

Sample Assessment Schedule 2026

Design and Visual Communication: Initiate design ideas through exploration (91627)

Assessment Criteria

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<p><i>Initiate design ideas through exploration</i> involves the candidate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> using an authentic context to generate starting ideas using visual communication strategies to interrogate and regenerate starting ideas to create initial conceptual design ideas. 	<p><i>Initiate design ideas through purposeful exploration</i> involves the candidate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> using visual communication strategies to reflect on and refine design ideas to improve initial conceptual designs. 	<p><i>Initiate design ideas through extensive exploration</i> involves the candidate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> using visual communication strategies to critically examine, extend, and transform design ideas to form conceptual designs.

Evidence

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<p>The candidate has generated and regenerated starting shapes (2D ideas) and forms (3D ideas) that have led to initial spatial or product design ideas.</p> <p>Starting ideas show the candidate’s own visual response (as abstract or sculptural shapes and forms) but may not necessarily show function.</p> <p>Starting ideas explore alternatives and variations of shapes and/or forms through divergent thinking.</p> <p>Design ideas have identifiable functional and aesthetic qualities that are relevant for either spatial or product design.</p>	<p>The candidate has explored spatial or product design ideas that have been reflected on and refined to show improvements to their earlier design ideas.</p> <p>Design ideas have been explored with some decision-making around the selecting of design ideas in relation to the design context.</p> <p>Design ideas show consideration of what is being designed, where it is being designed (site or place), or who it is being designed for (people).</p>	<p>The candidate has explored spatial or product design ideas that have been critically examined, extended, and transformed.</p> <p>Design ideas have been extended with some visual critique and further exploration leads to decisions that transform some aspects of the design through innovative, new, or unexpected thinking.</p>

N1	N2	A3	A4	M5	M6	E7	E8
No starting ideas or design ideas connected to an authentic context are evident.	Only starting ideas or one design idea connected to an authentic context is evident.	Design ideas are beginning to be visually derived from an authentic context, and starting ideas are generated and regenerated .	Design ideas are clearly visually derived from an authentic context, and starting ideas are generated and regenerated.	A design keeps exploring visually in relation to any original starting idea and with some consideration of its design context .	A design keeps exploring visually with intention in relation to any original starting idea and with consideration to its design context.	A design extends any initial design ideas through exploring with some visual critique .	A design transforms any initial design ideas through exploring with some aspect of innovative, new or unexpected thinking .

N0 = No response; no relevant evidence.

Notes

- An *authentic context* requires the candidate to demonstrate at some point (either through starting ideas or design ideas) where their ideas are meaningful for them.
- *Visual communication strategies* require the candidate to visually interrogate and regenerate starting ideas and design ideas through explorative approaches such as recombination, repetition, exaggeration, rotation, reduction, deconstruction, etc.

Cut Scores

Not Achieved	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
0–2	3–4	5–6	7–8