

Doing better in GCSE art and design

To achieve a grade C in GCSE art and design you need to be confident in all of these aspects.

(Use the code in the second column to say how well you think you are doing: G - green, very confident; O - orange, not fully sure; and R - red, not very confident. Ask your teacher about anything you colour red.)

Can I?		What can I do to improve?
AO1 Find reference material to help me develop ideas for my artwork.	<input type="radio"/> R <input type="radio"/> O <input type="radio"/> G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find out what is available in the art department and in the school library. • Ask your teacher for a list of suitable websites.
Select the most appropriate reference material to develop my ideas.	<input type="radio"/> R <input type="radio"/> O <input type="radio"/> G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a set of questions to help you select the most relevant resources, e.g. who?, what?, where?, when?, how?; your teacher may have a worksheet to help you. • Talk to your family and see if there are any resources available at home or in your community. • You may need to ask your teacher for guidance as to which of your reference materials are the easiest to develop and are not too ambitious. • Use a viewfinder to select areas of interest and to find unusual compositions.
Organise my reference material so that I can work from it effectively.	<input type="radio"/> R <input type="radio"/> O <input type="radio"/> G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try out different ways of arranging still-life objects. View them from different angles and viewpoints. Decide what sort of effect you want to achieve, e.g. dynamic - lots of diagonals, or calm and balanced - using the horizontal and symmetry. • Create a mood board with your secondary images. Consider how you can link the images together using the composition. • Use a viewfinder to focus on the part of your reference that you want to record.
Record accurately from my reference material.	<input type="radio"/> R <input type="radio"/> O <input type="radio"/> G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a grid to help you record accurately. The grid can also help you to enlarge an image. • If you are trying to record tone, half-close your eyes to help you to see the patterns of light and dark more clearly.
Record what I observe expressively.	<input type="radio"/> R <input type="radio"/> O <input type="radio"/> G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide exactly what it is that you want to record by asking what makes the object/image interesting to you, e.g. the pattern, texture or three-dimensional form, and then focus on that particular aspect. • Select the material/medium that is most appropriate to your intention, e.g. photography is a useful way of recording changes, slabs of clay can easily be impressed to record textures in the natural and built environment.
AO2 Talk and write about art and design from different times and cultures.	<input type="radio"/> R <input type="radio"/> O <input type="radio"/> G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to some friends about a piece of art from another time or culture. It may help to ask your teacher for a list of prompt questions. • Listen to and read what other students have said about the work of artists from different times and cultures.

Can I?		What can I do to improve?
<p>Use what I know about the work of other artists, designers and craftspeople to help me create my own artwork.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <input type="radio"/> R <input type="radio"/> O <input type="radio"/> G </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a list of themes that you could use to develop a piece of artwork. Find examples of how different artists have used this theme. Compare and contrast them with your own approach, e.g. landscape - look at how Monet, Vlaminck, Goldsworthy and Friedrich have used this theme. What is the landscape like where you live? How do you experience it? Do you enjoy walking, picnics, being in the open air, sitting in the garden? • Look at the materials and techniques that artists use in their work. Try to use these in your own artwork in a similar way.
<p>AO3 Experiment with a range of materials.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <input type="radio"/> R <input type="radio"/> O <input type="radio"/> G </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask your teacher to demonstrate any materials or techniques that you are not familiar with. • Look through 'How to ...' books in the art department/library. • Explore and find out about the qualities and limitations of different materials, e.g. how many layers of oil pastel can you lay on top of each other? • Have an open mind and play. • Be sensitive to what you produce, note what is interesting and effective. • Try combining different materials or techniques into one piece of work.
<p>Review and modify my work.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <input type="radio"/> R <input type="radio"/> O <input type="radio"/> G </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try to assess your own work against the assessment criteria; check the criteria with your teacher before you begin to work on the weaker areas. • Ask yourself or a friend what you need to change to make your work more effective. • If you are not brave enough to change your work in case you ruin it, place a piece of tracing paper on top and try out changes on that before committing yourself.
<p>AO4 Complete my work by the given deadline.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <input type="radio"/> R <input type="radio"/> O <input type="radio"/> G </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a time plan to help you organise how you can complete your unit of coursework.
<p>Ensure that I have made informed connections with the work of others.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <input type="radio"/> R <input type="radio"/> O <input type="radio"/> G </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a checklist of all the elements that you need to include in each unit of work to cover each of the assessment criteria. • Annotate your references clearly to show how you have decided to use them.
<p>Show that my work is an informed personal response.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <input type="radio"/> R <input type="radio"/> O <input type="radio"/> G </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check with your friends that they can see your ideas in the work you are producing. Ask them to describe what it is about your ideas that they can recognise.