



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission
Corr na Madadh, Baile Átha Luain, Co. na hIarmhí
Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

S61/20

JUNIOR CYCLE VISUAL ART

**To: Boards of Management, Principal Teachers and Teachers of Junior
Cycle Visual Art in Second-Level Schools, and CEOs of ETBs**

Junior Cycle Final Examination – Visual Art – Booklets to be used for Final Assessment

Please bring this circular to the attention of all art teachers in the school and also provide a copy to members of the school board of management.

Please find enclosed copies of the State Examinations Commission workbook for Junior Cycle Visual Art. This follows on from circular S30/20, which accompanied the copies of the coursework brief that issued in September. For your convenience, some of the information from that circular that is now of more immediate relevance is repeated below. A further circular will accompany the secure envelopes that will be issued closer to the completion date for the coursework and which are to be used for securing candidate work.

The project that the students carry out in third year is broken into two phases. Phase 1 – the Classroom Based Assessment part – is now drawing to a close. Phase 2, the Final Assessment, starts in late November and should be completed by 16 April 2020. The Final Assessment is marked by the State Examinations Commission.

As you know, in light of the COVID-19 situation, the Department of Education and Skills issued details of amended curricular and assessment arrangements for those taking the Junior Cycle examinations in 2021. This circular follows on from the issue of those revised arrangements. For the Junior Cycle Visual Art Final Assessment in 2021, each candidate must submit the following:

- a State Examinations Commission workbook containing the development work leading to **one** realised artefact
- **one** realised artefact.

The format of the State Examinations Commission workbook has not been altered and will therefore be familiar to teachers. The workbook still has space for the development of two artefacts, however, for the Final Assessment in 2021 work relating to one realised artefact only is required. Accordingly, candidates will not be required to fill in the entire workbook for their Final Assessment in 2021. This is the only substantial change to the requirements for completion of the workbook. All regulations relating to the generation, security and validation of the work still apply. Care should be taken to ensure that candidates adhere to the regulations outlined in the enclosed brief and in this circular in order to allow access to the full range of marks available. The details relating to the completion of the workbook are set out in the paragraphs below.

Each candidate will use one of the enclosed workbooks to record their further research and development work and they will also complete one realised artefact. The tamper-evident envelopes and other materials required for the secure storage of the completed artwork in the school will be sent to schools as the completion date nears in April 2021. A *Junior Cycle Visual Art Options Form* will also be issued to each school, which the teacher will need to complete and return to the State Examinations Commission. This form will be issued towards the end of the completion period of the project and is designed to record the types of artefact being submitted by candidates, so that examiners with the necessary expertise to assess them can be assigned to the school.

Phase 2 involves the work to be submitted to the State Examinations Commission for assessment, and consists of both the further development work in the workbook and making the realised artefact. It is recommended that students devote approximately 10 hours of supervised class time to completing this project. It is considered that this amount of time is both necessary and sufficient. Since this is significantly less time than would be timetabled for the subject over the period concerned, it will allow for flexibility in continuing with other work over the project period and will still also allow for occasional school closures or other unanticipated loss of class time.

You are reminded that, in the interests of fairness for all candidates, additional supervised time outside of normally timetabled class time should **not** be made available unless some exceptional circumstance applies that prevents the recommended amount of time from being made available during class time.

Such exceptional circumstance might involve, for example, an illness that prevents a candidate from attending school for a significant part of the project period. An application for an extension of the completion date on medical grounds must be made to the State Examinations Commission and each candidate will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The candidate may be afforded the time to make up the project hours, provided that the school is in a position to facilitate the direct supervision of this work by the teacher and for the work to be duly authenticated. The candidate's absence due to illness must be supported by medical evidence (e.g. medical certificate) and the proposed alternative arrangements must be agreed in advance between the State Examinations Commission and the school authority. In these circumstances, the project must be completed at the earliest possible opportunity and in any event not later than the commencement date of the Junior Cycle Examinations.

In the event that the work cannot be completed even with such revised arrangements, it will not be possible to waive or exempt any part of the project. If some of the project has been undertaken by the student then the marks awarded will be based on the incomplete work.

As has been the case heretofore for Junior Certificate Art, Craft, Design, an examiner appointed by the State Examinations Commission will visit the school in June to mark the Final Assessment.

The project authentication arrangements are in line with those for coursework in other subjects, as outlined in State Examinations Commission circular letters S68/08 and S69/04. You are reminded that, other than as provided for in those circulars, project work is not to be authenticated for any student who is not carrying out that project in timetabled, supervised classes in your school. All work for the Final Assessment – with the exception of images taken from primary sources outside of the classroom – must be carried out under the supervision of the teacher. This means that the workbook and the realised artefact must not be removed from the school under any circumstances.

After the conclusion of the project on 16 April 2021, all project work must be stored securely until the State Examinations Commission examiner visits the school during June to mark it. It must then continue to be stored securely in the school until the appeal process is finished.

The timelines described above are summarised in the table below.

Event	Date
Students complete 'Communicate and Reflect Form' and begin work on Phase 2	Late November 2020
SEC issues materials for secure storage of candidate work	March/April 2021
Completion date for project; schools secure completed candidate work	16 April 2021
SEC examiner visits school to mark work	June 2021
Appeal process complete; secure storage period ends; schools return work to candidates	30 November 2021

Further information for the Art teacher

Before reading the information below, please read the brief. You should also refer to the enclosed workbooks.

- The State Examinations Commission workbook, which will be issued in November, is designed to capture the candidate's further development after completing Classroom-Based Assessment 2. For the academic year 2020/2021 candidates do not need to complete the entire workbook, as they are required to further develop their ideas for **one** artefact only. The details of this are set out in the paragraphs below.
- Work in this workbook must demonstrate observational, analytical drawing in a range of media. In order to facilitate working from primary sources, candidates may, if necessary, make studies or photographs outside of the classroom and include them in their workbook. As their teacher, you must be able to authenticate these as the candidate's own work. This involves close monitoring of each individual candidate's work, and satisfying yourself that the standard, style and quality of any work not done in your presence is consistent with that of the work you have observed the candidate doing.
- The workbook can include samples of trial work that candidates have made in the art room during the course of the project, such as embroidery stitches on fabric, colour combinations, texture trials, experiments on various grounds, their own photographs, screenshots of their developing work, printouts of their own original material and their own written notes. The samples (grounds, and trial work etc.) attached should be small enough to allow ample space to work directly onto the workbook. Candidates are not allowed to increase the work space available by adding extra pages.
- As teacher, your role is not only to guide and support the candidates in carrying out their work, but also to supervise it in such a way that you can authenticate it as a true reflection of the candidates' own creative processes. You must avoid the temptation to be overly directive in the guidance you offer, as this can impair the candidates' capacity to demonstrate their creative skills and to show how they develop their own work. If examiners observe that the work of different candidates in the same group has travelled in very similar directions, this suggests either a lack of creativity on the part of the candidates or an overly directive approach by the teacher. In either case, it makes it difficult for the examiner to see evidence of important aspects of what is being assessed, and can accordingly prevent candidates from achieving the marks that they otherwise might.

- The **realised artefact** must be based on the visual and written information assembled in the workbook.
- The workbook begins with the completed **Communicate and Reflect Form**. This is the link between Classroom-Based Assessment 2 and the Final Assessment. This form must be filled out by the candidates and must be based on the candidate's own work. It is the first step in the second phase of the project and is important as the information captured in this form is a plan for how work will further progress.
- For the academic year 2020/2021 candidates do not need to complete the section of the form that relates to Classroom-Based Assessment 1. Candidates should then complete the remainder of the form relating to Classroom-Based Assessment 2. This means that each candidate needs to complete the form with regard to their chosen Strand and the realised artefact that they are going to submit. Candidates may demonstrate an intention to develop two artefacts if they wish, but only **one** realised artefact needs to be completed for the Final Assessment.
- The **Influences Sheet** will show how the candidate's studies of contemporary and historical visual culture informs and relates to their work. These may be from a wide range of visual stimuli and can include for example, reference to approaches, techniques, methods, ideas or other visual messages. If visits to galleries, museums, studios and other appropriate sites to experience the art, craft, and design work of others at first hand are not possible, candidates may explore the work of others using digital technology and other sources available to them. The Influences Sheet should include work relating to the realised artefact. Candidates should **not** be expected to complete this sheet in full before moving on in the workbook. They should begin to work on it from the outset of Phase 2, but they will continue to both refer to it and add to it as their ideas develop, since the development of their work is likely to lead to new influences emerging. As the candidates in 2020/2021 will be realising **one** artefact only, there is no requirement to fill all of the space provided on the Influences Sheet.
- This is followed by **two** development sheets for the realised artefact. **Development Sheet 1** involves exploring, considering and reconsidering the ideas candidates produced in their Classroom-Based Assessment 2 in new and different ways as the work progresses. Candidates must regularly review the work they have done in order to identify its successes and failures to help them to decide what to do next. Candidates should note their decisions. Work in the development sheets must demonstrate observational, analytical drawing in a range of media. **Development Sheet 2** follows on from their Development Sheet 1 and should show how their ideas progress using their chosen materials, media and techniques. It should also indicate the candidate's proposal for their realised artefact. The proposal involves identifying what the candidate is going to make and choosing the appropriate materials and techniques to carry out the plan to the highest possible standard.
- Each candidate must complete a **Reflection and Evaluation** for the realised artefact justifying, critiquing and evaluating the work.
- Candidates should ensure that they complete the Development Sheets 1 and 2 as well as the Reflection and Evaluation for their **one** realised artefact. The other sheets may be used but candidates will be marked and awarded on the basis of only **one** realised artefact for the Final Assessment in 2021.

- There are three strands in Visual Art: Art, Craft and Design. Candidates must choose **one** of these Strands in which to develop and make their work. Candidates may realise a work in three dimensions if they wish, but for the academic year 2020/2021 it is not a requirement for the Final Assessment.
- The Junior Cycle Visual Art course intends candidates to experience a broad range of art-based experiences and skills. Candidates should show their experience by presenting **one** realised artefact in one *area of practice*. While a range of areas of practice is mentioned in the brief, there is no exhaustive list. While some areas of practice sit quite naturally within one of the three strands of the specification, other areas of practice might be relevant to more than one strand.
- Since all of the work – other than a limited number of studies and/or photographs – must be carried out under your direct supervision, candidates may only use the materials and equipment available in the school for their Junior Cycle Visual Art work. If examiners encounter evidence of the use of equipment or materials that are not available in the school, this will be investigated as a potential breach of regulations.
- Each school must tell the State Examinations Commission each year what areas of practice are being carried out in the school – that is, what kinds of artefact the candidates are making. This will support the marking process, as it will allow the Commission to ensure that the examiner visiting the school has sufficient expertise in the areas concerned to mark the work properly. A form will be issued by the State Examinations Commission towards the end of the project completion period. You should complete and return it as directed at the time.
- A total of 200 marks are allocated to the Final Assessment. 100 marks will be allocated to the submitted State Examinations Commission workbook and 100 marks will be allocated to the **one** realised artefact.
- Candidate work should not be perishable and should be sufficiently robust to ensure that it is intact for the examination and appeal processes. As there may be candidates who do not fully appreciate the implications of this requirement, you should be alert to the materials that candidates propose to use and draw their attention to any potential problems.
- All digital artefacts must be generated under your supervision using the equipment and materials available in the school. Digitally generated artefacts (other than videos or similar) must be printed for submission for marking. For example, the area of practice of graphic design may lead to artefacts such as posters or magazine covers that have been created by digital means. These must be printed out for marking. Digitally generated artefacts that are not suitable for printing because they involve moving images must be converted to MP4 video and available for viewing on a school computer or other school device with a screen of sufficient size and quality for it to be properly assessed.
- After the project completion date, it may not be possible for you to secure digital artefacts that include video in exactly the same way as non-digital two-dimensional and three-dimensional artefacts. That is, even though it is important for each candidate's work to be set up and ready for the examiner to view when they arrive, it might not be feasible to have a separate laptop or other device set up for each one, and for all these devices to be secured from the date of submission through the examining period, as they would then be unavailable for other use in the school. In such cases, you will need to make alternative arrangements that are secure. For example, you may arrange for a main copy and a back-up copy of each digital artefact to be saved onto removable media (a flash drive / CD / DVD / SD card, etc.) and for these media to be held securely in the school. Whatever arrangement you decide upon, candidates' work must be available for viewing when the examiner from the State Examinations

Commission arrives in the school. You must also make sure that you have a back-up copy available within the school in case something goes wrong with the main copy. The arrangements for securing the work must be such that neither the candidate nor any other unauthorised person can access the material, and should also entail storing the backup copies on separate media from main copies. You will also need to take responsibility for ensuring that these artefacts are retrieved and loaded up on the equipment on which they will be viewed by the examiner. Furthermore, although you should not be present while examiners are carrying out their work, you or another person with sufficient expertise should be available in the school in case of equipment failure or difficulty accessing a particular candidate's video file.

If you have any questions regarding this circular, please email practicals@examinations.ie.

Rose Ward
Executive Officer
November 2020