

# HISTORY OF ART

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8285/02

Modern Art (1900 - Present Day)

## General comments

In a similar fashion to last year, candidates generally achieved higher marks in this paper than in Paper 1. The marking process in general reflected the level of attainment shown by the candidates. There is concern about candidates tending to prepare 'stock' answers for this paper.

## **Section A**

In **Section A** the vast majority of candidates chose to answer **Option 1** (*Towards Abstraction*): the majority choosing **Question 1** and a smaller number choosing **Question 2**, clearly indicating (as in last year) the abiding popularity of *Picasso*. Answers were across the full mark range. A smaller group chose **Option 3**, *American Art since 1945*, but marking tended to be low to mid-range as candidates chose the more obvious artists to reference.

There were no responses to **Option 2**, *Fauvism and Expressionism*, again echoing last year when only two candidates chose this option.

It was very disappointing to note the lack of response (just two candidates) to **Option 4**, *Aspects of Modern New Zealand Art*, where candidates would have had the opportunity to engage with examples of work at first hand in local galleries.

## **Section B: Comparative Analysis**

**Option 1**, *Towards Abstraction*, was undoubtedly the favourite choice comparing *Balla* and *Delaunay*. Again, **Option 3**, was next most popular, comparing *Johns* and *Warhol*. Only one candidate chose **Option 2**, *Fauvism and Expressionism*.

Rather surprisingly, given the lack of response in **Section A**, ten candidates chose Option 4, *Aspects of Modern New Zealand Art*, comparing two works by 20<sup>th</sup> century feminist artists. Marks tended to be in the low to mid-range as answers were felt to contain too much contextual information.