



MEMORANDUM

March 12, 2015

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 2015 New York City Commencement Examination in Visual Arts

The New York City Comprehensive Examination in Visual Arts, a **closed** exam, is the culminating assessment for the high school major art sequence. The examination will be administered during Regents Week, on Tuesday, June 16th from 1:15PM to 4:15PM. **Note that beginning this year, except for the student portfolio and reflective essay, all student work will be graded centrally. Look for red text throughout this document.**

ELIGIBILITY:

- Students who have completed at least 10 credits in Visual Arts coded coursework – or 9 credits if they have foreign language* – may sit for the examination, and if successful will receive the **Chancellor’s Endorsed Diploma in the Arts: Visual Arts**.
- Students who have completed at least 6 credits of Visual Arts coded coursework also may take this exam, and if successful will receive a **Certificate of Arts Achievement** from the Office of Arts and Special Projects upon graduation.

Either recognition may be placed on students’ transcripts.

Attachment A outlines the scope and format of the examination.

- This examination aligns with the *Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in Visual Arts*.
- Attachments:
 - A. Examination 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

Commencement Exam Order Form and Instructions for Completing Exam Order Form will be available at <http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/teachlearn/arts/curriculum.html> by the end of March.

Attachments B and D should be given to students by March 20th so they may prepare their portfolios and write their reflective essays before the exam.

A sample examination may be found at <http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/teachlearn/arts/curriculum.html> (Scroll down to bottom of the page for Sample Commencement Examination)

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 L. King
Grace Pepe
Borough Assessment Implementation Directors

The 2015 New York City Commencement Examination in Visual Arts

EXAMINATION FORMAT

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

Answer ALL 60 multiple choice questions

It is important that you 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/curriculum.html>

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

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 (Both Part A and Part B are due prior to the examination)

NEW THIS YEAR: Testing Coordinator will be mailed an Excel spreadsheet to enter these scores and return, no later than June 5th.

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	Photography
Ceramics	Printmaking
Drawing	Sculpture
Fashion /Textile Design	Stage Design
Media Technology	Two-Dimensional Applied Design/Graphic Design
Painting	Video

B. Reflective Essay - 10 Points

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

EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION

Schools may order exams between April 13th and May 1st schools. The order form will be emailed to the testing coordinator as an attachment.

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

NOTE: Part IV is to be submitted for grading prior to examination date.

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 crayon, color pencils, markers, 9" x 12" paper and scrap paper must be available in the examination room.

NEW THIS YEAR: With the exception of the student portfolios and their reflective essays, this examination will now be 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
333 Seventh Avenue – Room 801
New York, New York 10001

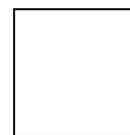
DIRECTIONS FOR PACKING:

1. Bundle all unused student booklets together
2. Bundle all Scantron answer sheets together
3. Make sure that the two on-demand art activities 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 art activities

THERE SHOULD BE NO LOOSE MATERIALS.

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

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 and essays are to be securely stored for at least one year. These materials may be requested at a later date as part of an on-going assessment process.



Exam Number

The 2015 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 2015 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.



The 2015 New York City Commencement Examination in Visual Arts

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