

# **VISUAL ART**

## **1. GENERAL COMMENTS**

The standard of the 2014 BDT (Visual Art) paper compares favorably with that of the previous year. The questions were based on the prescribed syllabus. Generally there has been a significant improvement in candidates performance. Candidates performance show a better understanding of most of the questions in their given area.

## **2. A SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES STRENGTH**

The following are some strengths identified in candidates work.

- Most candidates were focused. They stayed and worked within their chosen area.
- Most candidates answered the core skills questions well.
- Some candidates exhibited a high level of drawing skills in answering the question on the composition. The placement/arrangement of items, proportion, and shading were done well.

## **3. A SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' WEAKNESSES IDENTIFIED:**

- Poor utilization of answer spaces: Some candidates were not able to fit their answers in the space provided.
- Some candidates seemed to have very limited level of vocabulary. They did not know what a jug is therefore they drew only two oranges.
- Candidates had difficulty in understanding 'toy' and 'truck' some candidates drew dolls instead toy trucks.
- Some candidates demonstrated poor skills in drawing. There was a complete disregard for proportion, arrangement of objects and shading.

## **4. SUGGESTED REMEDIES FOR THE WEAKNESSES**

- Teachers should help candidates to be able to fit their answers in the space provided. Enough practice should be given.
- Candidate should be taught to read questions well and understand before attempting to provide answers.
- Drawing is an integral part of the curriculum and teachers should take a serious view of it.

## 5. DETAILED COMMENTS

### Question 1

(a) State the main method for cooking the following foods.

(a) Rice

(ii) Cake

(b) State four suitable methods of preserving fish.

(c) (i) List the type of pencil most suitable for the following operations- Lettering,  
Drawing outlines and shading.

(ii) List four methods of recording data for solving design problems.

(d) (i) State three benefits of packaging.

(ii) List two important information on a good package.

(iii) Draw a line to illustrate each of the following:

**Movement.**

**Texture.**

### Expected answer and performance

- Candidates were expected to write down boiling and baking in response to the methods of cooking rice and cake. Most candidates got boiling correct while others wrote down grilling instead of baking.
- For the methods of preserving fish, the expected response was – drying – smoking, - freezing and salting etc. Most candidates wrote down ‘grilling’ and ‘frying’.
- Most candidates performed badly in question 1c. they do not know the difference between hard and soft pencils to be able to make the right choice. Some candidates supplied the methods of recording data for solving design problems example Note taking, Computer, Drawing/sketching, Videoing, and Photographing. Others wrote about methods of carrying out design investigations instead.

### **Question 1**

(d) (i) Most candidates were able to state three or two benefits of packaging that is for easy identification, adds value, protects consumer/product, provides information, easy handling.

(ii) Requires a list of important info on a good package that is identification/name of package, instruction for use, date of manufacture and expiry. Some candidates performed badly by repeating the benefits of packaging.

(iii) Demands the drawing of a line to illustrate movement and texture. Most candidates were able to illustrate texture better than movement.

### **Question 2**

**(a) Explain the term design as applied in Visual Communication**

#### **Response**

The art of combining elements, words, letters, pictures, decorations etc. to communicate ideas.

#### **Performance**

This question was poorly answered. Most candidates ignored the key word 'design' and explained Visual Communication.

**(b) (i) Name the two major formats used in layout design.**

(ii) Draw two oranges and a jug in the space provided.

#### **Response**

The two major formats are 'Landscape' and 'Portrait' in 2(b)(ii)

A candidate is expected to place a jug and two oranges in a composition showing that the items are on a plane and against a background.

Performance

### **Question 2**

(b)(i) Was a problem for most candidates. Their focus was on 'layout' hence their answers were 'Asymmetrical' and 'symmetrical'. In question 2 (b)(i) some candidates showed high level of skills in drawing and shading. Others had problems

with the arrangement of jug oranges, proportion and drawing. Some candidates did not know what a jug is. They drew only oranges.

**(c) List five visual communication items used in advertising.**

Poster Sign Board Bill Board Banner Flyer Sign Post Hand Bill  
Sticker Label Tag

**Performance**

This question was very well answered by most candidates.

**(d) (i) State any three principles of design that is variety, proportion, balance, rhythm, dominance, scale, unity, harmony, repetition.**

**Performance**

This question was well answered by all except a number of them who confused principles with elements.

(ii) State five technique used in making pictures

**Expected answers are:**

Drawing/ sketching. Painting, Printmaking, Cartooning, silhouette, Pen and wash, Collage, Mosaic, Montage, Etching, Stenciling etc.

**Performance**

This question was also well answered.

**Question 3**

**(a) State four reasons for studying weaving and stitching**

Answer

- Future job opportunities.
- Vocations.
- Skills Development.
- Opportunity for apprenticeship.
- Domestic and tourist needs.
- Promotion of cottage industries.
- Promotion, preservation and transmission of culture.

**Performance**

Most candidates preferred question 4 to question 3. Most candidates who attempted question 3 stated two reasons out of the four demanded.

(b) Fill the blank spaces with words listed below to complete the passage on weaving and stitching.

Mats, Loom, time, materials, articles, thread, practiced, clothing, off-loom, twigs, weaving.

### **Answers**

The art of weaving and stitching has been practiced by man for a long **time**. When man felt the need for **clothing** and containers, he used **materials** like sticks **twigs**, leaves and skins. He made **articles** like clothing **mats**, hats and many more. All these are classified as **off-loom** items. In latter development **loom** were used for weaving.

### **Performance**

Candidates performed well generally. However the term ‘off-loom’ confused many.

(c) **Give five examples of woven articles.**

Answer

Kente, fugu, bag, basket, chair, sieve, fan, fish trap, mat etc.

(d) Name the two yarns used for weaving plain weave.

They are “warp and weft”. Surprisingly only few candidates got the answer correct.

### **Question 4**

(a) **Complete the passage on the passage of corn shuck by filling in the blanket spaces with the words provided.**

**Wrapper, ropes, pulled, twisting, dried, splitting.**

Passage: Corn shuck is harvested and **pulled** off the cob. It is then **dried** out and trimmed. At this stage, it can be used as food **wrapper**. It can further be processed by **splitting** for making **ropes**. The technique used in rope making is **twisting**.

(b) In the spaces provided, draw the following tools

- i. A pair of scissors.
- ii. Needle.

- iii. State one use of each tool drawn in 4(b) (i) and (ii).
- iv. State two ways of maintaining a pair of scissors.

Pair of scissors is used for cutting, trimming etc. Needle is used for sewing, stitching etc, some ways of maintaining a pair of scissors are by cleaning, drying, oiling, keeping in a tool box.

**Performance**

Candidates are more familiar with scissors than needle. Most of them produce the drawing of scissors. State what it is used for as well as how it is maintained. It is surprising that most candidates drew a nail instead of needle.

- (c) **In the table below, list a product of weaving and stitching and state one material used in making it.**

Process: stitching, knotting, plaiting, interlacing, weaving.

**Performance**

4(c) was poorly answered.

- (d) **List any three vocations in weaving and stitching and they are:**

Making items in macramé.

Coiled basketry.

Making basketry furniture/items.

Preparation of materials for sale.

Fabric construction etc.

**Performance**

Most candidates had their focus on stitching and wrote down tailoring and dressmaking, modeling, casting and carving.

**Question 5**

- (a) Explain the following terms

**Coiling**

Rolling clay into long rope and forming an item with it example pot, boot.

**Pinching**

Pressing a ball of clay between the thumb and fingers to make items.

**Carving**

Cutting away parts of material example clay, wood bit by bit to make items.

## **Casting**

Making a replica of an item by pouring liquid or semi liquid material into a mould.

## **Modeling**

Making items by pinching, pressing, adding bits of clay or other suitable materials.

## **Performance**

Most candidates were more familiar with coiling, carving and modeling. Some of them had no idea about pinching and casting.

(b) (i) **Match the following artifacts to their appropriate parts**

Sculpture – Armature

Tea pot – Spout

Performance

Most candidates did not have the slightest idea what the parts are

(b) (ii) and (iii) At what state can clay be used for modeling. It is plastic, pliable or soft state.

(ii) What material is heated to produce plaster of Paris.

(c) Identify and give the function of each of the tools illustrated.

Cutting wire, scraper and matlet.

(d) In four steps, describe how clay is prepared for modeling

The wet and the dry methods are as follows

Wet method

(i) Soaking

(ii) Mixing

(iii) Sieving

(iv) Wedging/kneading

dry method

(i) Pounding

(ii) Sieving

(iii) Mixing

(iv) Wedging/kneading

## **Question 6**

(a) **Fill the blank spaces with the words listed below to complete the passage on modeling, carving and casting.**

Experimented, industrial, clay, casting, shelter, methods, containers, times, roof, modeling.

## **Passage**

Modeling, carving and **casting** have existed since ancient times. Man realized the need for **shelter** in order to have a **roof** over this head. He had to use mud and clay. The process he adopted was **modeling**. He needed utensils and **containers** so he **experimented** and came out with **methods** like casting and carving. Today most household and **industrial** items are produced by these processes.

### **Performance**

Most candidates performed well. Some were a bit confused about shelter and roof and switched places.

(b) (i) The two main rocks that produce clay are feldspar and igneous.

(ii) List the two main types of clay.

They are Terra Cota, brown or brick red.

### **Performance**

Most candidates were ignorant about igneous rock. They were however able to answer question on types of clay and the colour of fired clay.

(c) (i) State two visual qualities of wood for carving

Visual qualities are: even grain, dry, hard, no knots, no cracks, no termite infestation etc.

(ii) List two materials used for carving apart from wood.

They are: stone, clay, POP, wax, soap, horn, bone etc.

### **Performance**

Most candidates did not understand the visual qualities of wood. They performed badly.

In question 5c (ii) most candidates did not read the question to the end. They ignored the phrase “apart from wood” so they listed wood as a suitable material for carving.

(d) (i) List any three items produced by modeling, casting and carving. They are ;

Tea cup, tea pot, plates, bowls, stool, grinding bowl etc.

(ii) List one tool and one material used for casting

Tool spatula, mould etc.

Material – clay, POP, cement, wax etc.

(iii) List two tools suitable for modeling.

They are; spatula, modeling tool, fingers.

### **Performance**

Most candidates answered 6d (i) well but they are not familiar with the tools hence their poor performance in 6(d) (ii) and (iii).

## CONSTRUCTION AND ASSEMBLAGE

### Question 7

- (a) (i) **In the spaces provided, make a sketch of a top truck.**
- (ii) **State and describe two methods of decorating a toy truck that has been constructed.**
- The methods are; Texturing, printing, painting, spraying, cutting and pasting.**

### Performance

Some candidates made bold attempts at drawing the truck and performed well others did not understand 'truck' and therefore they drew dolls. Question 7(a) (ii) was also misunderstood by some candidates. Perhaps there should have been a direct link between 7a (ii) and 7a (i) example "The truck drawn in 7a (i)".

- (b) (i) What is bookbinding
- It is the stitching, gluing, stapling or bonding of leaves/signatures together.
- (ii) In five steps, describe how to bind a single section book by sewing.
- Folding
  - Making three holes 'a c b' along fold
  - Piercing three holes at points a c b.
  - Sewing/stitching.
  - Trimming
- (iii) List two materials that can be used in the construction of a drum.
- They are; wood, empty cans, twine, leather etc.
- However some had problems with the sequence in the single section binding process.

### Question 8

- (a) (i) **List three vocations in construction and Assemblage**

They are; welding, fabrication, recycling etc

(ii) **Give two reasons for studying construction and Assemblage**

Future employment/vocation  
Skills development.  
Self expression.  
Business in recycling etc.

**Performance**

Most candidates could not answer this question fully.

(b) Describe the following processes in Construction and Assemblage.

- (i) Drilling: piercing/boring/making holes in a hard material using hand/electrical drill.
- (ii) Welding: joining two pieces of metal by the application of heat.
- (iii) Filing: cutting the surface of a material by using an abrasive tool.
- (iv) Scraping: method to smoothen a surface by using a cutting edge. Remove or cutting off unwanted material from surface.

**Performance**

Candidates are more familiar with drilling and filing is the least known process.

- (c) (i) What is origami?  
Paper folding technique of creating Art forms
- (ii) State one use of origami  
For decoration, recreation.

**Performance**

Candidates performed badly. They had no idea what origami is . most candidates made wild guesses.

- (d) (i) In the spaces provided, draw a book and label the following parts. Spine, cover, head, tail, fore-edge
- (ii) List two materials that can be used for making the book drawn in 8(d) (i) paper, card, leather, thread, glue.

**Performance**

Question 8(d) (i) and (ii) are among the best answered questions.

**FABRIC AND LEATHER DECORATION**

### Question 9

(a) (i) **State any two reasons why Fabric and Leather Decoration is studied in school**

Answer

- Future employment.
- Vocation.
- Self expression.
- Promotion/preservation.
- Transmission of culture.

(ii) Describe the processes listed below

Waxing: creating a design on a fabric by using hot wax.

Embroidery: creating designs on fabric by using threads and decorative stitches.

Printing: transferring designs from a block or screen onto a surface using ink or paste.

Dyeing: introducing colour into a fabric by immersing it in a dye bath

#### **Performance**

With the exception of Embroidery which seemed strange to most candidates, most of them performed well in 9(a) (i) and (ii).

(iii) List two synthetic substances used for dyeing fabrics.

- Potassium permanganate.
- Mordant dyes.
- Indanthrene.
- Rusted nails.
- Iron fillings.
- Reactive dyes vat dyes etc.

#### **Performance**

Most candidates performed well. They listed dyes which are not commonly used example sulphur, dispersed, dyes. Other candidates misunderstood the question. they listed vegetable dyes and other strange substances.

(b) **List any four items produced in fabric and leather**

Belt, mat, hat, napkins, scarf, book maker, purse etc.

- (c) In the space provided below, make a counter change pattern using a leaf motif to repeat six times.

**Performance**

More candidates are rather familiar with full/half drop patterns. Other candidates did not follow instructions. They did not use leaf motifs and they also repeated the motifs more than six times.

**Question 10**

- (a) (i) **In the boxes provided below, illustrate two decorative stitches and name them.**

- Chain stitch.
- Herringbone stitch.
- Blanket stitches.
- Stain stitches etc.

- (ii) **List two tools and two materials used for decorative stitches.**

Tools: needle, scissors.

Materials: fabric, leather, thread.

**Performance**

Question 10 was generally unpopular and the small number of candidates who attempted it performed badly. The few candidates who make sketches of stitches got the name wrong.

- (b) State two characteristics of each of the following materials.

Cotton fabric: strong, absorbent, washable, easy to dye, cool to wear.

Linen fabric: very strong, rigid, washable, less absorbent, cool to wear.

Leather: hard/soft, flexible, can be dyed/moulded.

- (c) (i) The inner side of a piece of leather is

Flesh side.

- (ii) The outer side of a sheet of leather is referred to as

Grain side

Performance

Candidates were completely ignorant about the characteristics of fabrics and leather as well as the terms flesh side and grain side. They misunderstood the characteristics of fibres. They described the cotton and flax fibre. They also mentioned source of leather being hides and skins.

(d) (i) Draw a continuous line to show how a long tong can be cut without any wastage from a circular piece of leather.

(ii) List two uses of a leather thong

Stitching, joining.

### **Performance**

Poor performance perhaps due to lack of knowledge about those topics in the syllabus.

