



AS and A Level Art and Design

ESA SUPPORT

Guidance on the Externally Set Assignment papers

GCE Art and Design ESA support

What is staying the same?

There is much about the Externally Set Assignment (ESA) paper that will be familiar from the previous specification.

- We have retained the broad theme.
- We will continue to provide starting points for each title, and starting points will continue to be grouped by title.
- Students will still be free to use any of the starting points in the paper, regardless of the title they are studying.

What is changing?

We have taken this opportunity to make some small changes to the paper. These include:

- adding colour images to make the paper more visually accessible
- increasing the period of sustained focus for both papers to give your students more time in which to realise their final outcome(s) – at AS the period of sustained focus will increase from 8 hours to 10 hours, and at A level it will increase from 12 hours to 15 hours
- adding a page which gives guidance to those students studying the broad-based Art, Craft and Design title
- removing the starting points relevant to the Critical and Contextual Studies title, which is no longer offered
- removing the additional website and artist references – these will now be provided in a digital version of the ESA paper containing hyperlinks to website and artist references wherever possible
- changing the number of marks available for the Externally Set Assignment component – there are now 72 marks available for the Externally Set Assignment component at both AS and A level.

We are no longer able to release the ESA papers to teachers in advance of the release date to students. This is a regulatory change which applies to all awarding organisations.

Papers will be released on the following dates:

- AS – 1 January
- A level – 1 February

The papers can be shared with students from the dates listed above. However, you do not have to share the Externally Set Assignment paper with your students straight away if you don't want to. For example, you might want to take a few days to prepare resources and set up relevant visits before releasing the paper to your students.

Introducing the Externally Set Assignment paper to students

There are lots of ways in which you might like to introduce the Externally Set Assignment paper to students. You could:

- lead a class brainstorm based on the broad theme in order to help students generate personal ideas based on the theme
- lead a class discussion on the starting points in the paper
- give a presentation to the class, using the images provided in the paper to generate discussion and further ideas
- organise a visit to a gallery or museum to study work relevant to the theme
- arrange a visit to a local craft centre to generate ideas
- organise a trip out to draw and/or photograph ideas relevant to the theme, for example a trip to the seaside, a town/city centre, an old boatyard, or a National Trust house and garden.