

HISTORY OF ART

Paper 8285/01

The Renaissance

General comments

There were more Centres entering the examination this year which is an encouraging aspect for this course.

The marking by Examiners and preparation of candidates by Centres was thorough and the examination as a whole has a strong academic foundation. The paper was fair and offered plenty of opportunities for candidates to engage with the different options within the syllabus structure. The overall standard of papers was an improvement on last year in the middle range of mark levels but there are some points that might serve to improve the quality of answers. As the options are narrowly defined in terms of content and time span it is fair for the Examiner to expect some knowledge and understanding which shows depth of analysis and good use of appropriate language and terminology. There was a tendency for rote learnt answers and it is difficult to award high marks for this kind of pre-learned response. The strongest responses were where candidates could engage with the question by responding with a clear structure, gave accurate information and justified points of view with evidence.

Marking was accurate and fair and gave good differentiation of the different levels of achievement. A number of candidates gave uneven answers in papers which may be the result of running out of time and poor examination management.

The Renaissance

Nearly all candidates gave sound to good answers with the weakest lacking detail, analysis and accuracy. The question paper was fair and offered good opportunities for candidates across all options. In **Section A Questions 4, 5 and 8** were the most visited and the depth of analysis and setting works of art into an appropriate context was good in many examples. Achievements in Paper 1 were better than last year with a good response to both sections by most candidates. The analysis of images was detailed and engaged in many examples and reflected well on good teaching processes with a very sound level of understanding. **Questions 14 and 15** were the most popular with nearly all candidates accessing these images.