

TO: High School Principals, Art Supervisors, Testing Coordinators, and Lead Teachers of Visual Arts

FROM: Karen Rosner, *Coordinator of Visual Arts*, Office of Arts and Special Projects

RE: The 2016 New York City Commencement Examination in Visual Arts for High School Seniors

The NYC Commencement Examination in Visual Arts, a **closed** exam, is the culminating assessment for the high school major art sequence. It will be administered during Regents Week, on June 14th from 1:15PM to 4:15PM. Except for the student portfolio and reflective essay, all student work is graded centrally. This examination aligns with the *Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in Visual Arts*. The exam is administered to high school seniors only.

NOTE: Commencement Exam Order Form and Instructions for Completing Exam Order Form will be available at <http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/teachlearn/arts/curriculum.html> in early April and orders may be placed between April 11th and May 6th.

ELIGIBILITY

High school seniors who have completed **at least 10 credits** in Visual Arts coded coursework – or 9 credits if they have at least 1 credit in foreign language* – may sit for the examination. If successful they will receive the **Chancellor's Endorsed Diploma in the Arts: Visual Arts** from the Office of Arts and Special Projects upon graduation.

High school seniors who have completed **at least 6 credits** of Visual Arts coded coursework also may take this exam. If successful they will receive a **Certificate of Arts Achievement** from the Office of Arts and Special Projects upon graduation.

In both cases recognition may be placed on students' transcripts.

Attachments to this Memo include:

- A. Examination Scope, Format and Administration (2 pages)
- B. Portfolio: Area(s) of Specialization A. Presentation of Artwork
- C. Portfolio Rubric
- D. Portfolio: Area(s) of Specialization B. Reflective Essay
- E. Portfolio: Reflective Essay Rubric
- F. Teachers' Graphic Organizer for Entering Student's Portfolio Grade

Attachments B and D are to be given to students by March 28th so they may prepare their portfolios and write their reflective essays **before the exam**. The scores for the portfolios and the reflective essays are due to the Office of Arts and Special Projects no later than **June 3, 2016**. Schools will be sent an Excel spreadsheet to enter the data.

Sample exam: <http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/teachlearn/arts/Exit%20Exam/Sample%20Visual%20Arts%20Exam.pdf>

Address questions to Karen Rosner, *Coordinator of Visual Arts* at krosner@schools.nyc.gov

* As per Part 100 of the Regulations of the NYS Commissioner of Education

CC: Anna Commitante
Paul King
Grace Pepe
Borough Assessment Implementation Directors

EXAMINATION FORMAT

PART I - ART CONCEPTS: Design, Materials & Techniques, Cultural & Historical Connections - 30 points

Answer ALL 60 multiple choice questions

Print out the sample examination and refer to it as you read the following information regarding the Art Concepts section of the exam. The exam may be found at:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/teachlearn/arts/Exit%20Exam/Sample%20Visual%20Arts%20Exam.pdf>

Each work of art referenced in **Art Concepts** is used as a stimulus to ask design, technique, historical and contextual questions. Students should be familiar with the glossary in the *Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in Visual Arts*. They also should be aware of the chronological order of major art movements. Completing this section successfully does not rely upon students' detailed knowledge of art history (i.e. identifying artists and dates).

As an example of the scope of Art Concepts, images used in this section may be selected from but are not limited to the following art historical periods:

Ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome

Pre-Columbian

Renaissance

Impressionism

20th Century

Contemporary

In addition, works of art referenced in **Art Concepts** may be selected from a broad range of geographic and ethnic areas.

PART II - ESSAY: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION - 15 Points

An essay response based on a given premise, and on selected works of art included in the examination booklet.

PART III - PERFORMANCE APPLICATIONS - 25 Points

A. Two Dimensional Applied Design: a design application using a color medium (10 Points)

B. Drawing from Observation: a drawing from observation using a black and white medium (15 Points)

PART IV – PORTFOLIO: AREA(S) OF SPECIALIZATION - 30 Points (DUE PRIOR TO THE EXAMINATION)

NOTE: Part A and Part B must be completed before the examination. The Testing Coordinator will be emailed an Excel spreadsheet to enter these scores to be returned **no later than June 3rd**.

A. Presentation of Artwork (20 Points)

An evaluation of five student artworks demonstrating mastery in 1, 2 or 3 areas of specialization.

Areas of specialization include *but are not limited to*:

Architecture

Ceramics

Drawing

Painting

Photography

Printmaking

Sculpture

Video

Two-Dimensional Applied Design/Graphic Design

Fashion /Textile Design

Media Technology

Stage Design

B. Reflective Essay (10 Points)

An essay response based on the artwork in the student's portfolio

EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION

Ordering

Schools may order exams between April 11th and May 6th. The order form will be emailed to the Testing Coordinator as an attachment.

Grading of Part IV at Schools

Portfolio attachments must be distributed to students as soon as possible so they may prepare their portfolios and write their reflective essays *before the exam*:

- B. Portfolio: Area(s) of Specialization A. Presentation of Artwork
- D. Portfolio: Area(s) of Specialization B. Reflective Essay

Part IV A and B should be graded by a pair of visual arts teachers prior to the examination. The Testing Coordinator will be emailed an Excel spreadsheet to enter these scores to be returned **no later than June 3rd**. Portfolios must be returned to students.

On Day of Exam

Test is to be administered, where possible, in an art studio. Art materials including drawing pencils, conté crayons, color pencils, markers, 9" x 12" paper and scrap paper must be available in the examination room.

With the exception of the students' portfolios and their reflective essays, this examination is scored centrally. **Immediately** after the exam **ALL** booklets, **used and unused**, must be returned to:

Karen Rosner, Coordinator of Visual Arts
Office of Arts and Special Projects
4360 Broadway – Room 523
New York, New York 10033

This is a **closed** exam. The exam may not be copied or duplicated in any manner. It may not be used for review or practice in the future. The original answer sheets, essays, and on-demand artwork will be securely stored for at least two years at Central. The reflective essays graded at the school must be kept for at least two years.

DIRECTIONS FOR PACKING TESTING MATERIALS

1. Bundle all unused student booklets together
2. Bundle all Scantron answer sheets together
3. Make sure that the two on-demand performance applications have the **student's full name on the back**.
4. Insert the following **into** the student's exam booklet:
 - On-demand essay booklet
 - Both on-demand performance applications

THERE SHOULD BE NO LOOSE MATERIALS.

ALL exams delivered to the school must be returned to the Office of Arts and Special Projects. **There are no exceptions.**



Exam Number

The 2016 New York City Commencement Examination in Visual Arts

**PART IV - PORTFOLIO: AREA(S) OF SPECIALIZATION
A. PRESENTATION OF ARTWORK – 20 POINTS**

Directions to Students: Complete this form and submit it with your portfolio. Your portfolio of five artworks in **1, 2 or 3** areas of specialization will be graded holistically and not as individual artworks, according to the following criteria:

- use of the elements of art
- use of the principles of design
- mastery of materials and techniques
- engagement of the viewer
- originality and overall accomplishment

Name _____ School _____

Area(s) of Specialization _____

Fill in the information below regarding each of the five pieces in your portfolio. Each piece must be titled.

| | Title of Each Artwork | Subject | Medium | Size |
|----|-----------------------|---------|--------|------|
| 1. | | | | |
| 2. | | | | |
| 3. | | | | |
| 4. | | | | |
| 5. | | | | |



The 2016 New York City Commencement Art Examination in Visual Arts

PART IV- PORTFOLIO: AREA(S) OF SPECIALIZATION B - PORTFOLIO - RUBRIC

RUBRIC FOR GRADING STUDENT PORTFOLIO

| | 4 Points | 3 Points | 2 Points | 1 Point |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| USE OF THE ELEMENTS OF ART | The elements are successfully integrated into all of the works. | The elements have been used effectively in most of the works. | There is an attempt to apply the elements in some of the works. | There is little evidence that the artist has an understanding of the elements of art. |
| USE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN | The principles of design have been masterfully used in all of the works. | The principles have been used effectively in most of the works. | There is an attempt to apply the principles in some of the works. | There is little evidence that the artist has an understanding of the principles of design. |
| USE OF MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES | The artist demonstrates mastery of technique and control of material. | The artist demonstrates control in the use of the materials and techniques. | The artist demonstrates competence in the use of materials and techniques. | There is limited skill in the use of the materials and techniques. |
| ENGAGEMENT OF THE VIEWER | The portfolio elicits a strong emotional response from the viewer. | The portfolio exhibits expressive qualities that engage the viewer. | The portfolio has some interest for the viewer. | The portfolio does not engage the viewer. |
| ORIGINALITY AND OVERALL ACCOMPLISHMENT | The portfolio exhibits excellence through original interpretation, experimentation and presentation. | The portfolio exhibits many strong qualities. | The portfolio exhibits an attempt at original ideas and shows limited experimentation. | The portfolio lacks originality, accomplishment and pride in presentation. |



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PART IV - PORTFOLIO: AREA(S) OF SPECIALIZATION

B. REFLECTIVE ESSAY – 10 POINTS

Directions to Students:

The artwork you selected for your portfolio reveals your investigation of selected art media. In an essay of approximately 350 words, discuss the process of creating your portfolio addressing the:

- development of a personal style
- originality of artwork
- use of the elements of art and the principles of design
- use of materials and techniques
- use of English language conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation)

Refer to the artwork in your portfolio by a descriptive title. (All work must be titled.)



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PART IV- PORTFOLIO: AREA(S) OF SPECIALIZATION B - REFLECTIVE ESSAY - RUBRIC

| | In the Highest Level Responses, the Student | In the Middle Level Responses, the Student | In the Lowest Level Responses, the Student |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Meaning</p> <p>The extent to which the response exhibits understanding of the task and incorporates art concepts and vocabulary</p> | <p>Provides an explicit and thoughtful explanation of the process of creating the portfolio, making insightful connections between area(s) of specialization and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - originality of artwork - use of elements of art and principles of design - use of materials and techniques | <p>Provides a reasonable explanation of the process of creating the portfolio with some reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - originality of artwork - use of elements of art and principles of design - use of materials and techniques | <p>Provides a vague explanation of the process of creating the portfolio and may allude to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - originality of artwork - use of elements of art and principles of design - use of materials and techniques |
| <p>Development and Organization</p> <p>The extent to which the criteria discussed was specific and relevant</p> | <p>Develops ideas clearly and fully, making effective use of logical references while:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maintaining focus - exhibiting a logical and coherent structure | <p>Develops ideas inconsistently using some logical references while:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maintaining a basic focus but including some irrelevancies | <p>Develops incompletely with minimal use of logical references and shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lack of focus and structure |
| <p>Use of Language and English Language Arts Conventions</p> <p>The extent to which the response demonstrates effective use of sentence structure, sentence variety, spelling, punctuation, paragraphing, capitalization and grammar</p> | <p>Uses precise language with awareness of purpose and :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - varies structure and length of sentences for effect - demonstrates control of conventions | <p>Uses appropriate language with some awareness of purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - occasionally varies structure and length of sentences - demonstrates partial control of conventions with some errors which do not hinder comprehension | <p>Uses simple language that is imprecise or unrelated to topic and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - relies on sentences that lack variety and may be constructed incorrectly - demonstrates a lack of control of conventions including many errors that make comprehension difficult |



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TEACHERS' GRAPHIC ORGANIZER FOR ENTERING STUDENT'S PORTFOLIO GRADE

Note: The student portfolio is to be judged **holistically** and not by individual artworks.

Each item is graded between 1 and 4 points. **Refer to Rubric in Attachment C.**

| | Criteria | Points | Grading Teacher A Initials | Grading Teacher B Initials |
|---------------------|--|--------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | Use of the Elements of Art | | | |
| 2. | Use of the Principles of Design | | | |
| 3. | Mastery of Materials and Techniques | | | |
| 4. | Engagement of the Viewer | | | |
| 5. | Originality and Overall Accomplishment | | | |
| TOTAL POINTS | | | | |

Teacher A. _____
Please print name

Teacher B. _____
Please print name