

Paper 1: RENAISSANCE

The most popular Options, the same as last year, are Options 2 and 3, with the High Renaissance Option having by far the most answered questions. The highest marks awarded were from questions 7 and 8.

One school studied Option 1 and 2, two schools answered questions from just one Option and no-one answered any questions from Option 4.

In Section B, question 14 was answered the most, then question 15. Many students struggle with the plate questions and tend to limit their answers to a descriptive analysis. Students need to become more versant with the wider social, political and cultural aspects that happened during the Renaissance, because many religious works make visual references to contemporary social or political events as in *The Tribute Money* by Masaccio and *The Flagellation* by Piero della Francesca. The development of Humanism during the Renaissance period needs to be better understood in relation to specific art works. Question 14 plates were a perfect vehicle for this but only a few students were able to articulate the contexts and developments of pictorial aspects of the two works with understanding.

Art works of that period also embrace scientific advances such as perspective and the influence of classical antiquity but answers need to be specific about how these new ideas were used in art works. Even the more subtle visual inferences need to be well understood, as when aspects of secular life become part of religious works e.g. Piero's *Enthroned Madonna and Saints Adored* by Federico da Montefeltro.

If students answered questions 7 and 15, as quite a number did, the repetition of information will affect the marks as classical influences and Michelangelo are part of both questions.

Students need to consider spelling, these were often spelled wrong – 'medieval' and 'tempera'.

Paper 2: MODERN

The best prepared and highest ranking essays were from questions 1 on Cubism and 8 on Pop art, with more than half the students answering question 1. Although question 1 was the most popular a number of students had difficulty in articulating the early influences that initiated the Cubist style. Just mentioning Cezanne's name or Primitive art is not sufficient. An understanding of the different threads that come together to create the style is paramount for an intelligent answer and also gives meaning to the art works.

Students who answered both question 3 and 13 really limited their possibilities for good marks. Mondrian is a very popular artist to study but the inevitable repetition of information is an avoidable mistake.

Many students answered questions from Option 3, American Art since 1945, with question 8 on Pop art being the most popular and also achieving some of the highest marks. The Plate question 15, also produced a large number of essays. Whilst there were some excellent answers showing a depth of understanding of the works studied, many students were unaware of the visual political references in many art works of that time to the unrest in USA during the early '60s i.e. The assassination of President Kennedy in 1963, the Cuban missile crisis and the Vietnam war and their impacts on American life.

Art works are always a product of their time.

Some students are using too many quotes, often out of context or just meaningless. One essay had 8 quotes!

Essay writing skills need to be revised. Students cannot gain an 'A' grade unless they have 'fluent written expression' (from marking criteria). Legibility can also be an issue.