

# EXAM SURVIVAL SHEET

Cambridge IGCSE Art & Design (0400) - the four Assessment Objectives, decoded

Your whole grade = 4 objectives x 25% each. Two components (Coursework + 8-hour ESA), both marked on all four.

## AO1 RECORD

25%

Record ideas, observations & insights relevant to your intentions.

- > Use mostly PRIMARY sources - your own photos & observational drawings
- > Record in several ways: sketch, photo, written note, colour study
- > Show real observation: light, texture, detail, viewpoint
- > Keep it relevant to your theme - not random images

## AO2 EXPLORE

25%

Explore & select appropriate media, materials, techniques & processes.

- > Experiment with a RANGE of media - paint, print, collage, digital
- > Show test pieces, swatches and trials
- > Then SELECT the best media for your intention - and say why
- > Link each media choice to the effect you want

## AO3 DEVELOP

25%

Develop ideas through investigation, showing critical understanding.

- > Show an idea EVOLVING over several stages
- > Reference artists & explain how they influenced YOUR work
- > Evaluate honestly: what works, what you will change
- > Make decisions and show your reasoning

## AO4 PRESENT

25%

Present a personal, coherent response that realises your intentions.

- > Produce a RESOLVED, coherent final piece
- > Make it PERSONAL - your voice, not a copy
- > Use the elements & principles of art with control
- > Show it clearly realises your original intention

## HOW YOUR 100% IS BUILT

25%

AO1 RECORD

25%

AO2 EXPLORE

25%

AO3 DEVELOP

25%

AO4 PRESENT

### TWO COMPONENTS, EACH 50%

Component 1 - Coursework (a project on a theme set by your teacher). Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment: supporting studies plus an 8-hour controlled test. Both are marked together against all four AOs.

The cheapest marks in the syllabus. Examiners reward notes that show thinking. Compare:

**AO1**

**WEAK** "I drew a flower."

**STRONG** "First-hand pencil study of a hibiscus from my garden - focusing on the curl of the petals and the deep tonal shift to the centre."

**AO2**

**WEAK** "I used acrylic."

**STRONG** "I tested watercolour, oil pastel & lino of the same shell. I selected lino because its bold cut lines best capture the ridged texture."

**AO3**

**WEAK** "I like this artist."

**STRONG** "El Anatsui's metal tapestries pushed me to repeat small units. I swapped his bottle-caps for cut paper to suit my theme of waste."

**AO4**

**WEAK** "This is my final piece."

**STRONG** "My final piece resolves my fragmented-identity theme: a self-portrait from torn Ankara, using contrast & unity to lead the eye to the face."

## SENTENCE STARTERS - keep these in your sketchbook

- > I recorded this from... (a primary source) because...
- > I experimented with... and selected... because...
- > I developed this idea by... / I changed... because...
- > My final piece realises my intention to... by using...
- > I observed that the light / texture / form...
- > Studying [artist] influenced my work by...
- > I evaluated that... works well, so next I will...
- > I used [element/principle] to create...

## 5 GOLDEN RULES

1. Primary sources beat internet images. 2. Annotate everything. 3. Show a range of media, then choose. 4. Reference artists and show their influence. 5. Make the final piece personal.