



Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board



Cambridge Assessment
International Education

**Singapore–Cambridge General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Higher 3 (2025)**

**Art
(Syllabus 9818)**

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INTRODUCTION

The Higher 3 (H3) Level Art syllabus complements the Higher 2 (H2) Level Art syllabus by providing students who have exceptional interest and ability with opportunities to be engaged in the Theory of Art. The H3 Level Art syllabus enhances the competencies acquired in the H2 Level and further challenges students to think beyond the making and appreciation of Art. It engages students in theoretical and critical discourses of Art in the way it is perceived, defined and practiced. The H3 Level Art syllabus lays a foundation for academic engagement in Art at the tertiary level.

AIMS

The aims of the syllabus are to:

- nurture an informed understanding and appreciation of the purpose of Art in society and culture
- foster critical inquiry and independent thought
- lay a foundation for the academic pursuit of Art at tertiary level
- cultivate a life-long passion for the visual arts and a strong disposition for aesthetic valuing and criticism.

SYLLABUS CONTENT

The Theory of Art introduces students to the theoretical frameworks that govern the perception and practice of Art and cultivates intellectual discipline and critical thinking. Students become acquainted with different ideas and perspectives through recommended readings and class discussions. They will acquire methodologies of inquiry and analysis to formulate independent opinions regarding the definition of Art and its role in society.

The syllabus content is organised under two broad topics – ‘What is Art?’ and ‘How is Art Relevant to Contemporary Society?’ These topics facilitate student investigation of Art and explore its significance and function in our lives.

What is Art?

Students are introduced to key writings that deal with the definition of Art. They will explore key theoretical frameworks on the purpose/purposes of Art, namely that of Imitation, Expression and the Representation of Form from both Eastern and Western perspectives. The readings challenge students to question the premises that define and validate Art and its practice.

Sub-topics:

- Introduction to Theories on Imitation, Expression and the Representation of Form
- Art Theory of Eastern Culture

How is Art Relevant to Contemporary Society?

Students will examine the role of Art in relation to the development of contemporary society. They will review the influence of Art on contemporary culture and the mass media.

Sub-topics:

- The Arts and the Mass Media
- Art and Culture
- The Role of Patronage and the Status of the Artist

SUGGESTED READINGS

- **Introduction to Theories on Imitation, Expression and the Representation of Form**

- 1 Sheppard, A (1987). *Aesthetics: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Art*. Oxford University Press.
- 2 Berger, J (1995). *Ways of Seeing*. Penguin.
- 3 Tolstoy, L (1995). *What is Art?* Penguin.

- **Art Theory of Eastern Culture**

- 1 O'Riley, M K (2001). *Art Beyond the West*. Calmann & King Ltd.
- 2 Thorp, R L & Vinograd, R E (2001). *Chinese Art and Culture*. Harry N. Abrams.
- 3 Li Zehou (trans. by Song Lizeng) (1994). *The Path of Beauty*. Oxford University Press.
- 4 Irwin, R (1997). *Islamic Art in Context*. Prentice Hall.
- 5 Masahiro, U & Toshiko, R (eds). (1997). *The Birth of Modern Art in Southeast Asia: Artists and Movements*. Fukuoka Art Museum.

- **The Arts and the Mass Media**

- 1 Walker, J (2001). *Art in the Age of Mass Media (3rd Ed.)*. Pluto Press.

- **Art and Culture**

- 1 Read, H (1963). *To Hell with Culture: & Other Essays on Art & Society*. Schocken Books.
- 2 Heywood, I (1998). *Social Theories of Art*. New York University Press.

- **The Role of Patronage and the Status of the Artist**

- 1 Chipp, W H (1989). *The Theories of Modern Art*. University of California Press.

SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT

Candidates taking the H3 Level Art Examination will be required to offer Paper 1: Theory of Art.

Paper	Description	Examination Duration	Weighting	Requirement
Paper 1	Theory of Art	2 hours	100%	Compulsory

WEIGHTING AND ASSESSMENT OF PAPER

Level	Requirement	Assessment	Weighting
'A' (H3)	Paper 1 (Theory of Art)		
	Compulsory	2 hours Four essay questions will be set. Candidates must answer two questions.	100%
	Total marks		60

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

Paper 1: Theory of Art

The following assessment objectives define a range of assessable qualities and skills which can be demonstrated by candidates at this level.

The assessment criteria are as follows:

Candidates should be able to:

- demonstrate an informed understanding of Art theories and their implications
- organise and present a coherent argument
- critically analyse Art practice in the light of its social and cultural contexts
- demonstrate critical thinking and consistent inquiry into issues, themes and problems
- express personal opinions, beliefs and critical responses towards issues discussed.