

There were some good pieces, demonstrating great compositions, painting styles and execution of tonal values. But most candidates misunderstood the ‘monochromatic’ colour scheme concept. Many were flat with very little application of tonal value and limited use of the tonal scale to create the illusion of form, depth and pattern.

Question 2

Ancestry – collage

Generally, pieces were weak. Candidates did not grasp the concept of ‘ancestry’ very well. Pieces demonstrated a failure by candidates to do research and to select appropriate materials and methods to execute the piece. Compositions were generally weak. There were, however, a few responses which grasped the concept and demonstrated good organization of space.

Question 3

Upside down

There were some interesting concepts and compositions, demonstrating a sound knowledge of the elements and principles of design. But in most cases the question was treated as a ‘reflection’ instead of ‘upside down’. There was limited imagination used in developing the topic and in the expressive use of media, techniques and styles.

Question 4

Erosion

There were a few expressive pieces which were quite successful and well executed. Many candidates misinterpreted the question. Most pieces lacked conceptual development. A variety of media was not optimally utilized and most pieces lacked creative expression and imagination.

OPTION C – GRAPHIC DESIGN

Question 3 was the most popular and Question 1 the least popular. There were some excellent examples from candidates who had an excellent grasp of the elements and principles of design. But generally the requirements of the question were basically ignored especially when it came to size and measurements. There was little evidence of research and preparatory work. There was general lack of unity in most pieces, to demonstrate a balance between pictorial illustrations and text to produce aesthetically pleasing work.

Question 1

Poster – CSME

Most responses were computer generated and were of a high standard. Overall visual appeal was quite stimulating. Successful pieces displayed good lettering and the message was clear and appropriate combined with appropriate illustrations. It was quite evident that some candidates did no research for this question and this resulted in weak work. Candidates were unable to depict what was required from this question. Weak pieces demonstrated poor design concepts and lack of a clear message and visual appeal.

Question 2

Deforestation brochure

There were a few entries for this question. For the most part, they were computer generated designs. A few were impressive and were quite informative with relevant pictorial information. In responses which were hand done, the graphics were weak and many designs were unresolved. Many candidates failed to adhere to the required measurements for this question and in others there was very little evidence of preparatory work.

Question 3

Sign – Mango Tree Bar

This was the most popular question. Quite a variety of approaches were employed. There were some creative lettering styles and layout techniques. There was evidence of a sound understanding of the elements and principles of good design, including good use of colour.

Generally most responses were quite unique and delightful. There were some pieces, however, where the candidates did not adhere to the specifications, and they were also weak in terms of good layout.

Question 4

Logo, ‘Safari Trails and Tours’.

This question was attempted by many candidates; however the responses showed a lack of understanding of the characteristics of a good logo. As a result many responses came across as being signs, posters or advertisements. Many aspects of eco-tourism were portrayed.

Many candidates ignored one of the requirements of the question which required that they portray the working logo as a letterhead.

OPTION D

Printmaking

The most popular question was Question 1 and the least popular was Question 4. There were a few outstanding pieces, but generally the work was moderate. Instructions were not adhered to. The concept of an edition is still not understood. In many cases the three prints were done on the same sheet, when they should have been done on three separate sheets. It must be noted that it is impossible to get an edition of the same print using a stencil. In some cases candidates cut away the 'virgin' area around the print, this should not be done. Some prints had evidence of hand-painting on them. Some candidates changed colour for each edition of the same print. An edition is three of the very same print done on separate sheets of paper with virgin area left all around them.

Question 1

The musician

There were some good responses with a high level of creativity. In some instances stencil printing was utilized as a technique. This type of printing does not lend itself to the printing of an edition. There was good use of a variety of lines, texture and contrast.

Question 2

Up there

There were a few interesting interpretations, but generally this question was poorly interpreted and executed.

Question 3

Abandoned

Candidates interpreted this theme well. The principles and elements of good design were explored.

Question 4

Night and day

Interpretation and exploration of the question were poor.

OPTION E – 3 DIMENSIONAL DESIGN

The most popular questions were Question 3 and Question 4 and the least popular was Question 2.

Performance in this option continues to be weak overall. There was generally no preparatory work or research into appropriate materials and techniques. There were very few outstanding pieces for this option.

Question 1

The crossing

Not much creativity of interpretation was seen. It was poorly attempted. More research should have been done and more attention paid to the elements and principles of good design.

Question 2

Flight

Very few candidates attempted this question, and most showed a lack of creativity and craftsmanship.

Question 3

Obesity

A few responses were received. They lacked preparation and creativity.

Question 4

Imprisoned

A range of concepts and interpretations were attempted, however the execution of most was weak. Some pieces were too bulky due to their literal interpretations.

OPTION F – FIBRE ARTS

Question 3 was the most popular and Question 1 the least popular. The number of candidates selecting this option was very few and generally the work was very weak. There were many examples which exhibited lack of understanding of good design, poor choice of materials and techniques.

Question 1

Pair of table mats

Responses were generally weak. The requirements of the question were ignored in many instances. Some exhibited one fibre art technique, dimensions were not adhered to and some candidates produced only one table mat. Inappropriate materials and techniques were utilized and creativity and exploration of materials were minimal.

Question 2

Circular throw cover

Overall the work was weak. The circle seemed to have presented a problem to some candidates. Most chose weaving over lace-making techniques such as crochet. Many did not conform to the specified shape or size required by the question. Most of the pieces were therefore non-functional.

Question 3

Macramé wall-hanging

Responses ranged from outstanding to very weak. Again size requirements were ignored in some instances. Some candidates made poor choices of materials and techniques.

Question 4

Ceremonial headdress

There were one or two outstanding responses. The ceremonial aspect was ignored in others. In many submissions neither fibre materials nor techniques were utilized.

OPTION G – SURFACE DECORATION

Question 3 was the most popular and Question 4 was the least popular. There were some good responses, which demonstrated good research and application. In many instances all the requirements for each question were not fulfilled.

Question 1

Pictures – Earth, Wind, Fire, Water

There were some very good creative pieces which utilized a variety of techniques and materials. Others however were not well thought through or presented.

Question 2

Wall hanging, ‘Looking at my garden through the fence’

There were some excellent examples which displayed a unique, creative perspective. It was obvious however that with inadequate preparation others fell short of decoration techniques.

Question 3

Fabric for beach wear – elements of sea life

There were a few good examples. Generally they were weak both design and execution. It was obvious that candidates had limited grasp of the elements and principles of good design. Therefore the designs lacked cohesiveness, especially in use of colour shapes and flow.

Question 4

Fabric for a bag with geometrical and organic motifs

There were very few candidates who handled this question well. Design and composition, craftsmanship and functionality were very lacking. There was obviously lack of preparation and some misinterpretation of the question.

OPTION H – CERAMICS

Question 3 was the most popular and Question 1 was the least popular. Although there were some imaginative and well finished pieces many were clumsy and impractical. Most fell down in the area of craftsmanship. More care needs to be taken with the finish.

Question 1

Relief of traditional architecture

There were some excellent interpretations. In others all the requirements were not fulfilled. In some, for example, the name of the territory was omitted. The concept of ‘relief’ was not clearly understood as many buildings were produced in the round.

Question 2

Picture frame with shells

Most of the responses were fairly successful. Designs were interesting; however they fell down in craftsmanship.

Question 3

Non-traditional teapot

There were some very imaginative and interesting pieces. Some were more decorative than functional. Some had no hole in the spout and were much too clumsy. More care needed to be taken when joining the spout, handle and other decorative elements to the pot.

Question 4

Decorative bowl

Generally the designs were not well thought through. Dimensions were not adhered to and design elements of ornate edges and vines were minimal or ignored. Craftsmanship was generally weak.

OPTION I – LEATHERCRAFT

Question 1 was the most popular and Question 4 was the least popular. There were some outstanding examples with excellent designs and good craftsmanship. Others were non-functional and demonstrated a lack of research and planning.

Question 1

Bag with handles

This was the most popular question and the quality of work varied from good to poor. Some demonstrated good knowledge and skill in tooling and construction, while others were weak in one or more of these areas. There seemed to have been some confusion between stamping and tooling techniques.

Question 2

Back of chair

Most attempts at this question were good. A few instances of weak tooling and inconsistent application of dyes were evident.

Question 3

Hand-held mask

This question had good and bad responses. Tooling techniques were excellent in some while others reflected a lack of research and planning. This resulted in pieces which were non-functional. The use of embellishment was minimal although it was demanded by the question.

Question 4

Drop piece with fringe

Few candidates attempted this question. The pieces were for the most part very successful. There was some misinterpretation of the question, as traditional belts were produced in many instances.

OPTION J – DECORATIVE CRAFT

Question 4 was the most popular and Question 3 was the least popular. Although there were some good pieces, responses were generally weak and showed very little imagination.

Question 1

Three piece jewellery set

Responses were generally weak. The words ‘hand-crafted’ were ignored and many candidates simply purchased beads and other items to be strung.

Question 2

Mural for childrens’ ward

There were some very good responses, utilizing a variety of materials and techniques. Elements of good design were evident.

Question 3

Conversion of a garment

Generally the responses to this question were very weak. There seem to have been some confusion with the word, ‘convert’. There were, however, a few creative examples, which answered the question perfectly.

Question 4

Cover of a photo album

Although this was the most popular question, responses were extremely disappointing. Craftsmanship was a major issue with most of the pieces. There were, however, some fine examples with great craftsmanship and design and functionality.

THEORY OF ART OR ILLUSTRATED PAPER

Overall there was a general improvement in the quality of papers received.

Topic

Some topics were too general and not related to the Caribbean region in any way, but generally they were related to the visual arts. Some interesting topics included, “Art in Caribbean Culture”, ‘Tainos – Amerindian symbolism in Art’. The more general topics included, “Basketry”, and “Batik”.

Candidates should be encouraged to conduct research on new and emerging artists and artforms.

LEVEL OF EXPRESSION

There was an improvement in the level of expression and use of language. There was some variety of research methods used for the gathering of data, but there is a need to widen their scope in this area.

The level of content and verbal expression in many papers was poor. Many candidates are unable to carry out critical analysis of art work. Many papers lacked a necessary conclusion.

ORGANISATION OF VISUAL MATERIAL

Some excellent, well-decorated papers were received; however there was a general decline in the visual presentation of booklets. The decorative content should be carefully planned, be relevant to the topic and should follow the principles of good design.

Illustrations were not always of a high quality. Layout was sometimes poor and illustrations were not always labelled or placed next or near to the relevant text.

Many papers had no cover page, no title and no table of contents. The cover page should be decorated and include the topic under research.

Some handwritten papers were received and the majority were poorly done with very poor penmanship. Candidates using the computer, however, should select fonts which are legible and less ornamental and of an appropriate size.

In carrying out research students should attempt to do more personal “on sight” research to gather first-hand information including the gathering of illustrations. Candidates **MUST** make the Illustrated Papers a **WORK OF ART**.