





Advanced Higher Art and Design: Expressive portfolio evaluation

Candidate name:	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	Candidate number:	XXXXXXXXXX
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Centre number:	XXXXXXX
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State your theme or stimulus and give a summary of your creative intentions

My theme is 'Isolation in Mental Illness'. I explored the idea of mental health and decided to focus on problems caused by isolation. I aimed to portray negative emotions connected with being isolated, dealing with problems alone and feeling trapped in your own head.

Give a brief explanation of how your contextual analysis relates to your practical work

My Contextual Analysis is based on 'The Scream' by Edvard Munch. I chose this artwork because Munch expressed his pain and mental illness through his art. This connected well with my theme of 'Isolation in Mental Illness' and I was inspired by his subject matter, colour, techniques and the way he communicates emotion.

Instructions to candidates

Evaluate the impact of important creative decisions and the effectiveness of artwork with reference to the theme or stimulus, creative intentions and specific turning points.

(6 marks)

My first turning point was important as it helped me develop better use of colour and texture into my work. I started using more reds and blue to express emotion and the texture intensified these emotions. The impact of this turning point was that communication of emotions in the work was heightened and so mental illness and isolation could be better portrayed through the expressive use of colour. I decided in the end to not to explore the blue further as it had an association with water and calm emotions. I carried on using the red in my work because of the connection with anger and frustration. My second turning point led me to the use of cardboard. This decision was a good one as the cardboard created a great texture for inks to soak into and I could rip into it creating aggression. This idea of damaging became very important in my work and has big links with my theme. This allowed me to create bigger impact with my pieces on cardboard since I could make them more emotionally intense.

My third turning point led me to the use of string, this was important since it then led me on to using a lot of 3D work. The string added a textural element and suggested the idea of emotions being tangled. It gave me the idea of added more surface texture using different materials.

My last turning point was the tissue paper which developed the 3D media. I think the 3D work was really relevant because it created a lot of texture and impact and allowed me to create depth so that my face was hidden or pushed back.

I think the project has been effective because I manage to communicate intense emotion through my pieces. I found that the screaming expression conveyed the mental illness theme best since the scream gave a strong impact and the most intense emotions. The hands pulling diagonally against my face shows the frustration at one's self, this creates a damaged effect to the face distorting the face in any way possible. I managed to use vivid colour and texture to create intense emotional communication with the viewer.

AH Expressive Portfolio Commentary: Isolation – Portraiture	
Section 1 - Practical artwork	
Demonstrating a visually coherent and sustained expressive art enquiry, showing relevant investigative research and development of ideas, leading to the considered resolution of artwork(s)	
Effective	In this folio on the theme of mental health, the candidate aims to convey the “rawness” and insecurity of anxiety through facial expressions on rough surfaces. The development of this idea shows the screaming face taken through several techniques and alternative representations. The image of the scream is seen in painting, dark heavily textured backgrounds and faces bound or criss-crossed with cord. The process shows a coherent, if overly repetitive development of ideas. However, it is resolved in two quite thorough and adventurous outcomes. Further research into a wider range of source material might have allowed the candidate to show a more varied thought process in exploring other representations of mental instability
Showing a personal applied understanding of art practice by skilfully and creatively using materials, techniques and/or technology to explore and experiment with visual elements	
Highly effective	The idea of combining refined and detailed painting with expressive gestural marks is well suited to the candidate’s skills. Most of the drawing is well observed and the candidate shows confident use of tone and colour in painting. The expressive contrast of texture and collage is carefully balanced and seems to come directly out of the experiments with card, paint, ink, PVA and tissue paper. The idea of sewing through card with string to bind the face is not new, but it is valid technique in this context. It could be said that in repeating the image, the candidate has avoided too many alternative technical problems, but within the scope of the project there is lively experiment and good skills.
Section 2 – Contextual analysis	
Selecting an artwork with relevance to their enquiry and discussing the impact of related contexts through analysis of its features	
Effective	The contextual analysis begins with biographical references that are relevant to “The Scream”. Munch’s tortured life spent in the sick room or the desolate coastline complements the painting and is a context that throws light on the work. The work is well analysed through composition, colour, line and tone each shown to play a part in the expressive effect of the work. The section that explores who is doing the screaming is well done and makes for additional context. The links to Post Impressionism and comparison with Van Gogh’s “Starry Night” are well done and take you close to Munch’s influence on Expressionism.
Section 4 - Evaluation	
Evaluating the impact of important creative decisions and the effectiveness of their artwork with reference to the theme or stimulus, creative intentions and specific turning points	
Effective	This is a good description of the four points of development in the folio and the reason and benefits of making these turning points. There is some explanation of why particular direction was taken. The evaluation focusses only on an explanation of the positive and it would have been interesting to if the candidate had reflected on elements which presented some challenges or which they considered to be less effective.