

Cambridge International AS & A Level

ART & DESIGN**9479/03**

Paper 3 Personal Investigation

October/November 2025**MARK SCHEME**Maximum Mark: 100

Published

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge International is publishing the mark schemes for the October/November 2025 series for most Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International A and AS Level components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

This document consists of **7** printed pages.

PUBLISHED**Generic Marking Principles**

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptions for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:

Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of response required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:

Marks awarded are always **whole marks** (not half marks, or other fractions).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3:

Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers, as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme, referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:

Rules must be applied consistently, e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5:

Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 6:

Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

Annotations guidance for centres

Examiners use a system of annotations as a shorthand for communicating their marking decisions to one another. Examiners are trained during the standardisation process on how and when to use annotations. The purpose of annotations is to inform the standardisation and monitoring processes and guide the supervising examiners when they are checking the work of examiners within their team. The meaning of annotations and how they are used is specific to each component and is understood by all examiners who mark the component.

We publish annotations in our mark schemes to help centres understand the annotations they may see on copies of scripts. Note that there may not be a direct correlation between the number of annotations on a script and the mark awarded. Similarly, the use of an annotation may not be an indication of the quality of the response.

The annotations listed below were available to examiners marking this component in this series.

Annotations

Annotation	Meaning
	Indicates that a page has been seen by the examiner

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Marks	AO1: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress 25 marks	AO2: Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops 25 marks	AO3: Develop ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding 25 marks	AO4: Present a personal and coherent response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements 25 marks
21–25	Excellent skill in recording observations and insights from a variety of sources, relevant to intentions Highly accomplished ability to reflect critically on work and progress Excellent use of specialist language and appropriate technical vocabulary	Exploration and selection of relevant resources, media, materials, techniques and processes are excellent Highly accomplished and sophisticated ability to review and refine ideas as work develops Excellent communication of ideas through visual and other forms	Excellent development of ideas through focused investigations Analytical and critical understanding demonstrated through highly accomplished and mature referencing of personal, contextual and other sources Perceptive integration of practical and written elements	Excellent realisation of intentions demonstrated through an excellent use of visual language Highly accomplished and mature connections made between visual and other elements Work demonstrates an excellent level of engagement and independence
16–20	Confident skill in recording observations and insights from a variety of sources, relevant to intentions Highly effective ability to reflect critically on work and progress Confident use of specialist language and appropriate technical vocabulary	Confidently explores and selects relevant resources, media, materials, techniques and processes Highly effective ability to review and refine ideas as work develops Confident communication of ideas through visual and other forms	Confident development of ideas through focused investigations Highly effective analytical and critical understanding demonstrated through thorough and careful referencing of personal, contextual and other sources Confident integration of practical and written elements	Confident realisation of intentions demonstrating an effective use of visual language Highly effective connections made between visual and other elements Work demonstrates a highly effective level of engagement and independence

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Marks	AO1: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress 25 marks	AO2: Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops 25 marks	AO3: Develop ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding 25 marks	AO4: Present a personal and coherent response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements 25 marks
11–15	Competent skill in recording observations and insights from a variety of sources, relevant to intentions Good ability to reflect critically on work and progress Competent use of specialist language and appropriate technical vocabulary	Competent exploration and selection of relevant resources, media, materials, techniques and processes Good ability to review and refine ideas as work develops Good communication of ideas through visual and other forms	Competent development of ideas through focused investigations Good analytical and critical understanding demonstrated through careful referencing of personal, contextual and other sources Good integration of practical and written elements	Competent realisation of intentions demonstrating a good use of visual language Good connections made between visual and other elements Work demonstrates a competent level of engagement and independence
6–10	Satisfactory skill in recording observations and insights from a variety of sources, relevant to intentions Adequate ability to reflect critically on work and progress Satisfactory use of specialist language and appropriate technical vocabulary	Adequate exploration and selection of relevant resources, media, materials, techniques and processes Satisfactory ability to review and refine ideas as work develops Satisfactory communication of ideas through visual and other forms	Satisfactory development of ideas through focused investigations Adequate analytical and critical understanding demonstrated through some referencing of personal, contextual and other sources Adequate integration of practical and written elements	Satisfactory realisation of intentions demonstrating an adequate use of visual language Adequate connections made between visual and other elements Work demonstrates an adequate level of engagement and independence

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Marks	AO1: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress 25 marks	AO2: Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops 25 marks	AO3: Develop ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding 25 marks	AO4: Present a personal and coherent response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements 25 marks
1–5	Limited skill in recording observations and insights from a variety of sources, relevant to intentions Basic ability to reflect critically on work and progress Limited use of specialist language and appropriate technical vocabulary	Limited exploration and selection of relevant resources, media, materials, techniques and processes Basic ability to review and refine ideas as work develops Basic communication of ideas through visual and other forms	Basic development of ideas Limited analytical and critical understanding demonstrated through basic referencing of personal, contextual and other sources Limited integration of practical and written elements	Limited realisation of intentions demonstrating a basic use of visual language Basic connections made between visual and other elements Work demonstrates a limited level of engagement and independence
0	No creditable work	No creditable work	No creditable work	No creditable work