

Frequently Asked Questions

Unit CM306 - Interaction

Q - What is meant by the term 'practitioner'?

A - A practitioner is someone who works in the creative and media industries. They will have produced a body of work that a candidate will be able to research and review.

Q - Can a practitioner be someone who works in one area of the creative and media industry?

A - The practitioner must work across more than one area. However, this might be from one particular creative and media sector. For example, a film director that has also been an actor or an artist who now works in the field of photography.

Q - Does it have to be a practitioner who is alive today?

A - No. It can be a practitioner who has a wealth of practice but is no longer living. The learner must ensure that they can find sufficient evidence to support their research if they choose a practitioner who is no longer living.

Q - Does the practitioner have to be one person?

A - Not necessarily. A learner could choose a small co-operative or small company where the members work collaboratively as practitioners. However, the learner must be aware that working in this way may pose problems when defining actual roles that the practitioners take and how this can be critically reviewed.

Q - How much information must there be about the practitioners work?

A - The candidate must provide evidence of their research into the practitioner and produce a research log that clearly indicates their research journey. The candidate must not simply provide information about the life of the practitioner but also identify key points in their life as a creative and media practitioner. The practitioner must have demonstrated that they can work or have worked across more than one discipline.

Q - What is meant by the term 'critical methodology'?

A - Critical methodology as defined in the specification is:

'You must learn how to critically respond to work by your chosen practitioner. To do this you need to develop an understanding of a critical method that is suitable to the kind of work you are studying.Your approach may be a kind of textual analysis which concentrates on the work itself, it may focus on the historical development of the work, or it may aim to relate the work to its cultural, social or political context....

You need to:

Develop your own critical abilities through studying the critical work of others

Develop a questioning approach to work produced by creative and media practitioners'.

Q - Do my learners have to sit this in an examination room with an invigilator?

A - No. The learners should have an opportunity to use the 90 Guided Learning Hours to undertake extensive research into their chosen practitioner. They then have approximately 15 hours to write up their investigations.

Q - Do the learners have to produce anything else besides their completed paper?

A - Learners can add an appendix (or appendices) of examples of their research or the work of the practitioner. There are no marks attached to this material but it may help the examiner to understand how learners constructed their research or the stimulus for their research. There are file size limitations so you should check in the specifications.

Q - Where can I find the question paper?

A - You will find this on the Edexcel website under Diploma and then Creative and Media. The paper is in a format that you can download and the learners can write into the document. You will collate all the learner's papers and send them to Edexcel on a CD or DVD.

Q - How do I submit the learners' work to the Examiner?

A - Work is submitted to the examiner on CD-ROM.

One CD per unit should be prepared. Learners' work must be burnt to CD+/-R.

A back-up copy of each CD should be retained in case CDs are damaged or lost within the postal system.

Q - How should I format the CD that is sent to the Examiner?

A - Each learner's work submitted to Edexcel must be in one of the following formats:

.doc Microsoft Word document

.rtf Rich Text Format

.pdf Portable Document Format (Adobe Acrobat)

If you are able to use Word to create your work then you should do so. It will be much simpler for you if you can use Word, because then your work is more likely to be compatible with other computers and it will also be easier to hand in.

If you do not have access to a PC with Word, then try to use an equivalent word processing programme. When the final document is complete it can then be saved as a Rich Text Format document or converted to a pdf file.

Q - How should candidates work be organised and named on the CD?

A - A separate folder on the top-most level of the folder tree should be used for each of the learner's work. Each folder should be named according to the following naming convention:

[centre #]_[candidate number #]_[surname]_[first letter of first name]

For example, John Smith with candidate number 9876 at centre 12345 would have work in a folder titled, "12345_9876_Smith_J"

Q - Should I test the CD prior to dispatching it to the moderator?

A - Yes. Prior to the CD being dispatched to the moderator it should be thoroughly tested to ensure that the files have burnt to the CD correctly, and that all files within each folder can be accessed..

Q - How should I label the CD that is sent to the moderator?

A - A label should be stuck on the top of the CD itself with the following information clearly marked: UNIT, EXAM SERIES

CENTRE NUMBER, CENTRE NAME.

Centre contact: NAME

EMAIL

TELEPHONE NUMBER