

PERFORMANCE CALCULATOR	Level 1			Level 2			Level 3			Level 4			Level 5			Level 6			
A LEVEL PERSONAL STUDY – SEPT 2016	LIMITED ABILITY			BASIC ABILITY			EMERGING COMPETENT ABILITY			COMPETENT AND CONSISTENT ABILITY			CONFIDENT AND ASSURED ABILITY			EXCEPTIONAL ABILITY			
Taxonomy	partial, inconsistent, literal, elementary, minimal, rushed, sporadic, naïve, lacking, disjointed, pedestrian, credible, study naively informs practical work, elementary use of written language			straightforward, deliberate, methodical, superficial, unrefined, simplistic reflection, plays safe, unresolved, study adequately informs practical work, adequate use of written language			predictable, makes progress, relevant, description not explanation, demonstrates intentions, appropriate, sufficient, control, thorough, adequate, signs of understanding, developing analytical skills, study consistently informs practical work, developing and broadening use of written language			diverse, effective, purposeful, consistent, coherent, imaginative, informed, some perception, engaged, fulfils intended aims, study perceptively informs practical work, consistent and effect use of written language			independent, realised, sensitive, creative, sustained, critical, perceptive, comprehensive, insightful, original, genuine creative journey, refined, in-depth reflection, exciting, genuine personal investigation, study authoritatively informs practical work, articulate and highly effective use of written language			inspired, surprising, unique, authoritative, genuine discovery, adventurous, accepting of the unexpected, challenging, synthesis of ideas, fully informed, questioning, dexterous, erudite, intuitive, daring, study informs practical work with sophisticated insight, highly articulate and sophisticated use of written language			
Personal study (AO1/A02/A03/AO4)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total mark for the Personal Study (part of A level Component 1):
Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding	LIMITED ability in the use of written communication and specialist terminology and LIMITED ability across the Assessment Objectives in the personal study			BASIC ability in the use of written communication and specialist terminology and BASIC ability across the Assessment Objectives in the personal study			EMERGING COMPETENT ability in the use of written communication and specialist terminology and EMERGING COMPETENT ability across the Assessment Objectives in the personal study			COMPETENT AND CONSISTENT ability in the use of written communication and specialist terminology and COMPETENT AND CONSISTENT ability in the Assessment Objectives in the personal study			CONFIDENT AND ASSURED ability in the use of written communication and specialist terminology and CONFIDENT AND ASSURED ability in the Assessment Objectives in the personal study			EXCEPTIONAL ability in the use of written communication and specialist terminology and EXCEPTIONAL ability in the Assessment Objectives in the personal study			
Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops																			
Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress																			
Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements																			

Using the performance calculators

All A level student work should be marked using the assessment grid in the accredited specification.

The performance calculators are a support tool to help you make accurate judgements about student work. There are two performance calculators:

- One for assessing A level practical work and written annotation
- One for assessing A level personal study

Step by step instructions

1. Choose the relevant performance calculator.
2. Take each Assessment Objective (AO) in turn.
3. Follow the AO across the chart (from left to right) until the work exhibits characteristics reflected in the taxonomies in the levels from 1 to 6.
4. Choose those taxonomy words that apply to the work (not all of them will) and write them in the appropriate box(es) on the performance calculator.
5. Writing the taxonomy words in the relevant boxes will give you a clear visual picture (like a graph) of the student’s performance for each AO (see the worked example below).
6. At any time, look at real student work that has been marked by our senior examiners. You can access real student work on our [website](#).
7. Circle the mark awarded or write the mark awarded in the far right-hand column.

A worked example

In AO1, an A level student may show **superficial** development and their analysis of other artists' work may be **unrefined**. They may show a **lack of understanding**, with **simplistic reflection** and **unresolved** connections to their resources. This would place this student firmly in the middle of Level 2 BASIC ABILITY. The student is solidly in this level, and would receive 5 marks for AO1.

	Level 1 LIMITED ABILITY			Level 2 BASIC ABILITY			Level 3 EMERGING COMPETENT ABILITY			Level 4 COMPETENT AND CONSISTENT ABILITY			Level 5 CONFIDENT AND ASSURED ABILITY			Level 6 EXCEPTIONAL ABILITY			
Taxonomy	partial, inconsistent, literal, elementary, minimal, rushed, sporadic, naïve, lacks skills, little creative intent <a href="#">Link to visual exemplars</a>			straightforward, deliberate, just adequate, methodical, <b>superficial</b> , <b>unrefined</b> , lacks <b>understanding</b> and focus, crude visual language, <b>simplistic reflection</b> , unresolved connections, plays safe, <b>unresolved</b> <a href="#">Link to visual exemplars</a>			predictable, <b>broadening</b> , makes progress, relevant, description not explanation, demonstrates intentions, appropriate, sufficient, control, emerging individuality, thorough, developing skills, adequate, lacks perception, signs of understanding <a href="#">Link to visual exemplars</a>			diverse, effective, purposeful, consistent, skilful, coherent, imaginative, informed, some perception, satisfies creative intent, engaged <a href="#">Link to visual exemplars</a>			independent, realised, sensitive, creative, sustained, highly inventive, critical, perceptive, comprehensive, in-depth, insightful, original, genuine creative journey, refined, highly skilled, in-depth reflection, pertinent connections, exciting <a href="#">Link to visual exemplars</a>			inspired, surprising, unique, authoritative, genuine discovery, adventurous, accepting of the unexpected, challenging, synthesis of ideas, fully informed, questioning, sophisticated, dexterous, fluent skills, erudite <a href="#">Link to visual exemplars</a>			
AO1 Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding (embraces analysis and articulation)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	AO1 total:
	LIMITED			BASIC			EMERGING COMPETENT			COMPETENT AND CONSISTENT			CONFIDENT AND ASSURED			EXCEPTIONAL			5
				<i>superficial development unrefined analysis lack of understanding simplistic reflection unresolved connections</i>															
AO2 Explore and select appropriate resources. media.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	AO2 total:
	LIMITED			BASIC			EMERGING COMPETENT			COMPETENT AND CONSISTENT			CONFIDENT AND ASSURED			EXCEPTIONAL			

This same student might be showing **broadening** understanding of some of their contextual references. ‘Broadening’ is in the taxonomy of Level 3 EMERGING COMPETENT ABILITY. The fact that ‘broadening’ applies to the work pushes the student towards the next level. This would place the student at the top of Level 2 EMERGING COMPETENT ABILITY so the student would receive 6 marks for AO1.

	Level 1 LIMITED ABILITY			Level 2 BASIC ABILITY			Level 3 EMERGING COMPETENT ABILITY			Level 4 COMPETENT AND CONSISTENT ABILITY			Level 5 CONFIDENT AND ASSURED ABILITY			Level 6 EXCEPTIONAL ABILITY			
Taxonomy	partial, inconsistent, literal, elementary, minimal, rushed, sporadic, naïve, lacks skills, little creative intent <a href="#">Link to visual exemplars</a>			straightforward, deliberate, just adequate, methodical, <b>superficial</b> , <b>unrefined</b> , lacks <b>understanding</b> and focus, crude visual language, <b>simplistic reflection</b> , unresolved connections, plays safe, <b>unresolved</b> <a href="#">Link to visual exemplars</a>			predictable, <b>broadening</b> , makes progress, relevant, description not explanation, demonstrates intentions, appropriate, sufficient, control, emerging individuality, thorough, developing skills, adequate, lacks perception, signs of understanding <a href="#">Link to visual exemplars</a>			diverse, effective, purposeful, consistent, skilful, coherent, imaginative, informed, some perception, satisfies creative intent, engaged <a href="#">Link to visual exemplars</a>			independent, realised, sensitive, creative, sustained, highly inventive, critical, perceptive, comprehensive, in-depth, insightful, original, genuine creative journey, refined, highly skilled, in-depth reflection, pertinent connections, exciting <a href="#">Link to visual exemplars</a>			inspired, surprising, unique, authoritative, genuine discovery, adventurous, accepting of the unexpected, challenging, synthesis of ideas, fully informed, questioning, sophisticated, dexterous, fluent skills, erudite <a href="#">Link to visual exemplars</a>			
AO1 Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding (embraces analysis and articulation)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	AO1 total:
	LIMITED			BASIC			EMERGING COMPETENT			COMPETENT AND CONSISTENT			CONFIDENT AND ASSURED			EXCEPTIONAL			6
				<i>superficial development unrefined analysis simplistic reflection unresolved connections</i>			<i>broadening understanding</i>												
AO2 Explore and select appropriate resources. media.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	AO2 total:
	LIMITED			BASIC			EMERGING COMPETENT			COMPETENT AND CONSISTENT			CONFIDENT AND ASSURED			EXCEPTIONAL			

If the student achieves even more words in the higher level, they may need to cross the boundary into Level 3 EMERGING COMPETENT ABILITY, and receive 7 marks for AO1.