



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

To be given to teachers and candidates on or after 1 February 2025

A Level in Art and Design

H600/02–H606/02 Externally set task

June 2025

Time allowed: 15 hours



INSTRUCTIONS

- Choose **one** theme.
- From your theme, choose **one** option.
- You must demonstrate your ability to refine your ideas and produce your outcome(s) that relate(s) to your preparatory work.

INFORMATION

- The total mark is **80**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- You will have time to plan and prepare your work before the fifteen hours of supervised time.
- This document has **20** pages.

Guidance for Candidates

You must choose **one** theme and respond to **one** of the options **(a)**, **(b)**, **(c)**, **(d)** or **(e)**.

You will need to produce preparatory work relevant to your chosen specialism(s). If you have entered for the Art, Craft and Design – Combined Specialisms (H600) qualification, you must provide evidence of working in at least two different specialisms. However, your final outcome(s) may be in one or more than one of your chosen specialisms.

In options **(d)** and **(e)** the type of outcome is specified.

Your preparatory work must be used to inform the outcome(s) during the 15 hours supervised time. Your preparatory work should not be amended or developed further during or after the 15 hours of supervised time. You should not bring any additional work into the supervised sessions.

Your centre will advise you of the duration of the preparatory period and the dates of the 15 hours supervised time.

You must demonstrate in both your preparatory work and outcome(s) that you have:

- recorded your experiences and observations
- researched and explored your ideas
- used appropriate materials and techniques
- shown connections between your work and that of other practitioners
- selected and presented your preparatory studies and refined these into your outcome(s)
- ensured that any extended response is legible and spelling, punctuation and grammar are accurate so that your meaning is clear
- presented information in a form that suits its purpose
- identified and referenced all collected or sourced materials
- used appropriate subject vocabulary and language.

Methods of working could include as appropriate:

- working from observation and experience
- exploring the qualities of materials, processes and techniques
- developing ideas in a personal, imaginative or representational way
- researching, relating and showing analysis of context and/or practitioners.

Your work will be assessed against the following Assessment Objectives.

	Assessment Objective	Marks
AO1	Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding	20 marks
AO2	Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops	20 marks
AO3	Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress	20 marks
AO4	Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements	20 marks

Theme 1

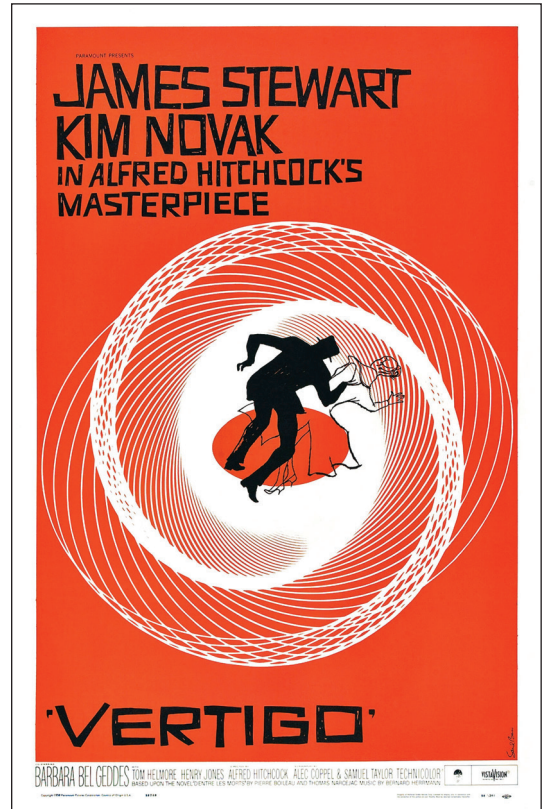
Spiral

'Spiral' has been a popular source of inspiration for artists, designers and craftspeople.

Respond to **one** from (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e).

(a) Coil, twist, twirl, curl, scroll, swirl, wind, wreath, corkscrew, helix...

(b)



- (c) *“Pick up a pinecone and count the spiral rows of scales. You may find eight spirals winding up to the left and 13 spirals winding up to the right, or 13 left and 21 right spirals, or other pairs of numbers. The striking fact is that these pairs of numbers are adjacent numbers in the famous Fibonacci series.”*

Stuart Kauffman, 1996.

- (d) A large spiral staircase manufacturer is offering commissions for art, design or craft in response to the following brief.

Explore, develop and produce a design for a large artwork to be displayed in the entry area of the manufacturer’s new facility. The design should be based on the theme of ‘Spiral’. The final piece can be for a wall or free standing. You are required to produce scaled designs that explore the theme using appropriate materials.

- (e) The portrayal of spirals and spiraling forms can be found in the work of practitioners such as:

Edward Wadsworth, Franco Grignani, Sun Woo (fashion design), Teri Howes, Victor Horta.

Either

- (i) In a medium of your choice, make several studies which explore this theme and produce a commentary on your selected context and techniques.

Or

- (ii) Design an exhibition of selected practitioners on the theme of ‘Spiral’. You should include written analysis of key works and related promotional material.

[80]

Theme 2

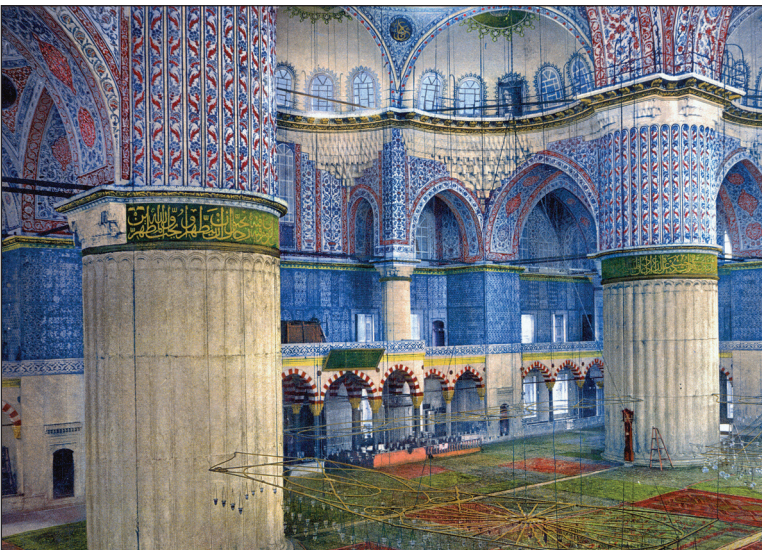
Architecture

'Architecture', both as a discipline and inspiration has been extensively explored by artists, designers and craftspeople.

Respond to **one** from (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e).

(a) Building, structure, facade, framework, construction, blueprint, armature, edifice, spatial design...

(b)



- (c) *“Fundamentally, you have to look at how architecture in the West has always been allied with power and wealth, whether it’s the monarchy, the state or private capital, and the church.”*

Mabel O. Wilson, American architect, designer, and scholar. Born 1963.

- (d) An architecture museum is offering commissions for art, design, digital presentation or craft in response to the following brief.

Explore, develop and produce a design for a mixed-media artwork to be displayed in the entry area of the museum. The final piece can be either two or three dimensional. You are required to produce scaled designs that explore the theme using appropriate materials.

- (e) The use and portrayal of architecture can be found in the work of practitioners such as:

Hélène Binet, Cydney Ross, Norma Merrick Sklarek, John Piper, Virgil Abloh (wearable cityscape jackets, Louis Vuitton Autumn-Winter 2021).

Either

- (i) In a medium of your choice, make several studies which explore this theme and produce a commentary on your selected context and techniques.

Or

- (ii) Design an exhibition of selected practitioners on the theme of ‘Architecture’. You should include written analysis of key works and related promotional material.

[80]

Theme 3

Hands

'Hands' have been a popular source of inspiration for artists, designers and craftspeople.

Respond to **one** from (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e).

(a) Fist, palm, fingers, nails, gloves, grip, hold, pass, gesture, articulate...

(b)



- (c) *“It is in your hands to create a better world for all. It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it.”*

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, South African anti-apartheid activist and politician, 1918–2013.

- (d) A craft society is offering commissions for art, design, digital presentation or craft in response to the following brief.

Explore, develop and produce artwork in response to the theme of ‘Hands’. The artwork will be used to create promotional materials which celebrate and promote hand made goods. You will need to produce design proposals and mock-ups in suitable materials.

- (e) The portrayal of hands can be found in the work of practitioners such as:

Pavan Dhanjal, Cornelia James, Omar Reda (photography), Dani Clode, Mario Irarrázabal.

Either

- (i) In a medium of your choice, make several studies which explore this theme and produce a commentary on your selected context and techniques.

Or

- (ii) Design an exhibition of selected artists on the theme of ‘Hands’. You should include written analysis of key works and related promotional material.

[80]

Theme 4

Tropical

'Tropical' has been a popular source of inspiration for artists, designers and craftspeople.

Respond to **one** from (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e).

(a) Tropical plants, tropical animals, jungle, lush, hot, humid, sultry, rain forest, equatorial...

(b)



- (c) *“These, and many other novel features – the parasitic plants growing on the trunks and branches, the wonderful variety of the foliage, the strange fruits and seeds that lie rotting on the ground – taken altogether surpass description, and produce feelings in the beholder of admiration and awe. It is here, too, that the rarest birds, the most lovely insects, and the most interesting mammals and reptiles are to be found. Here lurk the jaguar and the boa-constrictor, and here amid the densest shade the bell-bird tolls his peal.”*

Alfred Russel Wallace, English naturalist, explorer, geographer, anthropologist, biologist and illustrator, 1823–1913.

- (d) A botanical garden is offering commissions for art, design, digital presentation or craft in response to the following brief.

Explore, develop and produce artwork in response to the theme of ‘Tropical’. The artwork will be used to create promotional materials highlighting tropical plant species in the gardens. You will need to produce design proposals and mock-ups in suitable materials.

- (e) The portrayal of tropical places, life and culture can be found in the work of practitioners such as:

Marianne North, Beatriz Milhazes, Stella Jean, Caroline Gavazzi, Geoffrey Manning Bawa.

Either

- (i) In a medium of your own choice, make several studies which explore this theme and produce a commentary on your selected context and techniques.

Or

- (ii) Design an exhibition of selected practitioners on the theme of ‘Tropical’. You should include written analysis of key works and related promotional material.

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Theme 5

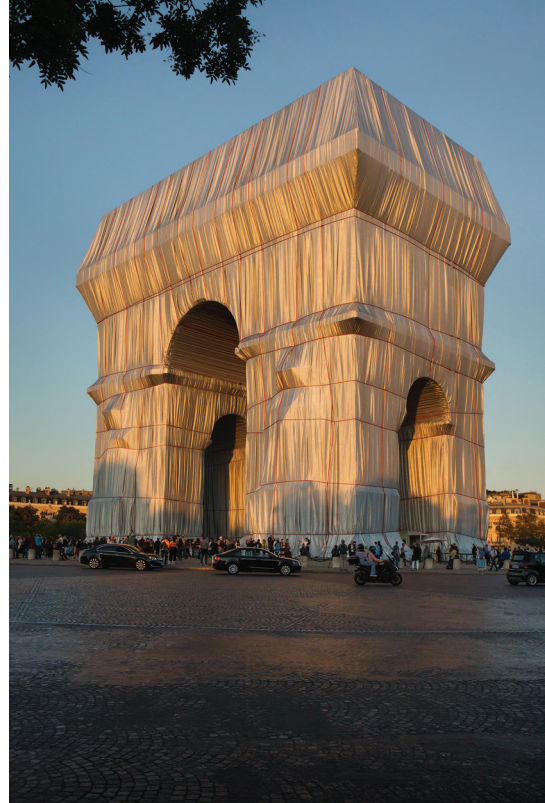
Mask

'Mask' has featured in the work of artists, designers and craftspeople.

Respond to **one** from (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e).

(a) Cover, veil, disguise, protect, conceal, cloak, camouflage, blanket, deceive, enshroud...

(b)



- (c) *“We wear the mask that grins and lies,
It hides our cheeks and shades our eyes, —
This debt we pay to human guile;
With torn and bleeding hearts we smile,
And mouth with myriad subtleties.*

*Why should the world be over-wise,
In counting all our tears and sighs?
Nay, let them only see us, while
We wear the mask.*

*We smile, but, O great Christ, our cries
To thee from tortured souls arise.
We sing, but oh the clay is vile
Beneath our feet, and long the mile;
But let the world dream otherwise,
We wear the mask!”*

Paul Dunbar, *We Wear the Mask*, 1896.

- (d) A national museum is offering commissions for art, design, digital presentation or craft in response to the following brief.

Explore, develop and produce a design for an illustrated poster to promote the museum’s collection of masks. You need to produce design proposals and mock-ups in suitable materials.

- (e) The use and exploration of all things masked can be found in the work of practitioners such as:

Guerrilla Girls, Claude Cahun, Bertjan Pot, Thandiwe Muriu, Yusuke Nakano and Takaya Imamura (*The Legend of Zelda: Majora’s Mask*).

Either

- (i) In a medium of your choice, make several studies which explore this theme and produce a commentary on your selected context and techniques.

Or

- (ii) Design an exhibition of selected practitioners on the theme of ‘Mask’. You should include written analysis of key works and related promotional material.

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Theme 6

Alphabets

'Alphabets' have been a popular source of inspiration for artists, designers and craftspeople.

Respond to **one** from (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e).

(a) Letters, symbols, characters, hieroglyphs, language, communication, speech sounds, sequence, graphic representation...

(b)



- (c) “A – B – C – D – E – F – G
 H – I – J – K – L – M – N – O – P
 Q – R – S – T – U and V,
 W – X – Y and Z.
 Now I know my A – B – C
 Next time – won’t you sing with me?”

Unknown author, *The Alphabet Song*.

- (d) A philological society is offering commissions for art, design, digital presentation or craft in response to the following brief.

Explore, develop and produce a design for a large artwork to be displayed in the entry area of the society’s main office. The design should be based on the theme of ‘Alphabets’. The final piece can be for a wall or free standing. You are required to produce scaled designs that explore the theme using appropriate materials.

- (e) The portrayal of the alphabets can be found in the work of practitioners such as:

Kellenberger-White (*Alphabet*), Paula Scher, Nasser Al Salem, Jasper Johns, Stephen Johnson (*Alphabet City*).

Either

- (i) In a medium of your choice, make several studies which explore this theme and produce a commentary on your selected context and techniques.

Or

- (ii) Design an exhibition of selected practitioners on the theme of ‘Alphabets’. You should include written analysis of key works and related promotional material.

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Theme 7

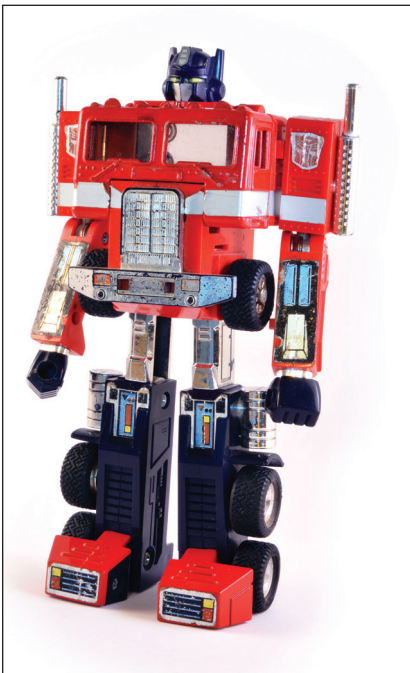
Metamorphosis

'Metamorphosis' both as process and outcome has been a popular source of inspiration for artists, designers and craftspeople.

Respond to **one** from (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e).

(a) Transform, change, alter, mutate, evolve, re-birth, transfiguration, translation, reform, remodel...

(b)



- (c) *“Metamorphosis is a remarkable process. The speed and extent of cell growth and differentiation is astonishing. In most species, such rapid growth and such sweeping changes to cell type only happen during embryonic development. Indeed, some scientists believe that the process of metamorphosis involves a sort of re-activating of genes that allow animal cells to change from one cell type to another.”*

The editors, *Biological Dictionary*, 2019.

- (d) A natural history museum is offering commissions for art, design, digital presentation or craft in response to the following brief.

Explore, develop and produce artwork for promotional materials that will be used to promote a special exhibition titled ‘Metamorphosis’. You should explore the imagery most suitable for the theme and produce appropriate outcomes. You must produce artwork for a range of promotional materials, such as posters, leaflets and website and one finished mock-up in an appropriate medium.

- (e) The portrayal and use of metamorphosis can be found in the work of practitioners such as:

Judith Scott (artist), The Haida people (transformation masks), The Surrealists, Tadeas Podracky (The Metamorphosis Collection), Maurits Cornelis Escher.

Either

- (i) In a medium of your choice, make several studies which explore this theme and produce a commentary on your selected context and techniques.

Or

- (ii) Design an exhibition of selected practitioners on the theme of ‘Metamorphosis’. You should include written analysis of key works and related promotional material.

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