



Cambridge Assessment  
International Education

Example Candidate Responses

Component 3

# Cambridge International AS & A Level Art & Design 9704

For examination from 2017



Version 1.0

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## Introduction

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The main aim of this booklet is to exemplify standards for those teaching Cambridge International AS & A Level Art & Design (9704), and to show how candidate's performance relates to the subject's curriculum and assessment objectives.

In this booklet candidate's work is derived from June 2016.

The work is annotated with clear explanation of where and why marks were awarded or omitted. This is followed by moderator comments on how the response could have been improved. In this way, it is possible for you to understand what candidates have done to gain their marks and what they could do to improve their response.

This document provides illustrative examples of candidate work with moderator commentary. These help teachers to assess the standard required to achieve marks beyond the guidance of the mark scheme.

The information about assessment objective has been given below.

### 4.2 Assessment objectives

The assessment objectives have been grouped under the following categories:

#### A Personal Qualities

Candidates are expected to show:

- i. an individual, sensitive and creative response to a stimulus; ability to develop an idea, theme or subject;
- ii. independence in concept and execution.

#### B Manipulative, Artistic and Analytical Skills

Candidates are expected to:

- iii. select and control materials, processes and techniques in an informed and disciplined way to meet an objective;
- iv. select and record analytically from direct observation and personal experience.

#### C Aesthetic Qualities

Candidates are expected to:

- v. use and compose formal elements (contour, shape, colour/tone, texture, structure and the relationships between form and space) as appropriate.

#### D Knowledge and Critical Understanding

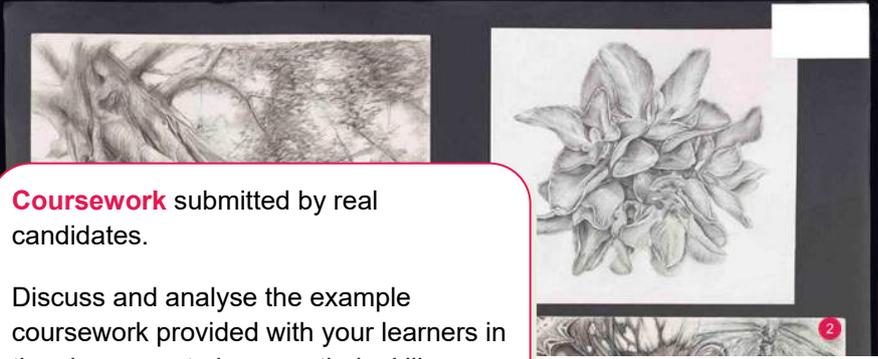
Candidates are expected to:

- vi. select and communicate information relevant to an idea, subject or theme and evaluate this in a systematic way;
- vii. make critical judgements and use personal ideas and images to show they are developing appreciation and cultural awareness.

Each of the assessment objectives is of equal importance and candidates will find there is a great deal of overlap between categories.

Other teacher support materials are available on the School Support Hub  
[www.cambridgeinternational.org/support](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/support)

## How to use this booklet

Example Candidate Response – high 1	Moderator comments
 <p><b>Coursework</b> submitted by real candidates.</p> <p>Discuss and analyse the example coursework provided with your learners in the classroom to improve their skills.</p>	<p><b>1</b> Observational studies which demonstrate an exceptional ability to record information. The studies also show how to use different focuses and perspectives to create</p> <p><b>Moderator comments</b> are alongside the answers. These explain where and why marks were awarded. This helps you to interpret the standard of Cambridge exams so you can help your learners to refine their exam technique.</p>

## How the candidate could have improved their coursework

The candidate could have improved their course more in-depth exploration of the final idea. Although the final piece, the imagery is not as fully developed in the manipulation of the figure, particularly the

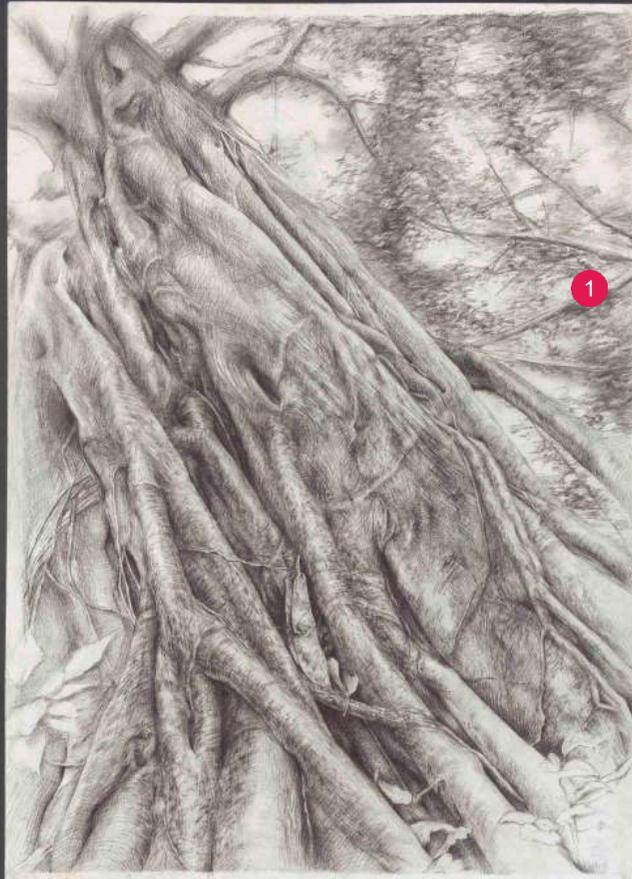
The preparatory work sheets contained written in context of the work however the visual exploration of the remains fairly derivative. The research although relevant is not used as well as it could be.

This section explains how the candidate could have improved their coursework. This helps you to interpret the standard of Cambridge assessments and helps your learners to refine their technique.

## Coursework

### Example Candidate Response 1

### Moderator comments

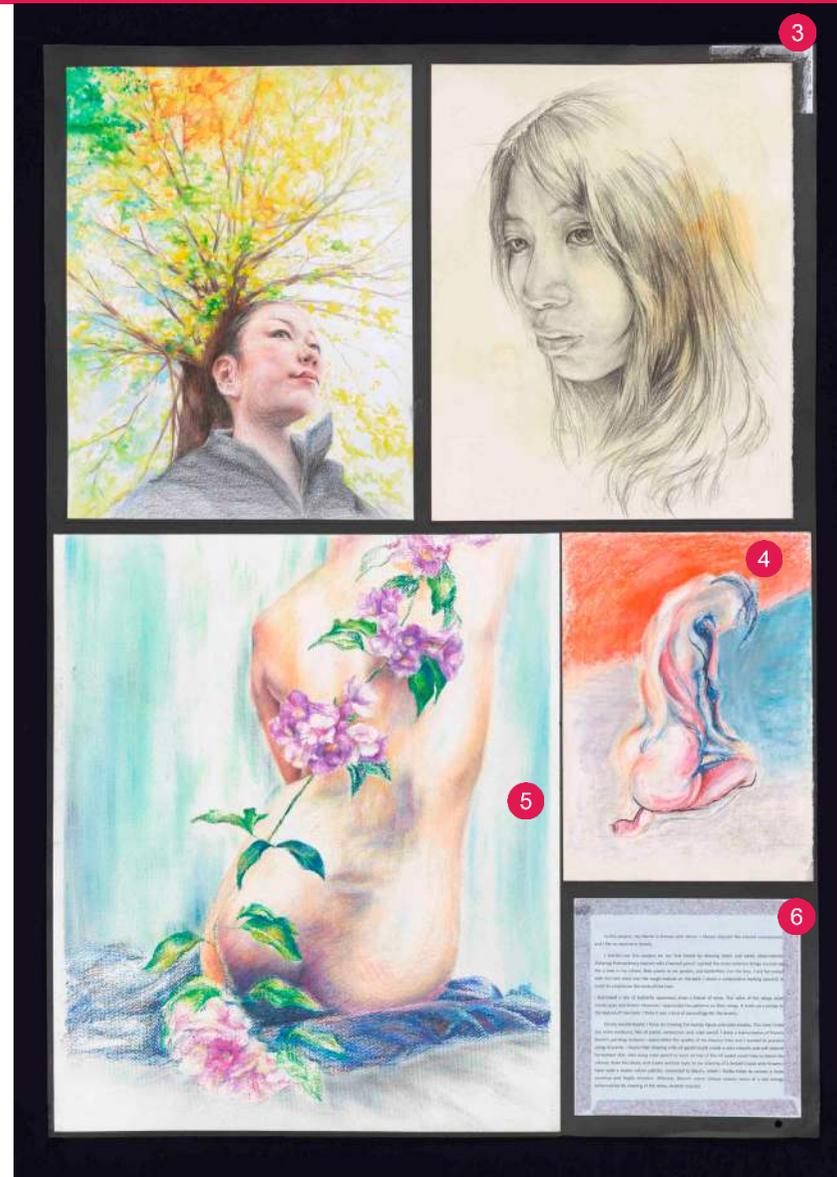


1 Observational studies which demonstrate an exceptional ability to record information. The studies also show how to use different focuses and perspectives to create dynamic compositions and layered surfaces. This is relevant to AO1 and AO2.

2 Incredibly detailed drawings of various natural objects. The tree roots and branches being more relevant to the final outcome.

Example Candidate Response 1, continued

Moderator comments



3 Here the candidate presents a range of personal ideas which shows their ability to explore imagery through different compositions, media and reference material.

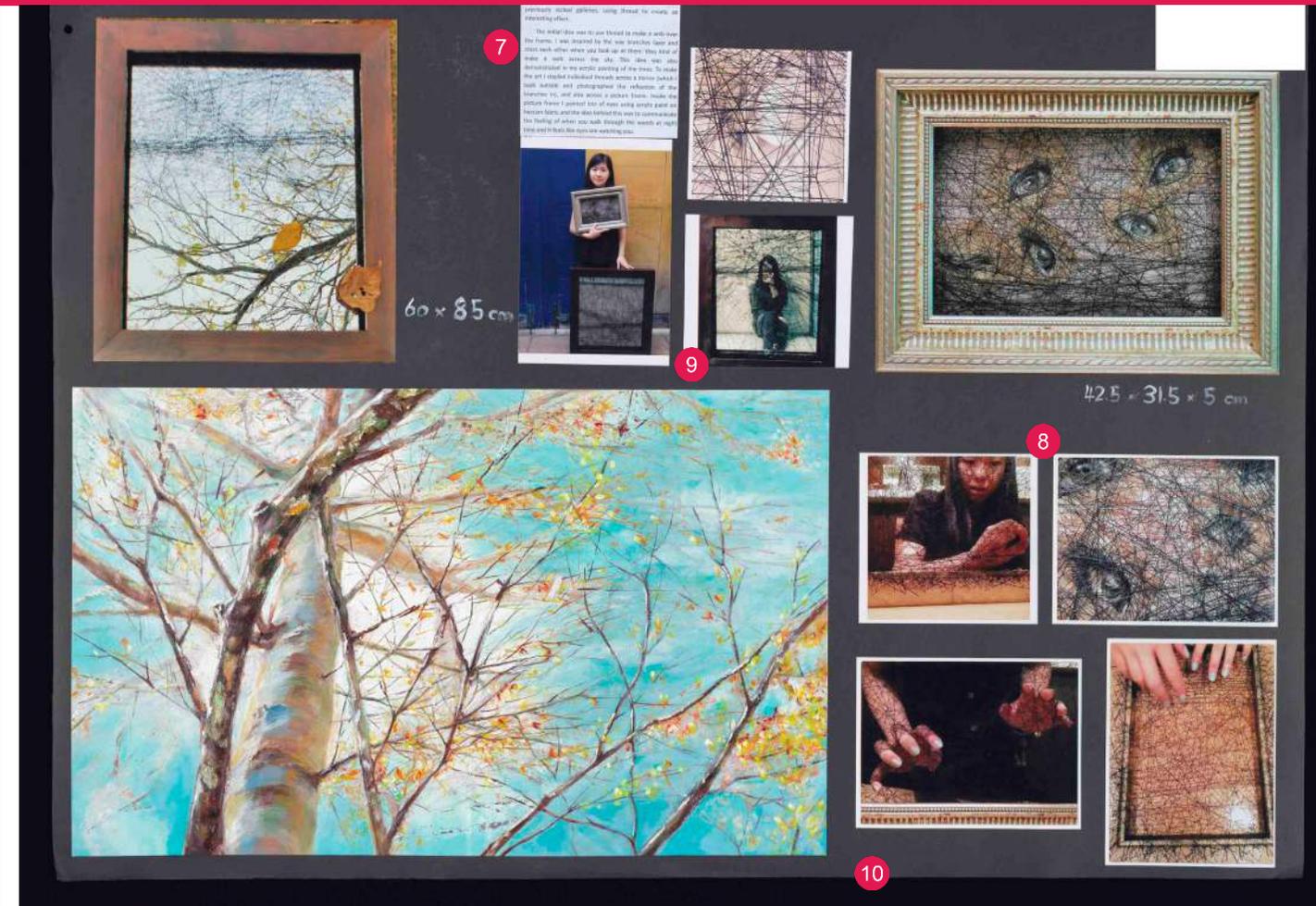
4 Some of the images are more closely related to the final outcome than others. The images of the body to show further development of the initial ideas relating to research carried out on Francis Bacon.

5 This study demonstrates the candidate's ability to synthesise the work of others in terms of the application of materials, colour and distortion and developed personal concepts. There is also a link to the obscuring of the figure which carried out thought to the final image.

6 Within the annotation the candidate clearly articulates the main focus of the idea and how the various imagery relates to themes of man and nature and more specifically camouflage. This is relevant to AO1 personal qualities and AO4 knowledge and understanding.

Example Candidate Response 1, continued

Moderator comments



7 The annotation clearly explains the direction the idea is taking; the candidate clarifies where the idea has come from and their inspiration. There is evidence for AO1 and AO4

8 The candidate refines the idea through exploration of materials and processes. From their research they develop small body of work relevant to the overall theme. This is relevant to AO2, AO3 and AO4.

9 Photographic explorations which have strong connection with the final outcome. The candidate is innovative and independent in the exploration of their ideas.

10 This preparatory sheet demonstrates evidence for the full range of Assessment Objectives. There is evidence of first hand research, contextual research, exploration of ideas and materials and the refinement of an idea.



Example Candidate Response 1, continued

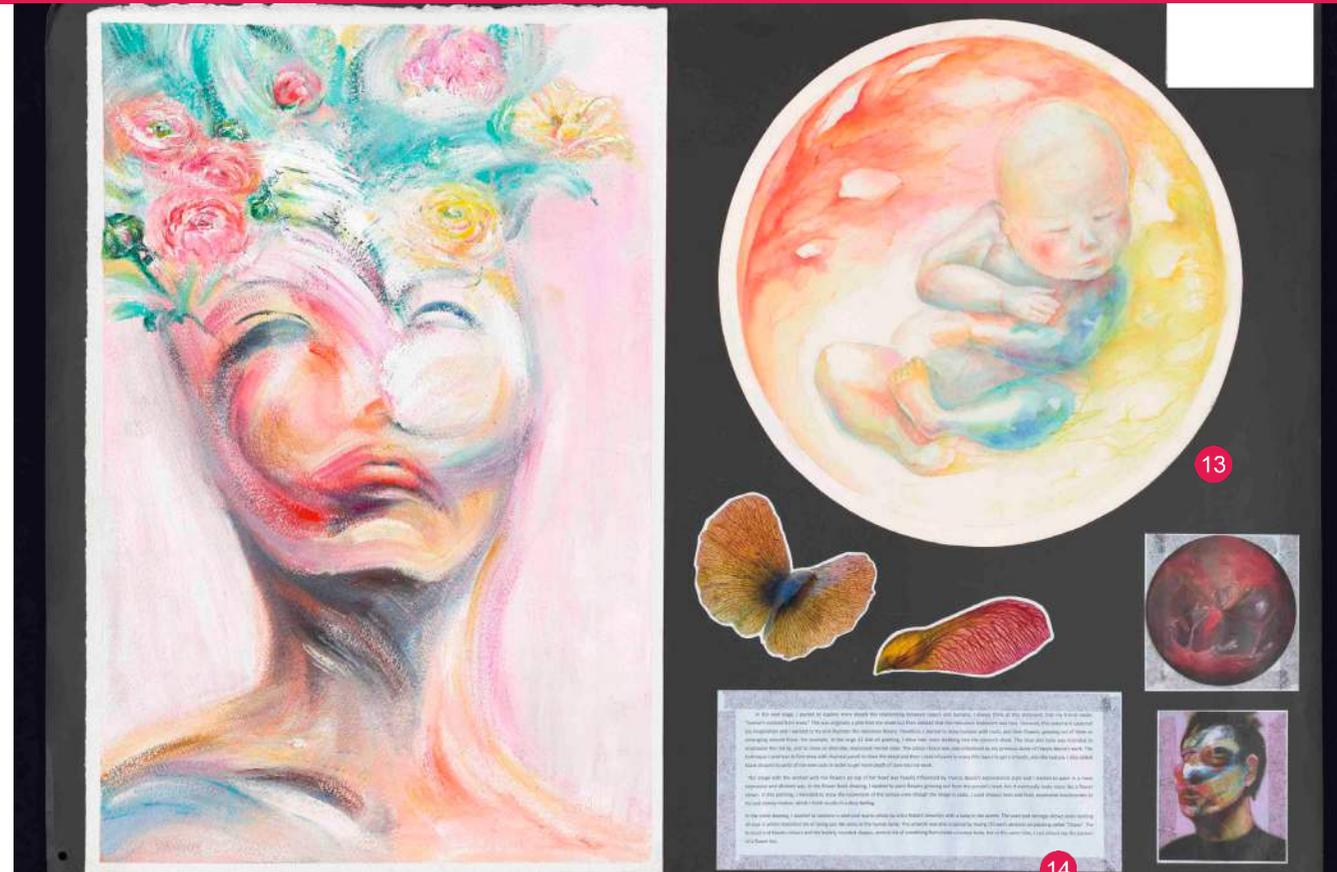
Moderator comments



12 An exploration of an initial idea which brings together man and nature and demonstrates the strong visual association the candidate makes between the muscular structure of the throat and the roots of the trees. In comparison to the final piece this is a fairly straightforward response to the identified theme. The final piece is far more sophisticated. This is relevant to the progression made, the creative journey taken and the evaluative skills of the candidate, AO1, AO2 and AO4.

Example Candidate Response 1, continued

Moderator comments



- 13 Initial studies exploring theme, the distortion of the portrait is clearly influenced by research carried out on Francis Bacon.
- 14 This annotation articulates the ideas behind the imagery and the candidate's personal response.

Example Candidate Response 1, continued

Moderator comments

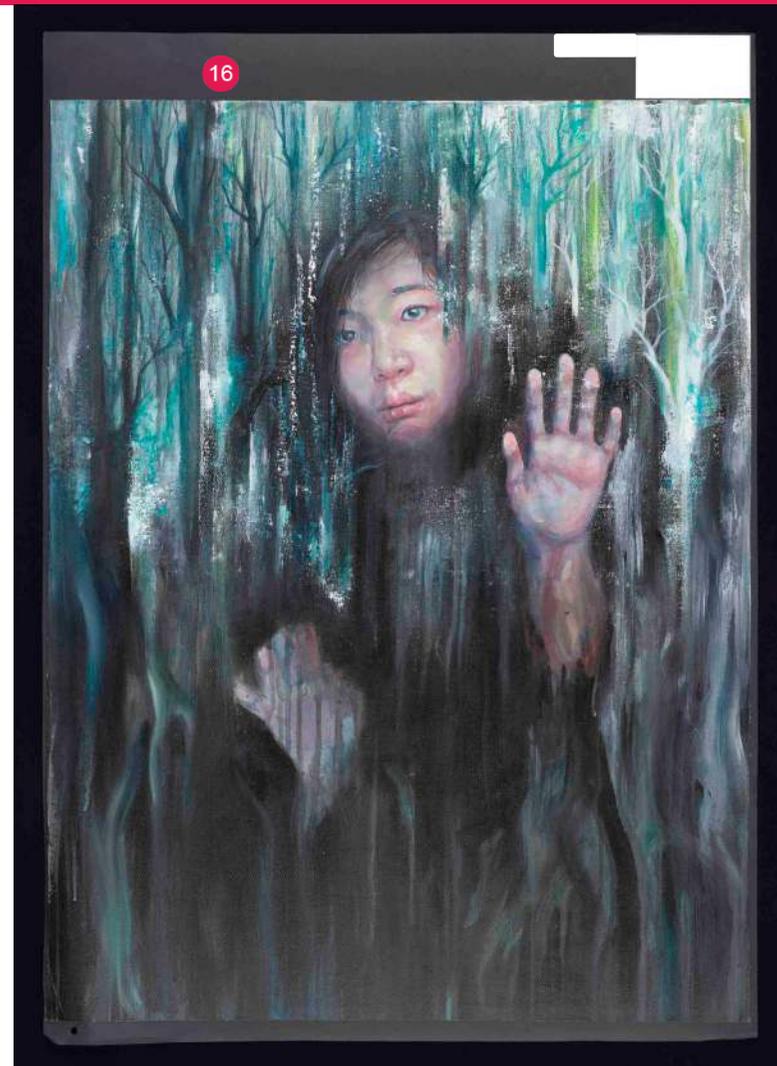
15



15 The final board shows the variety of approaches taken and the combination of materials used to explore the connection between man and nature and the idea of emerging through the process of growing up, AO1. The candidate shows the ability to manipulate a range of materials to express a specific idea and mood. They have explored different ways to show the figure emerging and create a range of surfaces through the language of paint, AO2. The written passage contains evidence of the candidate's ability to reflect on their achievements and select strongest elements to take forward in the final piece, AO4.

## Example Candidate Response 1, continued

## Moderator comments



**16** The final piece demonstrates an exceptional ability to communicate an idea through the selection and manipulation of materials and an understanding of the formal elements. The development of the image and the layering within painting can be seen in the supporting studies and has been developed through observation and looking at the work of others. The candidate has shown an impressive ability in synthesising first hand research and concept. This is awarded in AO4.

Mark for AO1 = 24/25

Mark for AO2 = 24/25

Mark for AO3 = 23/25

Mark for AO4 = 24/25

**Total mark awarded =  
95 out of 100**

## How the candidate could have improved their coursework

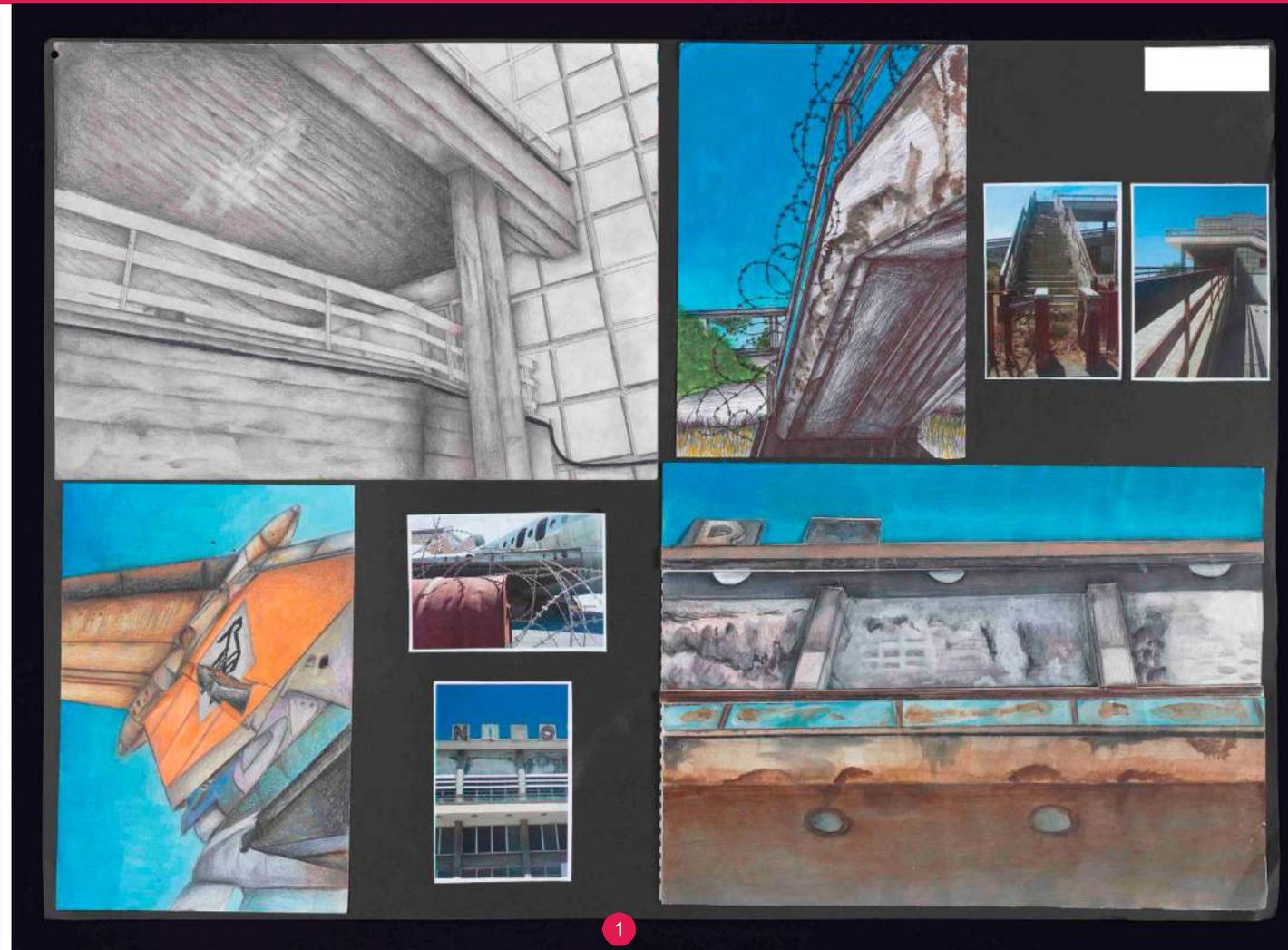
The candidate could have improved their coursework through stronger analysis of the experimentation and more in-depth exploration of the final idea. Although connection can be made between the experiments and the final piece, the imagery is not as fully developed as it could be. The final image had some inconsistencies in the manipulation of the figure, particularly the right hand lower down in the image.

The preparatory work sheets contained written notes that indicated knowledge and understanding of the context of the work however the visual exploration of this remains fairly derivative. The research although relevant is not used as well as it could be.

Whilst the candidate used a range of media within the various ideas and samples this was not carried through into the research into the final image. The composition was not explored or tried out in different ways. The candidate explored a number of ideas but not in-depth. More thorough investigation and wider exploration of the final image would have resulted in a more resolved outcome.

Example Candidate Response 2

Moderator comments



- 1 An interesting selection of photographs and studies taken from unusual perspectives and details of architectural materials, AO1 and AO3.

Example Candidate Response 2, continued

Moderator comments

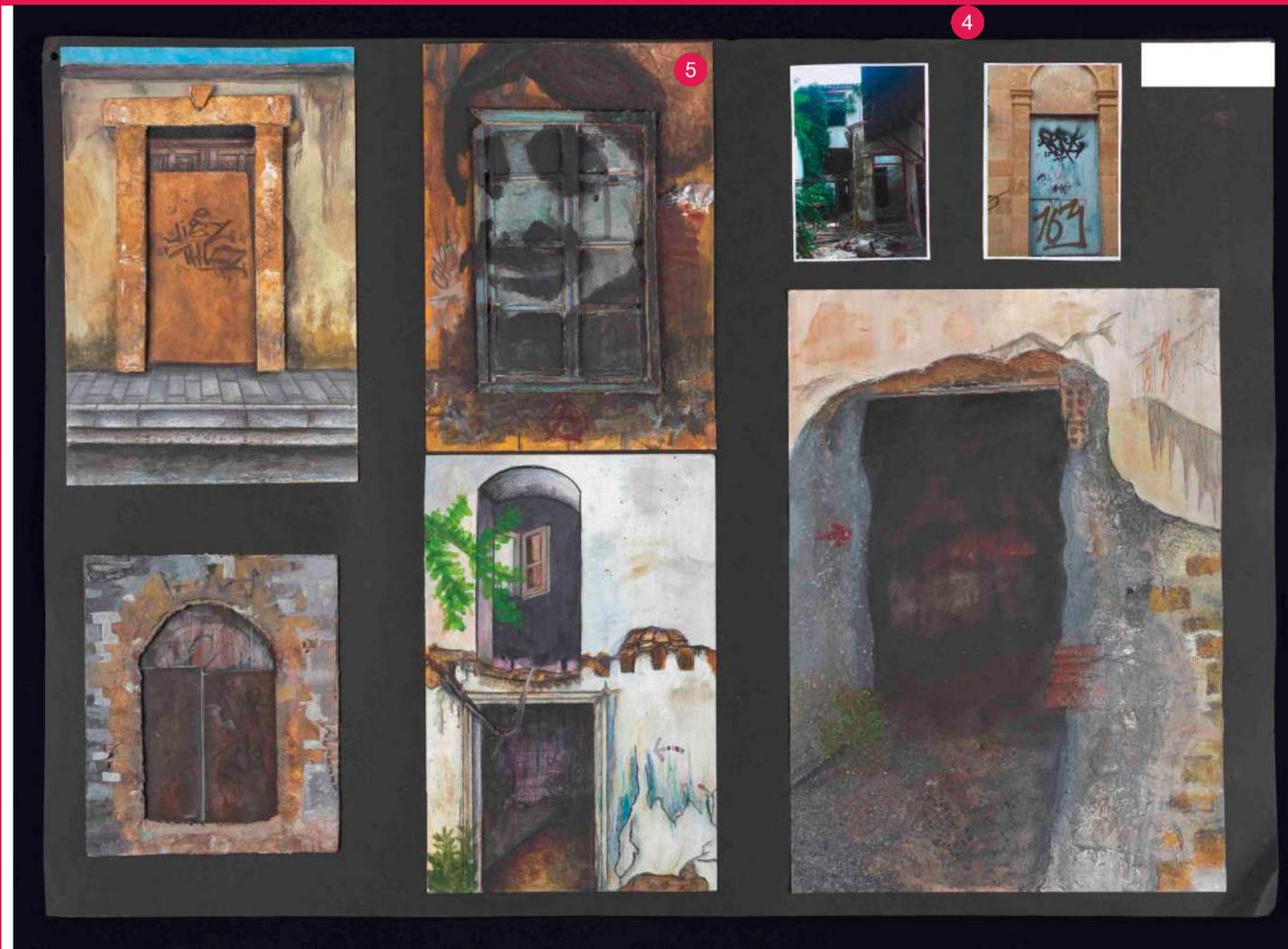


2 There is some inconsistency in the quality of the drawings, the drawings which record the whole of the building are not as strong as the close-up studies of the surfaces of walls.

3 These studies demonstrate candidate's ability to record information through drawing, photography and mixed media. The selection of different perspectives indicates the candidate's understanding of the formal elements and composition. Relevant to AO1 and AO2.

Example Candidate Response 2, continued

Moderator comments

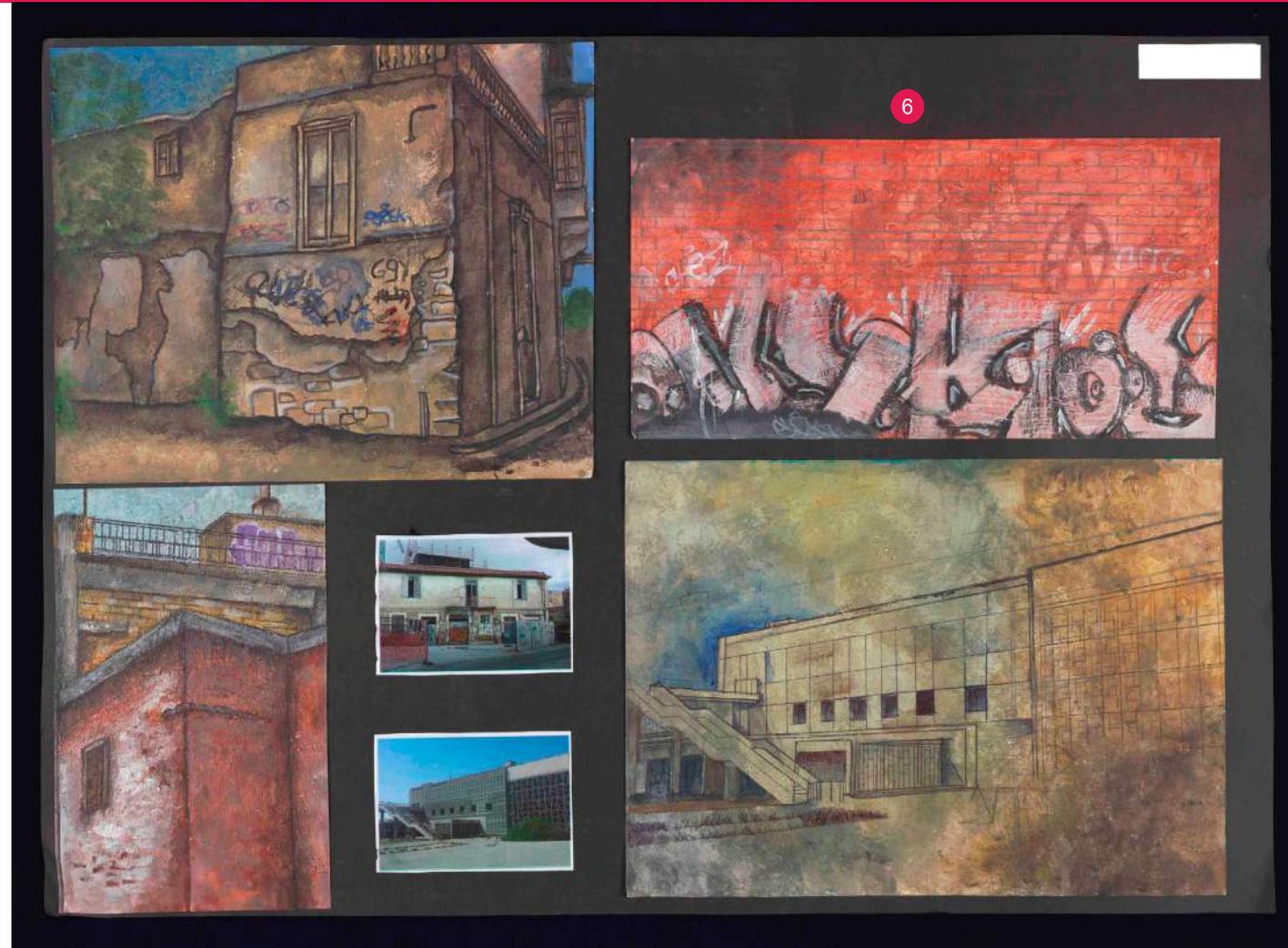


4 A range of studies which look at details of building with a focus on arches, doorways and windows. These images have informed further studies that combine architecture and graffiti.

5 The candidate shows a high degree of mastery in the selection and application of media. AO2. Within the range of studies the candidate is exploring ideas for compositions. AO3 and AO4.

Example Candidate Response 2, continued

Moderator comments



6 Studies of local building in various conditions of disrepair and deterioration. The candidate shows good mastery of ability to record information and gather appropriate imagery to inform their ideas. There is some inconsistency seen in the observational studies but the candidate handles colour and texture with sensitivity. This is relevant to AO1, AO2 and AO3.

Example Candidate Response 2, continued

Moderator comments

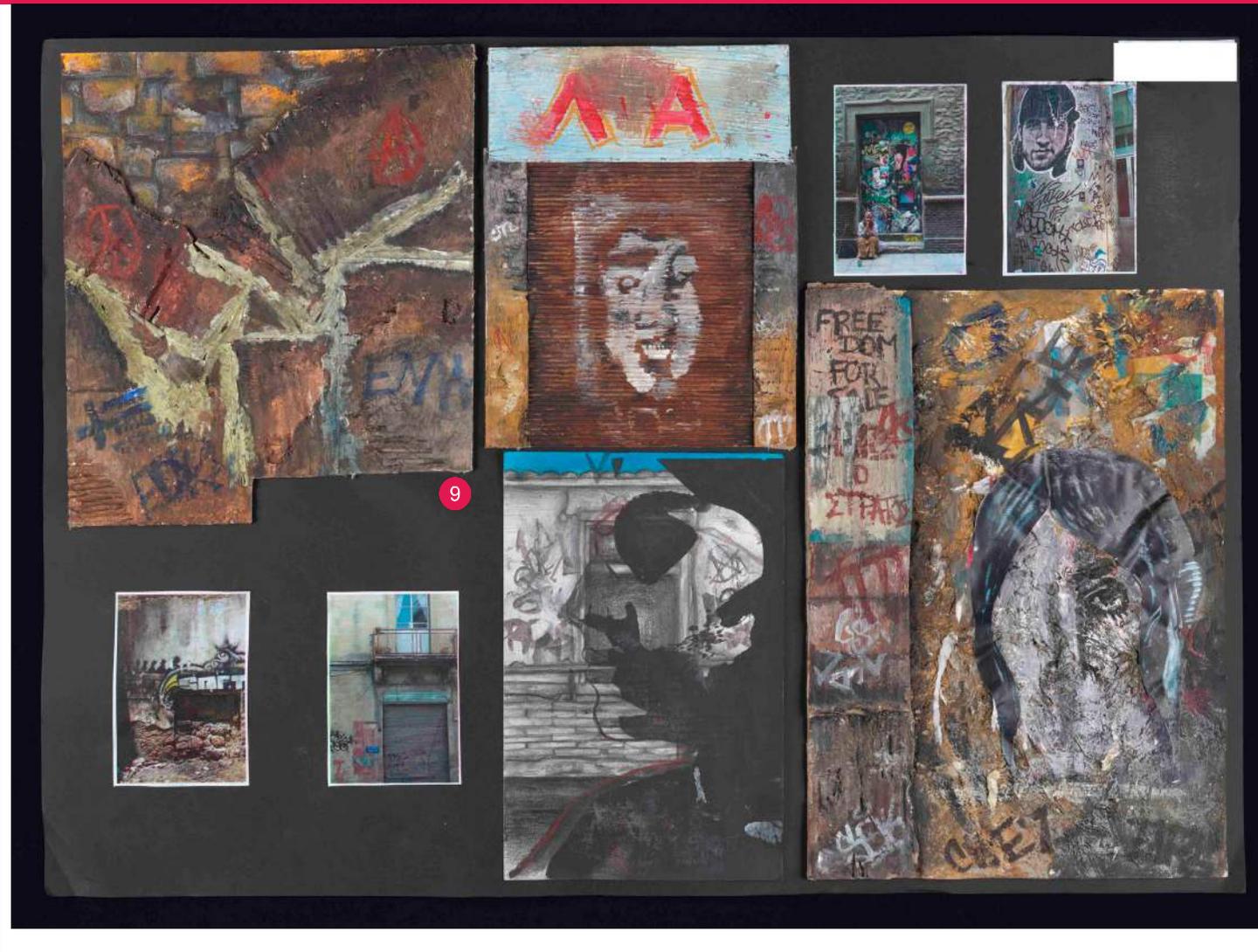


7 Exploration of surfaces and compositions. Some studies are stronger than others. The candidate can apply materials to create surfaces, but finds the architectural elements more difficult.

8 The selection of photographs indicate the candidate's individual response and ability to gather relevant primary material to inform ideas. This is relevant to AO1 showing a very good understanding of how to develop a project. The compositions shown are relevant to AO3 and indicate a good ability to arrange and organise visual elements. The manipulation of materials shows a good ability to observe and record, AO2.

Example Candidate Response 2, continued

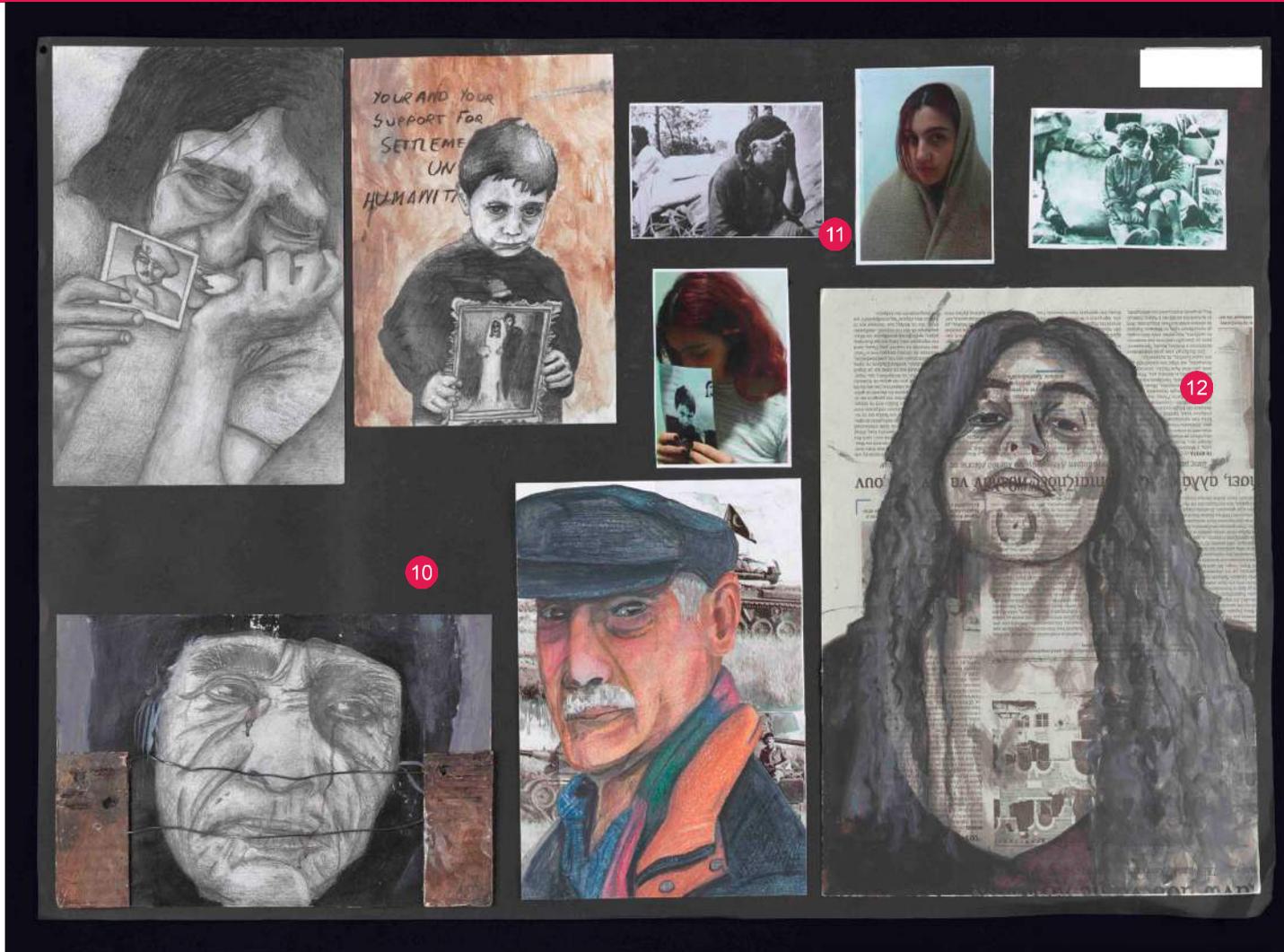
Moderator comments



9 This supporting sheet shows further studies and experiments carried out by the candidate using mixed media. There is also some exploration of composition within the photography. Some elements have been exaggerated as in the shadow work, this has been used to good effect in creating a frame and a sense of depth, AO3.

Example Candidate Response 2, continued

Moderator comments



**10** The candidate is exploring different ways to add emotional content to the imagery through the selection of the pose and the gaze of the portrait. Further expression of sentimental value is shown through the items being held by the characters.

**11** The candidate has taken their own photographs to inform the studies, the composition show a creditable ability in using composition to communicate an idea, AO3. The studies taken from the photographs show inconsistency in the ability to record, AO2.

**12** The placement of the person over selected backgrounds works well with the concept; it brings another dimension to the narrative of the images. AO1 and AO2.

Example Candidate Response 2, continued

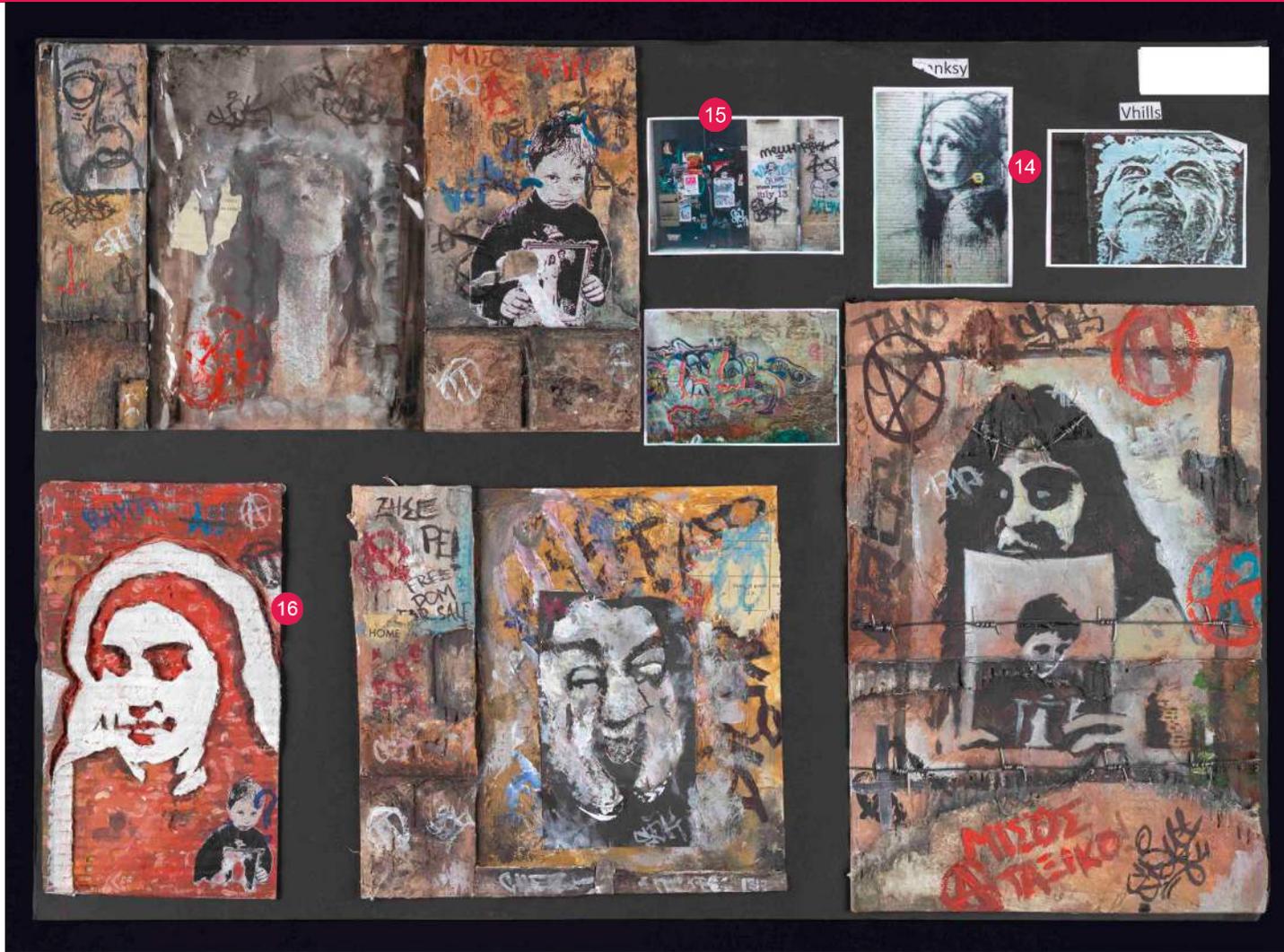
Moderator comments



13 Within the supporting studies the candidate is working out different ways to communicate the feelings of the characters shown. They have used different perspectives and different surfaces to carry out the studies. The work is informed by further examples of graffiti and Kathe Kollwitz. The selection of imagery and reference material demonstrates a competent ability to select and evaluate the imagery to communicate their ideas effectively.

Example Candidate Response 2, continued

Moderator comments



14 A good selection of reference material which is labelled, AO1 and AO2. The two artworks are appropriate to the development of ideas and material manipulation. They also support the concept of the work.

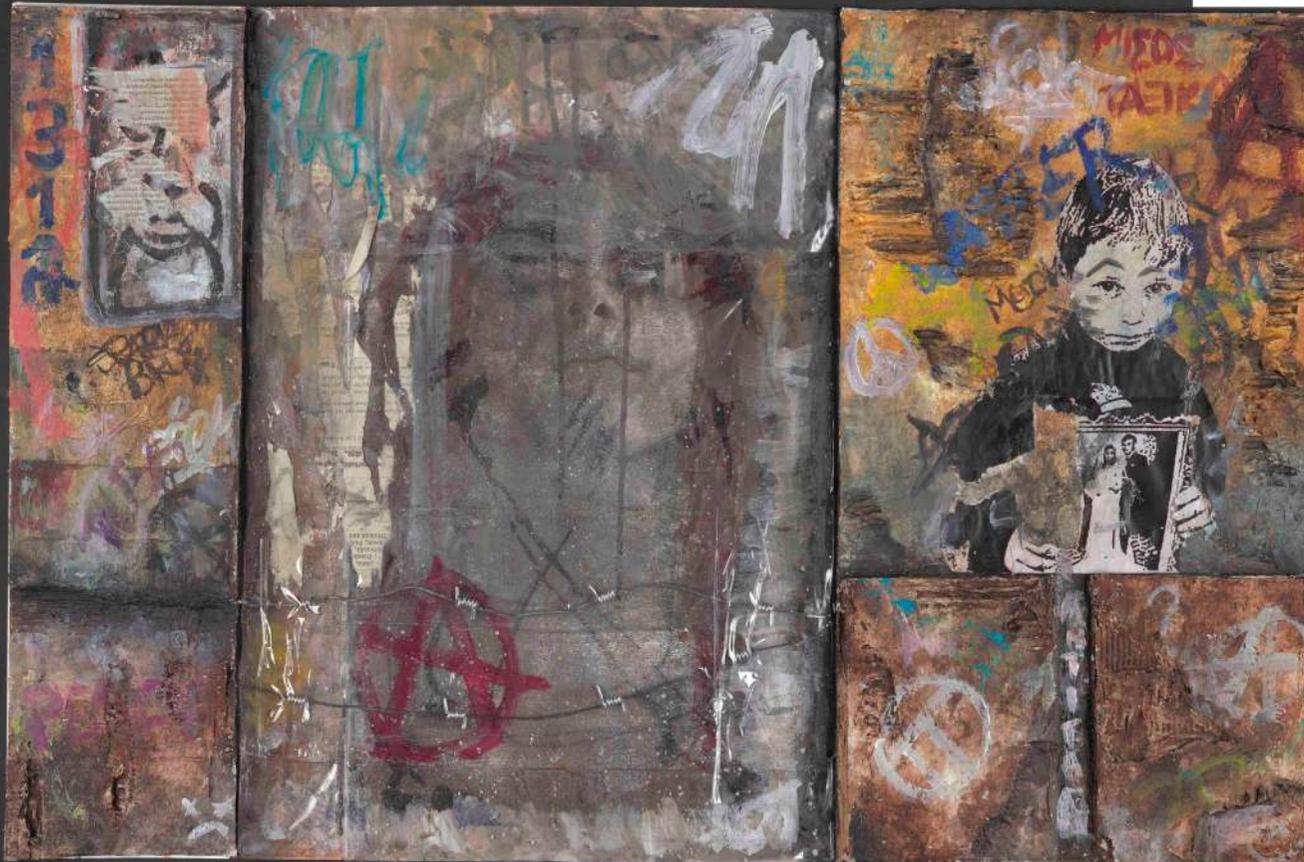
15 These works are the tryouts for the final image reflecting the surfaces of the graffiti on the walls and the layers of bill posting in the local area. The candidate has used their own photographs to inform the composition and surface. The exploration of the idea and the handling of material is very good and relevant to AO2, AO3 and AO4.

16 A variety of approaches taken with the materials, use of brushwork, stencilling and collage to create the crumbling surfaces of derelict buildings and crumbling walls. This is relevant to AO2. The candidate shows good mastery of understanding of how to manipulate materials and select processes to communicate their ideas, AO4.

Example Candidate Response 2, continued

Moderator comments

17



17 The final image demonstrates the level of skill and commitment to resolving an idea through research, experimentation and evaluation. The candidate has selected the strongest elements within their studies to carry out the final piece, AO4.

Mark for AO1 = 21/25

Mark for AO2 = 19/25

Mark for AO3 = 19/25

Mark for AO4 = 17/25

**Total mark awarded =  
76 out of 100**

## How the candidate could have improved their coursework

The candidate could have improved their work through more focused investigation of the content for the walls and the final composition. In the supporting studies the candidate looked at various imagery of people to provide an emotional element but in the final piece the strength of these studies was missed. This could have been improved with better analysis and evaluation, AO4.

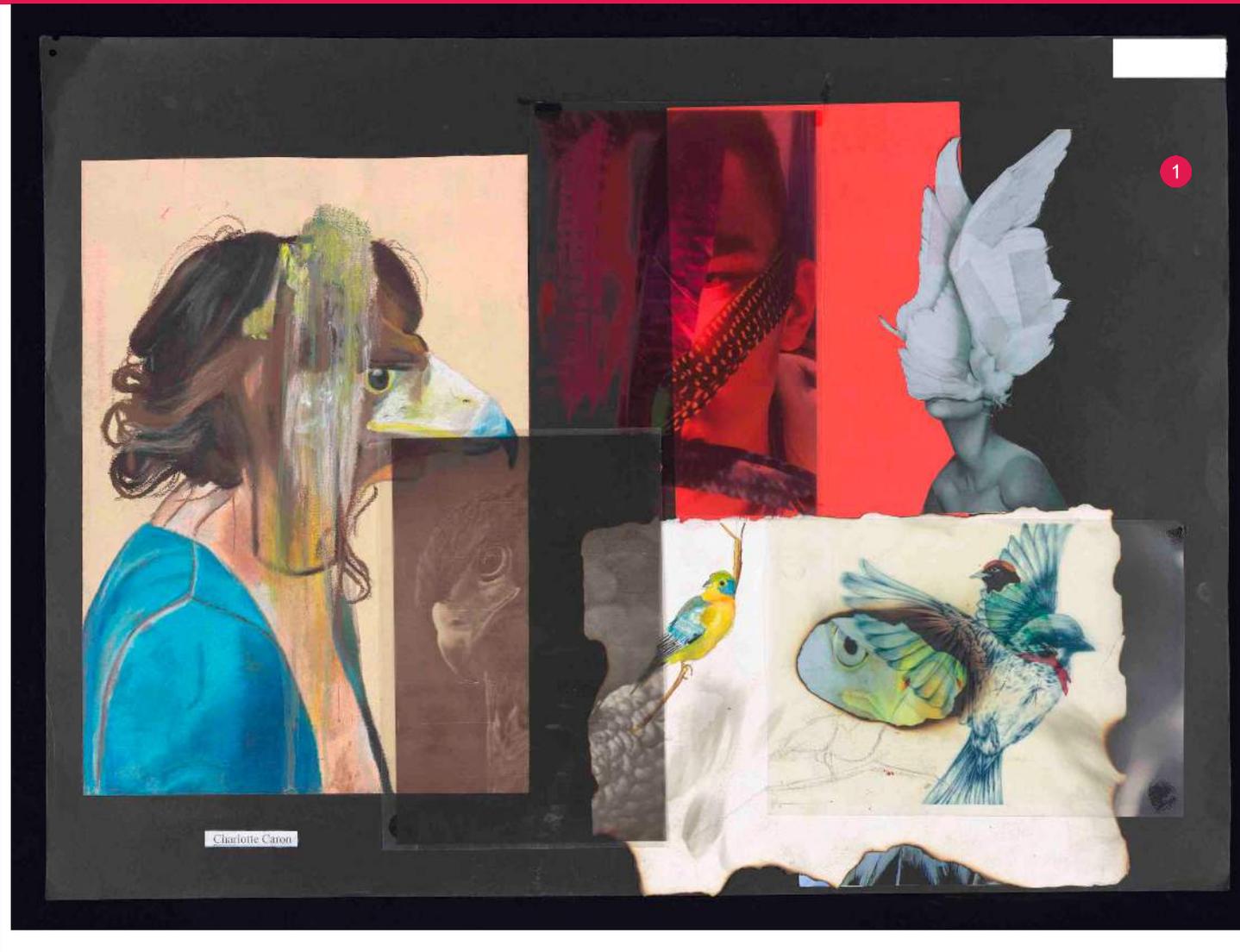
In general the work was of a very good standard and the candidate was clearly engaged with the process of developing their ideas through experimentation and exploration. However the supporting portfolio could have been more selective as a lot of the imagery was irrelevant to the final image and the ideas were not fully developed.

The candidate carried out a number of studies of whole buildings and architectural features the majority were not relevant to the development of the final idea. The detailed architectural features which provided a framework, context and structure for the graffiti imagery were lost in the final outcome.

The final outcome was not as successful as some of the work seen in the supporting studies. This was partly due to the scale of the piece but also the relationships between the various elements and imagery contained within it. The rendering of the surface in the final outcome was not as effective as in the supporting studies.

### Example Candidate Response 3

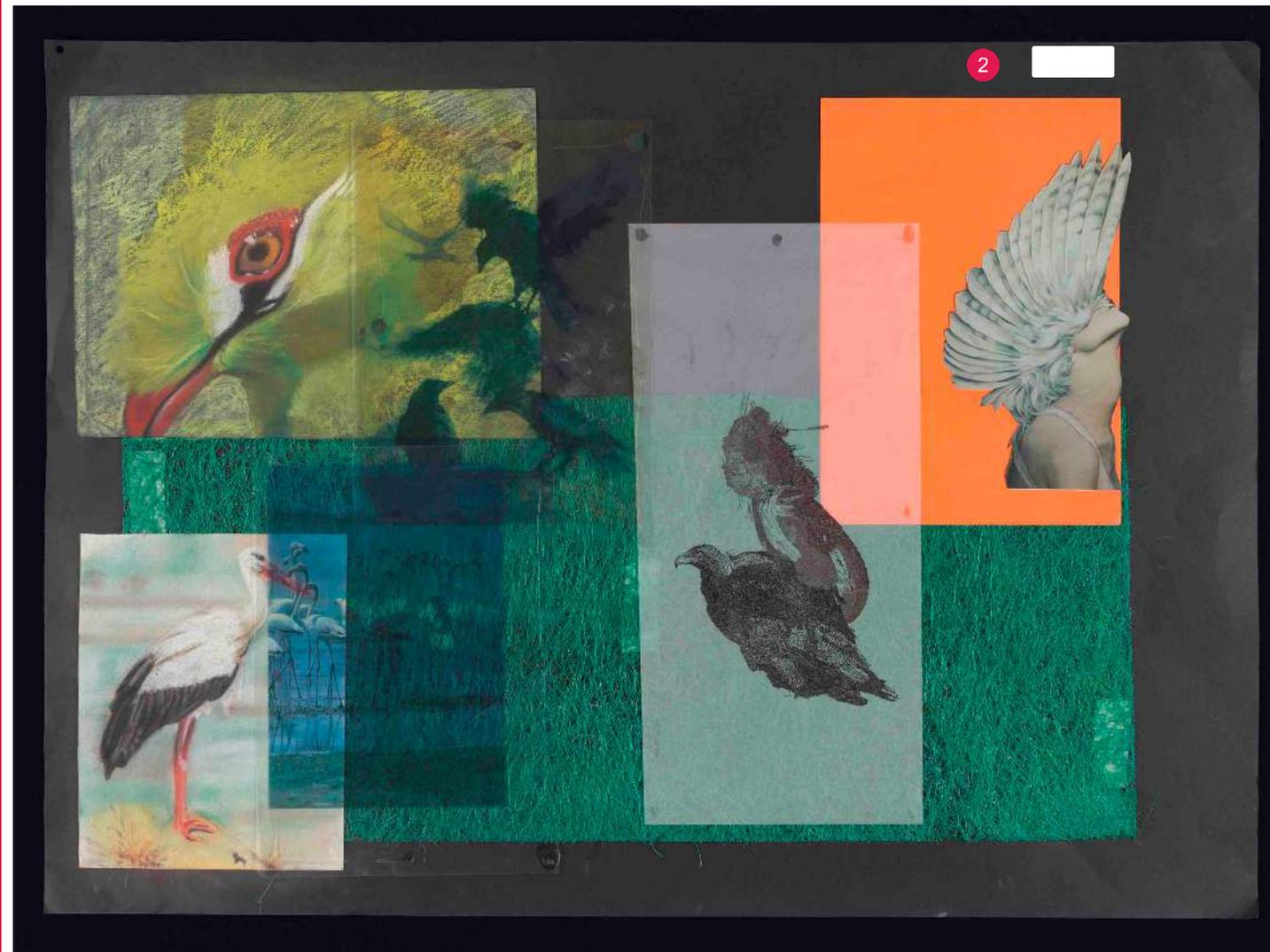
### Moderator comments



- 1 Exploration of the idea through the use of collage, overlaying studies and found images. An interesting use of media to create layers by burning through the paper, AO1 and AO2.

## Example Candidate Response 3, continued

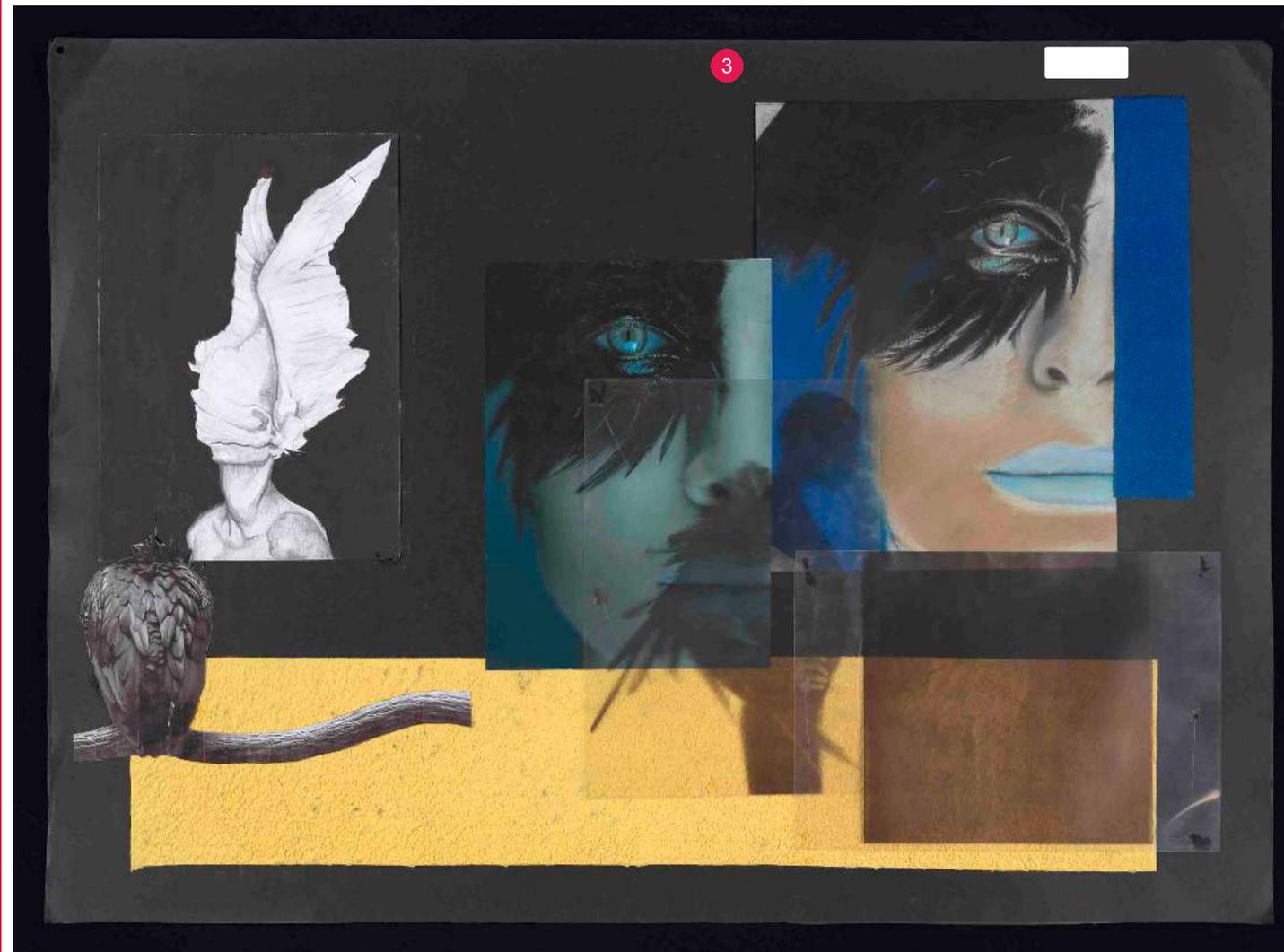
## Moderator comments



2 A combination of found imagery and observational studies. A sense of movement is created by layering photographs on transparent paper over the studies. There is evidence of the exploration of an idea (relating to the found image). The candidate shows sufficient ability in manipulating the imagery but there was somewhat inconsistent across the portfolio of work, AO2.

### Example Candidate Response 3, continued

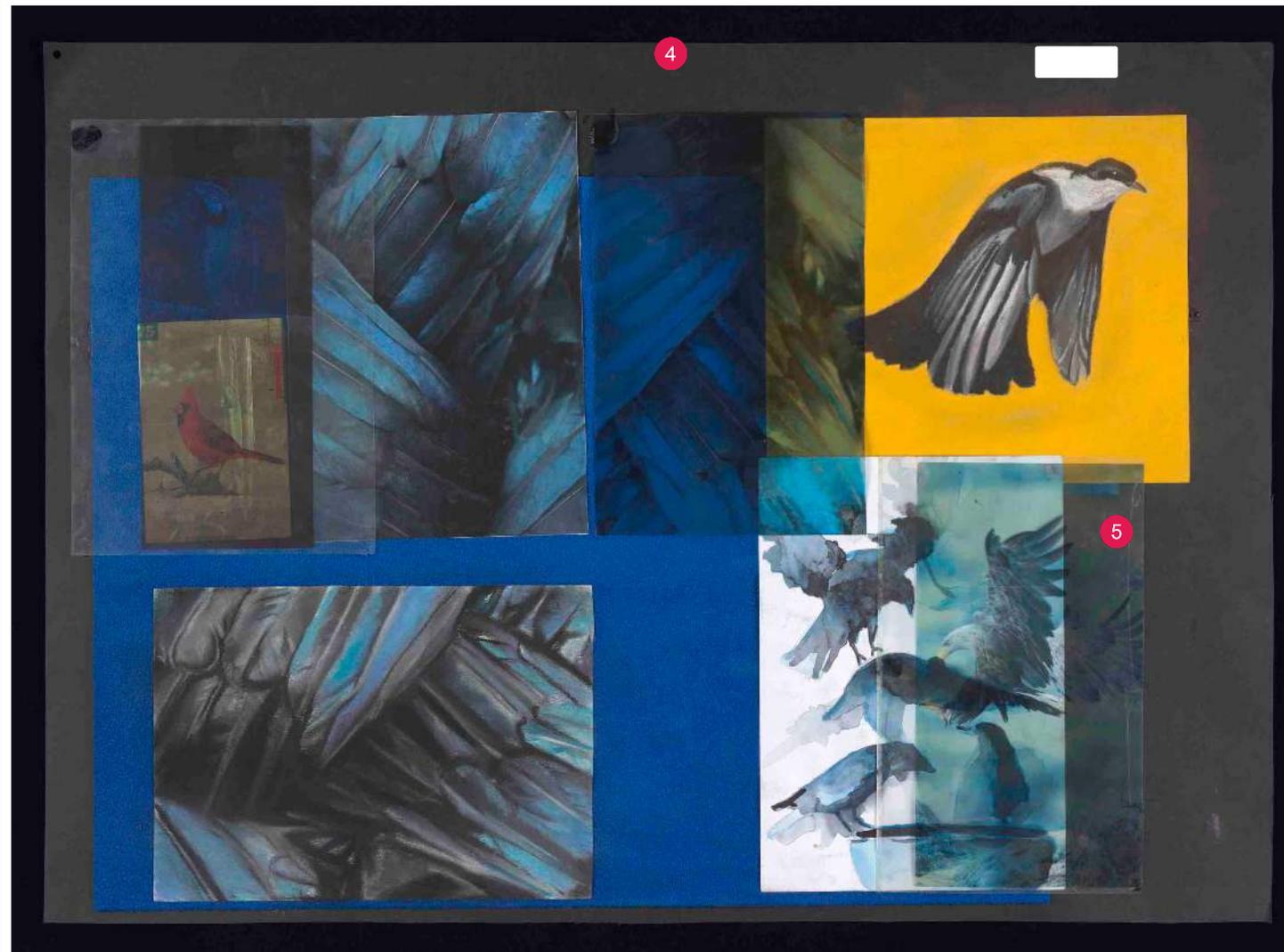
### Moderator comments



3 A visual exploration of ideas taken from found or secondary source material. The imagery is consistent with the development of the idea but it is unclear where this research comes from. There is a sense of transformation and a reference made to mythology which is realised within the final outcome, AO4. The imagery is explored through transcription of a found photograph, the copy shows sufficient ability in recording, AO1 and AO2.

## Example Candidate Response 3, continued

## Moderator comments



4 The studies on this page indicate more in-depth exploration of materials and further analysis of the structure of the feathers, AO2. The candidate shows their understanding of tone and how to manipulate materials to explore ideas.

5 This image shows competent ability in arranging visual elements to communicate idea effectively, AO3.

Example Candidate Response 3, continued

Moderator comments

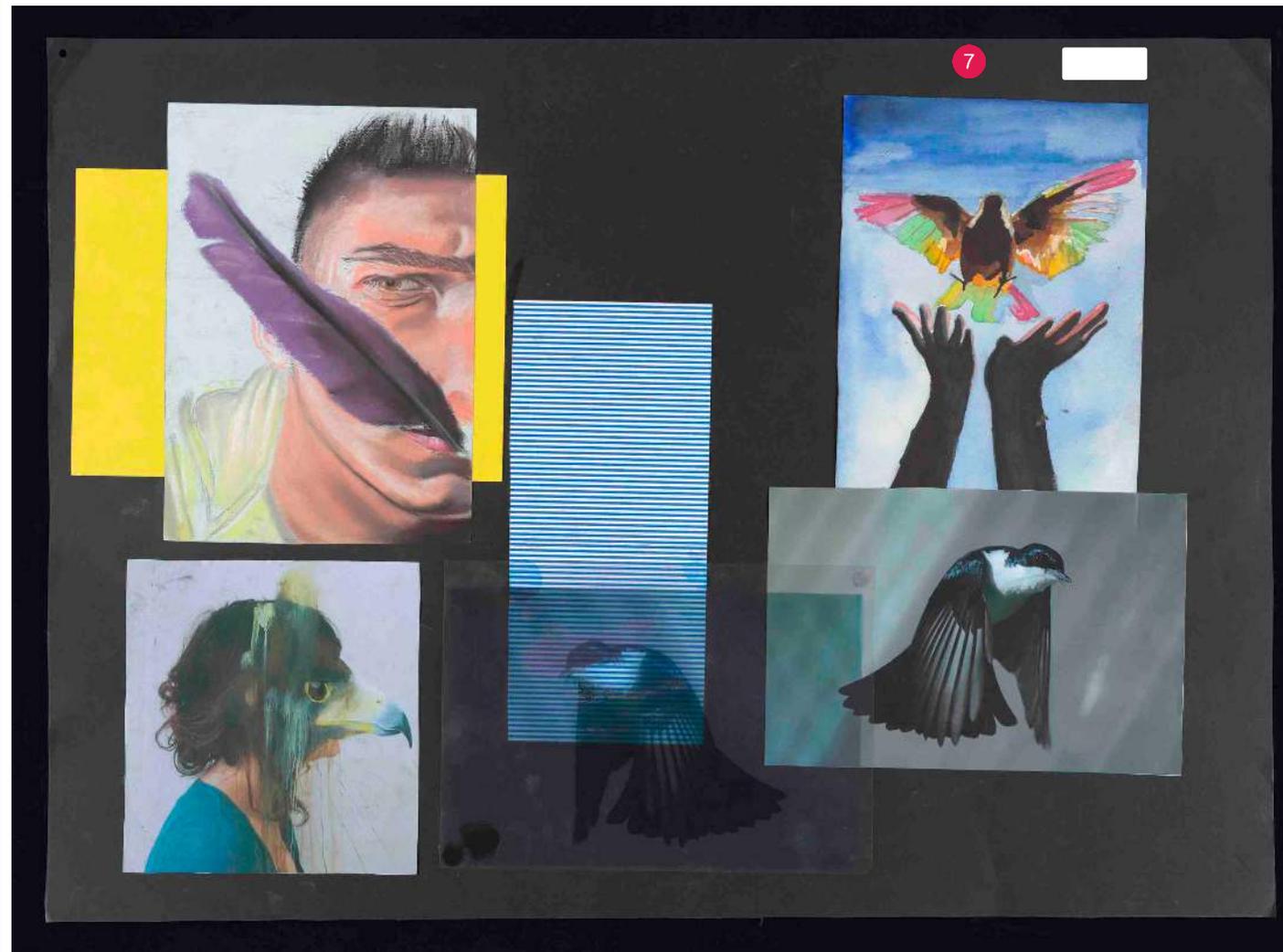


6

6 Some interesting ideas being explored through photography and photo manipulation. The candidate is using cutting tools, filters and layers to bring together the human form and the feathers of the bird. There is also a reference to transformation and mythology with the image of the swan placed over the human head. The candidate has shown sufficient ability to experiment with media. The work is relevant to AO2 and AO3. This is an interesting page as it shows the development of an idea and the inspiration for use of colour. It is unclear whether the reference images of the Flamingos are the candidate's own, AO1 and AO2.

## Example Candidate Response 3, continued

## Moderator comments



7 Within this sheet the candidate attempts to combine imagery gathered and observational studies to generate several compositions related to the theme of transformation. The image of the male face with the feather across it is a more obvious exploration of this theme which is developed further and in a more sophisticated way in the final outcome. The relationship between the human form and the bird is developing through the study of the portrait and the feather. The manipulation of media shows some inconsistency and the idea development relies heavily on found imagery. The candidate has shown competent ability in the exploration of composition and aesthetic judgements. This is relevant to AO3 and AO2.

Example Candidate Response 3, continued

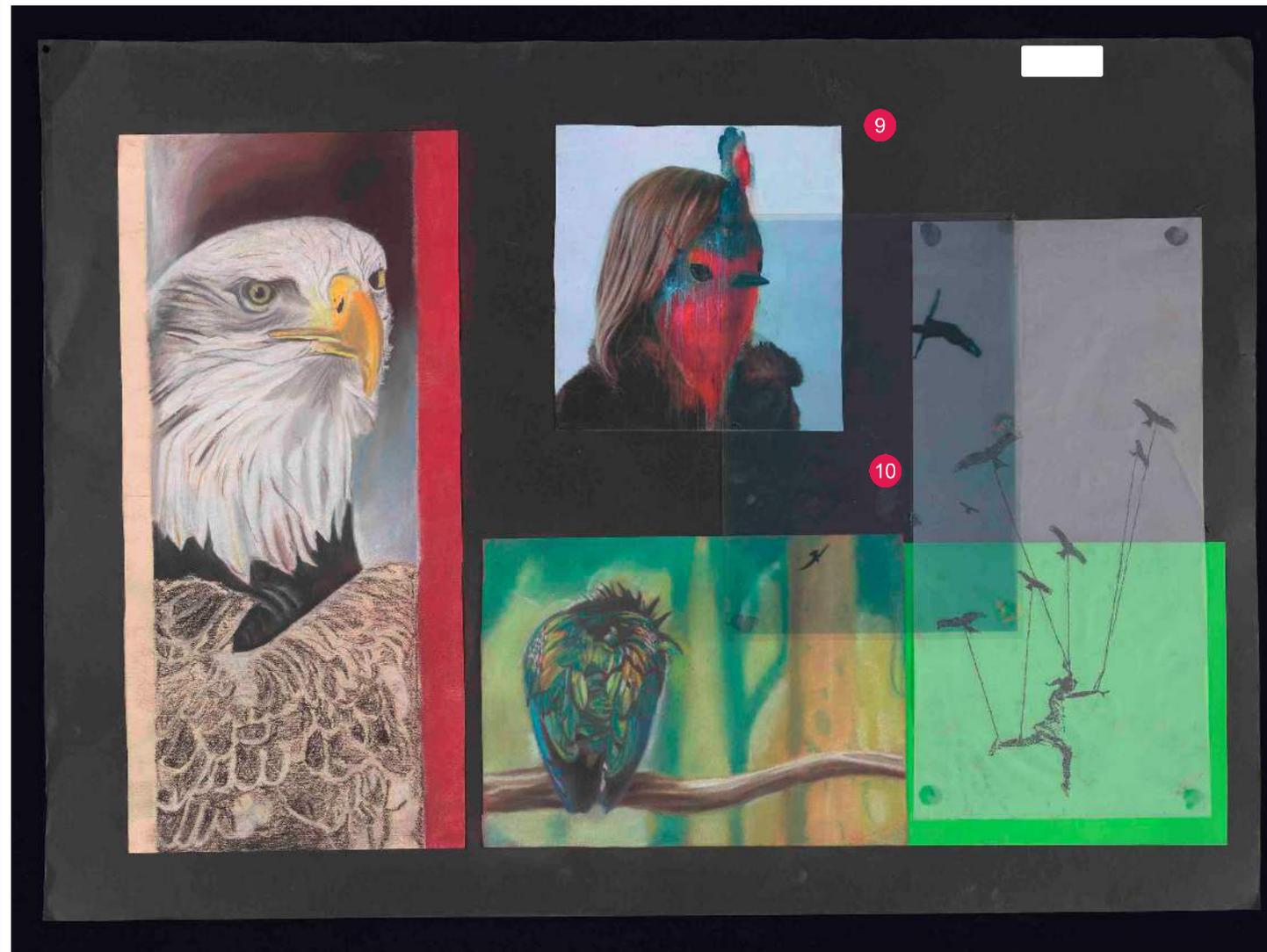
Moderator comments



8 This page demonstrates a range of ideas relevant to flight and movement. Sufficient ability shown in the manipulation of media and a more independent approach taken in the selection and combination of media. This can be seen in the overlapping feather studies, more exciting than any of the found imagery which supports the development of the idea, AO1, AO2 and AO4.

## Example Candidate Response 3, continued

## Moderator comments

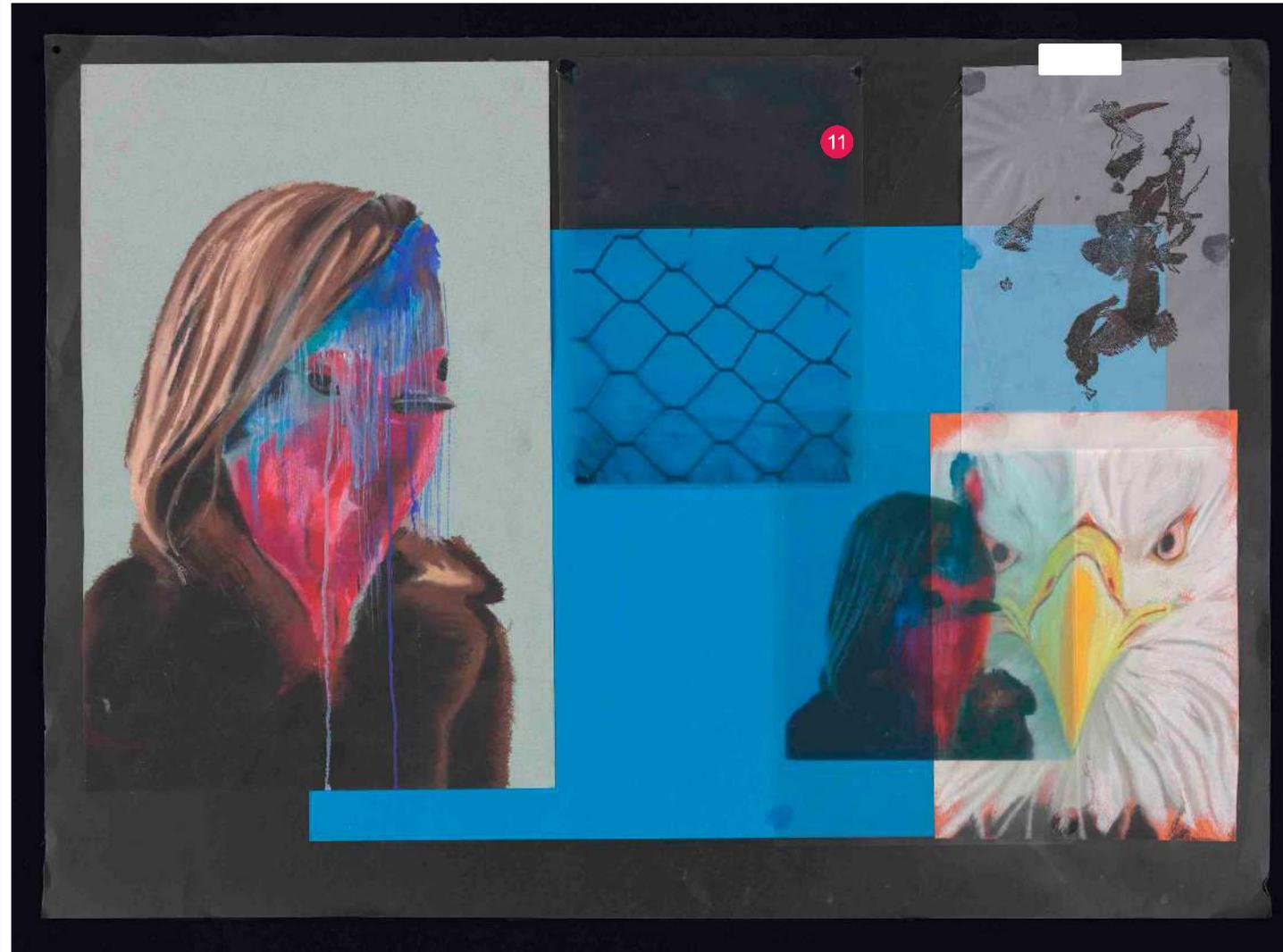


9 Within these studies the candidate has shown sufficient ability to observe and record using various media to a satisfactory level. They have selected different media to communicate the different elements of the birds, trying to render the complex structures of the feathers. This is relevant to AO1 and AO2.

10 The observation studies are carried out with some sensitivity and show ability in use of colour, shading and form. However it is not clear whether the studies are gathered from first hand research or well selected photographs found in books or from a website. This is assessed within AO1 and AO2.

Example Candidate Response 3, continued

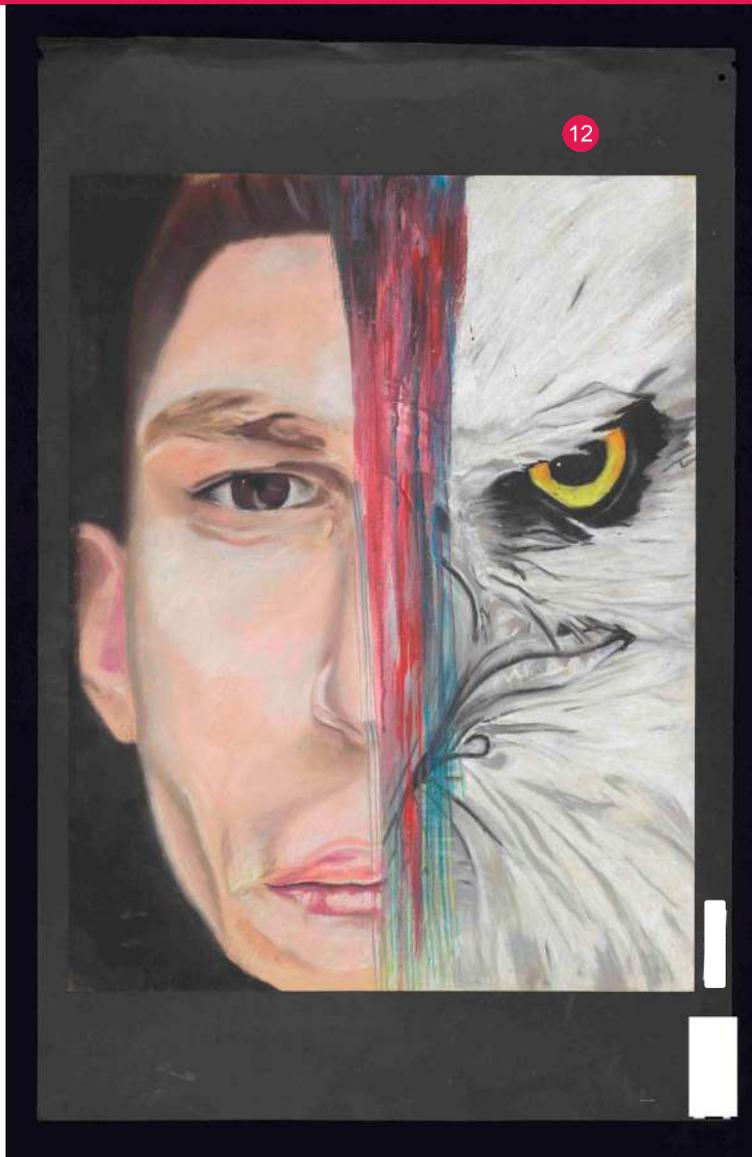
Moderator comments



11 The candidate demonstrates the ability to gather research from various sources in order to explore different ideas. Here the candidate has combined drawn studies of birds with found imagery that indicates the direction the ideas are taking, AO1 and AO2.

## Example Candidate Response 3, continued

## Moderator comments



12 The final outcome is strongly related to the research carried out and the ideas explored. There is a consistent thread running throughout the preparatory material, AO4.

Mark for AO1 = 16/25

Mark for AO2 = 16/25

Mark for AO3 = 14/25

Mark for AO4 = 13/25

**Total mark awarded =  
59 out of 100**

## How the candidate could have improved their coursework

The candidate could have improved their coursework by using first hand studies of feathers and wing structures, it is unclear whether the photographs used are the candidates own. The candidate could have selected better photographs to work from, or used a copier or photo manipulation programme to get more detailed information. Selecting images with different viewpoints and perspectives could have supported the progression of ideas and provided a more dynamic final composition.

There were many images by others that were used as a reference point for experimentation but these were acknowledged throughout the supporting sheet. The candidate would have benefitted from labelling the images and giving some commentary about how they are relevant to the development of ideas. Some of the images used appeared several times within the body of work but their relevance was not made clear. Many of the pages appeared to be repeat of others, they looked as if the candidate was using up excess imagery to fill space rather than developing ideas. There was a lot of repetition within the work and the initial idea did not progress.

The supporting portfolio a lot of exciting experimentation using both traditional and digital media, there were many missed opportunities to carry this through into the final outcome.

The layout of the supporting studies was visually exciting but on the whole the standard of work did not carry through into the final piece.

Whilst the candidate took different approaches to combining the human and bird for this was not explored in any depth and the original idea was not developed any further and there was little experimentation in order to inform their decision. This was evident through the strong similarity between the secondary reference images and the final outcome. The work did not recognise the strengths within experimentation which could have been improved in AO3 and AO4.

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