

Optional framework for structuring the comparative study

Introduction

- Introduce area of interest and any common theme or concepts that underpin the comparison.

The artworks and their context

Identify and discuss the selected art works in terms of their

- cultural and historical context
- formal qualities
- function and purpose
- cultural, material and conceptual significance.

Making connections between the works

Make clear links between the artworks. You could:

- compare the cultural contexts of the work – how are they shaped by their culture and time?
- compare the formal qualities – how are they similar? How do they differ?
- compare the content, motifs, signs, symbols – how is meaning communicated?
- compare the material and conceptual significance – how is this related to cultural context?

Connections with own art (HL only)

Reflect on the relationship with your own artwork in terms of:

- cultural context
- formal qualities
- function and purpose
- materials, conceptual and cultural significance.

Note: Include images of your own artwork and reference just as you would the other works: title, medium, size, date.

Sources

Include a separate list of sources used for investigation (Bibliography).

Presentation

Your presentation should be visually engaging, interesting to look at and easy to read. The CS is not an essay. It is a visual presentation that balances written and visual content; it can include journal pages, handwriting, drawings, diagrams, photos and text.

You can develop your investigation in a Word document or in your visual journal, collecting images and background information on artists and adding your interpretations, evaluations and visual analysis. To create your digital presentation you can assemble your pages on paper, photograph/scan and add text or design elements digitally, or work directly on screen: this is a matter of personal preference.

A visually engaging presentation includes a variety of interesting visual approaches and is clear and easy for the person reading it to follow. Some suggestions to keep in mind:

- Pay attention to design, balancing visual and written content.
- Use clear, good-quality photos, and detailed close-ups.
- Include your own drawings or extracts from your visual journal.
- Label all images and include full references on separate source page.
- Label your own work clearly as such.
- Use subject-specific art language accurately and appropriately.
- Use sub-headers to help clarify content, such as 'Function and purpose'.