Art and Design terminology

The question paper contains specialist art and design terminology. To prepare effectively candidates should revise the meaning of the following terms.

Section 1 — expressive art studies

Term	Examples of points which could be expanded and explained in detail with reference to specific works	
Composition/ arrangement		placement of subject matter; arrangement of elements in a 3D work
		viewpoint/camera angle, focal point, pose, perspective, use of negative space, and balance
		description of the composition — e.g. triangular, circular, linear, cluttered, minimalist, naturalistic, and staged
		effect on mood and atmosphere
		effect on visual impact
Subject		people, places or objects shown in the work
matter/imagery		choice of subject matter — personal symbolism
		effect of the subject matter
		imagery — e.g. drawing, painting, illustration, photography, and fantastical images
		effect on mood and atmosphere
		effect on visual impact
Media handling		type of media, properties of the media
and/or techniques		dry media — charcoal, pencil, pen, oil pastel, and chalk pastel
		wet media — oil paint, acrylic, watercolour, ink, pen and ink, gouache, and tempera paste
		mixed media
		3D media — plaster, clay, bronze, resin, and found objects
		paintbrush, palette knife, and modelling tools
		printmaking — etching, intaglio, screen printing, collography, woodblock, and lino
		brushstrokes and application of media — e.g. blended, visible, painterly, expressive, energetic, and directional
		painting techniques — e.g. impasto, scumbling, dry brush, wet on wet, sgraffito, glazing, pointillism, and broken colour
		effect on mood and atmosphere
		effect on visual impact

Term	Examples of points which could be expanded and explained in	
	detail with reference to specific works	

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Colour		
Colour		primary, secondary, tertiary, and neutral
		saturated, tints, tones, and shades
		warm and cold
		complementary, contrasting, and harmonious
		monochromatic, multi-coloured, and restricted palette
		effect on mood and atmosphere
		effect on visual impact
Tone		illusion of light and shadow
		highlight, midtone, and shadow
		tonal range and balance
		application of tone — e.g. blended, flat, rough, graduated, chiaroscuro, grisaille, and sfumato
		description of tone — e.g. light, dark, wide tonal range, and contrasting
		effect on mood and atmosphere
		effect on visual impact
Line		outlines, edges, and leading lines
		effect on definition
		effect on composition — e.g. dividing the space, horizontal, vertical, diagonal, leading lines, and creating perspective
		quality of line — e.g. thick, thin, soft, hard, textural, light, heavy, and broken
		effect on mood and atmosphere
		effect on visual impact
Texture		the surface quality of a work
		the illusion of texture
		techniques used to create texture — e.g. visible brushstrokes, impasto, sgraffito, scumbling, collage, and tool marks in sculpture
		description of texture — e.g. rough, smooth, soft, hard, fine, and coarse
		effect on mood and atmosphere
		effect on visual impact
Pattern		repeating elements
		regular and irregular
		geometric, organic, and linear
		scale and proportion of pattern
		effect on mood and atmosphere
		effect on visual impact
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Term	Examples of points which could be expanded and explained in
	detail with reference to specific works

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Shape and/or form	2D — shape
	3D — physical form, mass, and negative space
	illusion of form
	quality of shape/form — e.g. organic, geometric, angular, fragmented, and contrasting elements
	techniques used to create form — e.g. carving, sculpting, and use of tone and colour $$
	scale and proportion of shape/form
	effect on mood and atmosphere
	effect on visual impact
	scale and proportion of pattern
	effect on mood and atmosphere
	effect on visual impact
Scale	dimensions of the work
	proportion of elements within the work — e.g. in proportion, out of proportion, realistic, and distorted $$
	description of scale — e.g. large, small, miniature, life-size, and larger than life
	effect on mood and atmosphere
	effect on visual impact
Style	having the characteristic of an art movement — e.g. Classical, Realist, Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, Expressionist, Futurist, Cubist, Colourist, Surrealist, Pop Art, and Photorealism — the way this is evident in the work
	description of style — e.g. painterly, realistic, graphic, expressive, experimental, geometric, and abstract
	effect on mood and atmosphere
	effect on visual impact
Mood and	the feeling communicated by the work
atmosphere	mood and atmosphere created by application of specific elements from categories above
	description of the mood and atmosphere — e.g. joyful, depressing, disturbing, mysterious, tranquil, lively, energetic, and dynamic
Visual impact	how striking and memorable an artwork is
	visual impact created by application of specific elements from the categories above

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Section 2 – design studies

Term	Exa	amples of points which could be expanded and explained in rail with reference to specific designs
Function		purpose of the design
		how the purpose has been considered
Fitness for purpose		how well a design fulfils its purpose — e.g. wearability, practicality, durability, ergonomics, balance, and weight
		how well it meets the needs of the target market/audience
Materials and/or		suitability/unsuitability of the materials
techniques		effect on appearance/style
		properties of the materials — e.g. lightweight, rust resistant, waterproof, durable, fragile, flexible, and rigid
		effect on cost of manufacture
		manufacturing techniques/processes — e.g. mass produced, handmade, bespoke, couture, moulded, and laser-cut
		effect on visual impact
Target		who the design will appeal to/who will buy or use it
market/audience		age, gender, income bracket, preferences, and personal style
		wide market, niche market, specific client, mass produced, limited edition, designer label, one-off, couture, and bespoke
		retail cost of design — affordable, exclusive, and status symbol
Style		having the characteristics of a design movement — e.g. Arts & Crafts, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, Bauhaus, De Stijl — the way this is evident in the design
		description of the style — e.g. futuristic, decorative, streamlined, and minimalist
		appeal to target market/audience
		effect on visual impact
Influences/sources of inspiration		natural world, man-made world, different cultures, and other designers' styles
		design problem; client requirements
		effect on appearance/style
		effect on visual impact
Imagery		images, photographs, and illustrations
		connotations of the imagery and symbolism
		key visual elements use to create the imagery
		appeal to target market/audience
		effect on visual impact

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Term	Examples of points which could be expanded and explained in detail with reference to specific designs	
Decoration	☐ applied decoration — e.g. embellishment, embroidery, beadwork, carving, and moulding	
	□ effect on appearance/style	
	□ appeal to target market/audience	
	□ effect on visual impact	
Layout	 arrangement of design elements — e.g. imagery and lettering in a graphic design 	
	□ balance, negative space, symmetry, and asymmetry	
	□ scale and proportion of different elements	
	□ effect on appearance/style	
	□ effect on functionality	
	□ appeal to target market/audience	
Lettering	□ use of typography in graphic design	
	□ effect on appearance/style	
	□ effect of scale, colour, tone, line, texture, and pattern	
	☐ fitness for purpose — readability	
	□ appeal to target market/audience	
	□ effect on visual impact	
Visual elements	□ colour, tone, line, texture, shape, form, and pattern — see definitions for expressive art	
	☐ effect on the appearance/style of the design	
	□ effect on functionality	
	□ appeal to target market/audience	
	□ effect on visual impact	
Visual impact	☐ how striking and memorable a design is	
	 visual impact created by application of specific elements from categories in this table 	

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