

PRINCIPAL EXAMINER'S REPORT



BOTSWANA
EXAMINATIONS
COUNCIL

JCE ART

2025



PAPER 1: MULTIPLE CHOICE

General Comments

The performance of candidates in this component has been stable over the years, showing slight improvements which are almost insignificant except in 2024 which was much better. This year 2025, the mean was 21.36 a decline from 23.06 in 2024. This is back to what it was in 2023 which means the paper is stable. The performance varied across questions with the proportion of candidates getting the item correct ranging from just above 10% to just above 90%.

Generally, Multiple-Choice items have a guessing factor that is the lowest proportion of being able to get the item correct without necessarily knowing the answer. For a Multiple-Choice item with four options, the guessing factor is 25% and any item which has the proportion of candidates who got it correct lower than the guessing factor is a cause for concern. Candidates should be encouraged to always read the question for understanding before they select an answer.

The report is mainly in table format, showing the proportion of candidates at each of the options. The key for reading the table:

Prop. the percentage of candidates that selected the option as their answer

Key the option that was taken as the answer for the item

Comments on Individual Questions

Question 1

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.02	C	Candidates did very well in this item. With 91% of them getting the item correct. The candidates are able to apply knowledge and understanding in relation to the history of Art in Botswana and are able to identify places of historical importance.
B	0.02		
C	0.92		
D	0.04		

Question 2

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.06	D	Most of the candidates did well in responding to the knowledge of art elements and their application on a drawing. The distractor B was closer to the right answer though it was not as effective as D.
B	0.16		
C	0.12		
D	0.65		

Question 3

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.06	D	Majority of the candidates demonstrated excellent knowledge about the types of drawings. About 79.92% were able to recognise that the work is still life drawing. Candidates are able to differentiate types of drawings.
B	0.08		
C	0.06		
D	0.80		



Question 4

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.47	A	Most of the candidates did not get the question right. They were not able to differentiate between composition and Art principles, despite the syllabus distinguishing between elements, principles and composition in art.
B	0.37		
C	0.07		
D	0.09		

Question 5

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.19	C	The majority of candidates failed to get the question right and most preferred D (Art studio room). This might be that this is the last topic of JC syllabus and most schools might not have spent more time on it. The other factor might be that dark rooms no longer exist as modern technology is used.
B	0.13		
C	0.14		
D	0.54		

Question 6

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.07	D	Candidates were able to differentiate craft tools. Majority of the candidates got the question correct and were able to identify the tools used in leatherwork and their use.
B	0.08		
C	0.04		
D	0.81		

Question 7

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.10	D	Candidates performed poorly in this question. The question was targeting low ability, and it was expected that the performance would way better than what it is. Most of the of candidates are not aware of what a curator is.
B	0.37		
C	0.11		
D	0.42		

Question 8

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.69	A	Candidates did well in this item, it shows that most of the candidates are familiar with shading techniques.
B	0.16		
C	0.11		
D	0.04		

Question 9

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.23	C	Candidates performed poorly in this item, they failed to demonstrate understanding of different ways of applying texture on a surface.
B	0.23		
C	0.20		
D	0.34		



Question 10

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.13	C	Candidates performed fairly in this item. This shows that about half of the candidates are familiar with colour, especially the colour wheel and how it is structured.
B	0.31		
C	0.50		
D	0.06		

Question 11

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.39	A	Candidates performed poorly in this question, which shows that most of the candidates failed to identify the characteristics of a lino print.
B	0.23		
C	0.25		
D	0.13		

Question 12

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.11	C	Candidates performed poorly in this question. They mostly failed to show knowledge of places in Botswana where certain craftworks and or their materials are common.
B	0.37		
C	0.42		
D	0.10		

Question 13

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.17	D	Most candidates did well in this item, they showed understanding of the concept of batik and materials that are associated with it..
B	0.17		
C	0.08		
D	0.57		

Question 14

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.06	D	The majority of candidates did well in this item. The candidates applied knowledge with understanding of design especially the examples of design and careers related to them.
B	0.06		
C	0.14		
D	0.74		

Question 15

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.23	D	This item was poorly done. Most of the candidates failed to show knowledge and understanding of Pottery and Ceramics and to recall and differentiate between the methods of ceramic making. Some confused throwing and coiling methods.
B	0.34		
C	0.18		
D	0.26		



Question 16

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.82	D	The majority of candidates got the item correct. This shows that the item might have been easy for them.
B	0.05		
C	0.05		
D	0.08		

Question 17

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.08	B	Most of the candidates did well in this item correct, it shows that candidates understood elements which are used when making sculpture.
B	0.67		
C	0.21		
D	0.04		

Question 18

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.17	B	Candidates performed fairly in this question. The response shows a good understanding of materials used in sculpture making and their properties.
B	0.51		
C	0.08		
D	0.24		

Question 19

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.21	D	Candidates performed fairly in this item. Their responses show a good understanding of pattern and the use of motif.
B	0.21		
C	0.05		
D	0.54		

Question 20

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.28	B	Candidates performed very poorly in this item most of them thought the picture is a poster instead of a cover a good number also thought it's an album.
B	0.12		
C	0.53		
D	0.07		

Question 21

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.04	C	Candidates performed very well in this item, which shows they have a good understanding of package design and how to differentiate it with other forms of design work.
B	0.04		
C	0.76		
D	0.16		



Question 22

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.12	B	Candidates performed fairly in this question; it shows good understanding of the concept mural.
B	0.58		
C	0.14		
D	0.16		

Question 23

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.62	A	Candidates performed well in this question. A good number of candidates show knowledge and understanding of Art masters and their artworks. Candidates are knowledgeable about the history of Art, to match artists and their artifacts. However, some thought the artwork was done by Pablo Picasso.
B	0.09		
C	0.26		
D	0.04		

Question 24

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.04	C	The item was well done with the majority of candidates. Candidates showed good understanding of forms of sculpture especially a statue and its characteristics.
B	0.19		
C	0.63		
D	0.14		

Question 25

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.07	B	Candidates performed fairly in this question. Candidates understood the concept of design and were able to identify images of design. However, there were a good number of candidates who classified this artwork as either fine art or contemporary.
B	0.55		
C	0.20		
D	0.18		

Question 26

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.10	C	Many candidates performed well in this question, which shows good understanding of the concept of design. A few did not respond well to the question. Candidates can identify and understand the functions of a logo.
B	0.10		
C	0.68		
D	0.13		

Question 27

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.04	C	Most of the candidates responded exceptionally well in this question. They showed good understanding of the principle pattern.
B	0.02		
C	0.88		
D	0.05		



Question 28

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.13	A	Most of the candidates performed very poorly in this question. This might be that candidates are used to posters with fonts/lettering instead of an image without such.
B	0.10		
C	0.32		
D	0.44		

Question 29

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.67	A	Candidates performed well in this question. They demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the purposes of a stamp design.
B	0.12		
C	0.11		
D	0.11		

Question 30

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.08	B	Candidates did exceptionally well in this item. They demonstrated understand of lines and can identify the types and forms of lines in an artwork.
B	0.85		
C	0.04		
D	0.03		

Question 31

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.36	D	Most of the candidates performed poorly in this question. Candidates could not identify materials which are used to make macrame.
B	0.31		
C	0.13		
D	0.20		

Question 32

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.32	C	Candidates performed poorly in this item. They did not demonstrate any knowledge of materials used for creating stencils in print making.
B	0.35		
C	0.12		
D	0.21		

Question 33

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.04	C	Most of the candidates performed well in this question. Candidates showed understanding of prehistoric art, especially cave or rock painting and the characteristics of the paintings.
B	0.14		
C	0.60		
D	0.22		



Question 34

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.27	A	Candidates performed poorly in this question; they failed to identify the activity of carving.
B	0.07		
C	0.60		
D	0.06		

Question 35

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.12	D	Candidates performed poorly in this question. Most of the candidates could not differentiate the art of decorating a fabric using a needle and thread and batik.
B	0.40		
C	0.12		
D	0.36		

Question 36

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.24	C	Most candidates performed fairly in this question. It shows that they can identify a relief sculpture against the types and other forms of sculpture.
B	0.09		
C	0.56		
D	0.11		

Question 37

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.04	C	Candidates performed well in this item; they showed understanding of sculpture making process. A few did not get it right. Most of the candidates were able to match sculpture making process and the material.
B	0.09		
C	0.70		
D	0.16		

Question 38

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.07	B	Candidates did very well in this question. Most candidates got the answer wrong. They were able to identify tools used in painting.
B	0.86		
C	0.05		
D	0.03		

Question 39

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.04	D	Candidates performed very well in this question. They were able to identify the function of the tool that is used for painting. Only few candidates could not identify the correct function of the easel.
B	0.08		
C	0.13		
D	0.74		



Question 40

Option	Prop.	Key	Comments
A	0.06	B	Candidates did very well in this question. Only a few candidates opted for other options. Most of the candidates understand design and are knowledgeable about cartoons and can identify caricatures.
B	0.80		
C	0.07		
D	0.06		

PAPER 2: PRACTICAL TEST

General Comments

This Principal Examiner's Report presents an overview of candidates' performance in Art Paper 33/2 for the 2025 Junior Certificate examination. The report is based on the marking of scripts submitted by candidates across centres and reflects the collective observations of examiners involved in the assessment process. Art Paper 33/2 is a controlled examination component that contributes to the final mark of the Art examination.

The purpose of this report is to highlight general trends in candidate performance, identify areas of strengths and weaknesses under the three main domains of the marking criterion which are: Knowledge with understanding, Interpretative and Creative Response, Personal Investigation and Development through comments on candidates' understanding of art concepts, technical skills, creativity, and their ability to respond appropriately to the questions. It also provides guidance to centres on the interpretation of the syllabus requirements and examination demands.

Presentation of the works

This section outlines the expected presentation requirements for candidates' work across the three sections of Art Paper 33/2.

Observational Study

In the Observational Study, candidates were required to produce a study or studies drawn from direct observation, based on one of the prescribed themes. The section emphasised that studies could focus on either the whole subject or selected parts thereof.

This section was further divided into four subsections:

- Natural or man-made forms
- Still life group
- Landscape or townscape
- The human form

Candidates were expected to demonstrate direct observation, proportion, and effective use of media.

Interpretative Study

This section required candidates to investigate, research, and develop ideas and images based on any one of the given themes. Candidates were allowed to refer to their preparatory studies during the examination. Emphasis was placed on originality, creativity, and the development of ideas from initial research to the final outcome.

Design study

Under the Design Study, candidates were required to create a design based on any one of the given themes. Candidates were advised to clearly show all stages in the development of ideas, from initial sources through to the final presentation. The section allowed the use of any suitable medium or combination of media and techniques. This section was further divided into two subsections:

- Lettering, Illustration and Calligraphy
- Fabric Design

Centres were instructed to stamp all preparatory work prior to the final examination to authenticate the work. The final examination piece was not to be stamped, in accordance with examination regulations.

Packaging

Centres are therefore reminded to strictly adhere to the stipulated packaging guidelines in future examination sessions to avoid administrative challenges during handling and marking.

Candidates' examination scripts were generally packaged according to candidate numbers in the Botswana Examinations Council (BEC) provided packaging boxes. Most of the centres packaged their scripts appropriately using the official BEC boxes, and the packages were clearly labelled enabling easy identification during handling and marking.

Although packaging standards were largely adhered to, centres did not arrange candidates' work chronologically, as required. Scripts were submitted packaged in plastic provided by BEC, while all other centres packaged and labelled their scripts correctly in the official BEC boxes. Overall, the boxes met BEC packaging expectations. Some centres arranged works according to sections rather than by candidate order.

Additionally, some centres submitted scripts that were loosely packed inside the boxes. This resulted in artworks rubbing against each other, thereby compromising the quality of the work. Furthermore, some candidates did not fully indicate their question numbers, candidate numbers, and centre numbers as required. In a few cases, candidates wrote their credentials on the incorrect side of the paper, instead of the designated left-hand side.

Centres are advised to ensure strict compliance with packaging, arrangement, and labelling requirements in future examination sessions to safeguard the quality of candidates' work and facilitate efficient processing.

General overview

The comparison of candidates question attempts between 2024 and 2025 shows an overall increase across all three sections of Art Paper 33/2, indicating rise in candidature and/or improved participation:

Section A

In Section A (Observational Study), the number of attempts increased from 1,265 in 2024 to 1,345 in 2025, reflecting a slight but steady growth in candidates opting for observational-based tasks. There was evidence that some centres continued to use secondary sources derived from the internet in the Observational Study. This practice is not permitted, as the section requires candidates to produce studies from direct observation only. Centres are reminded that the use of photographs or internet sourced images undermines the purpose of the task and contravenes the examination requirements.

It was regrettably noted that there was an increase in photocopied or traced artworks during the 2025 examination session when compared with 2024. Such practices are in direct contravention of examination

regulations. Continued vigilance and sustained guidance are therefore required to ensure full compliance with the prescribed examination requirements in future examinations.

Section B

A more significant increase was observed in Section B (Interpretative Study), where attempts rose from 2,864 in 2024 to 3,761 in 2025. This suggests growing candidate confidence and interest in interpretative and expressive approaches to art.

Section C

Section C (Design Study) continued to attract the highest number of candidates in both years. Attempts increased from 7,977 in 2024 to 8,329 in 2025, confirming that design-based questions remain the most preferred option among candidates.

Overall, the data indicates a consistent preference for Section C, followed by Section B, with Section A being the least attempted. This trend highlights candidates' stronger inclination towards design and interpretative studies compared to purely observational study.

Comments on Individual Questions

Knowledge with Understanding

Most of the candidates produced work that demonstrated a sound understanding of form, line, shape, and structure, with clear awareness of space and spatial relationships. Many candidates showed an ability to manipulate surface qualities and effectively use colour and tonal variations within their chosen media. Overall, the works reflected a good understanding of art elements and principles, which were applied competently to express and form.

Most of the candidates demonstrated good control and command of a range of media, using space and spatial relationships effectively in both two and three-dimensional contexts. Their work showed an understanding of pictorial organisation and the relationship between elements within a composition.

However, a small number of candidates exhibited limited understanding of spatial relationships and articulated the use of media, tools, and equipment less competently. Some responses were substandard, revealing an unsatisfactory grasp of the effective application of art elements and principles in rendering form and structure.

Generally, centres displayed an awareness of appropriate skills in the use of chosen media when producing artworks. While most of the candidates demonstrated abilities ranging from basic awareness to competence, the overall standard of work was satisfactory, with evidence of creativity, technical skill, and conceptual understanding in many submissions.

Interpretative and Creative Responses

Most of the candidates' works demonstrated a general grasp of techniques in the use of their chosen media, reflecting an average level of aesthetic judgement. Most of the candidates showed moderate dexterity and creativity in manipulating materials, tools and equipment. However, only a small number of candidates demonstrated mastery or complete mastery of techniques in the effective use of media.

While candidates were generally able to express ideas visually, the level of creativity was limited in many submissions which affected the strength and originality of visual expression. Majority of the works were



average in their exploration of techniques and processes, with creativity evident but not consistently developed.

Nevertheless, a few candidates displayed a high level of creativity, showing confident manipulation of materials tools, and equipment, and stronger aesthetic decision-making. Overall, expression of visual qualities was fairly rendered across the artworks, and most of the candidates demonstrated an average ability to judge aesthetic outcomes.

Personal Investigation and Development

Most of the candidates' scripts communicated a personal response to the tasks and presented interesting solutions. The majority of the candidates demonstrated an awareness of the development of ideas, stages that led logically to their final outcomes. This indicated a generally sound understanding of the examination questions.

Many candidates were able to investigate and draw from various sources to support the production of their final works. However, only a small number of candidates clearly demonstrated positive attitudes towards work and self-reliance throughout the development process.

A small proportion of candidates failed to show clear stages of development, while others demonstrated limited commitment to research and exploration of ideas. In such cases, the lack of investigation negatively affected the quality of the final outcomes. Overall, evidence of research and idea exploration was minimal in many submissions, and candidates' sensitivity in personal investigation was compromised, resulting in work of below-expected quality,

PAPER 3: COURSEWORK

Each candidate is expected to have preparatory work (folio) and a final product prior to the set date of moderation. The final work is expected to be presented in a minimum size of A4 and maximum size A1. However, in case of murals and 3D artworks, projects can exceed the suggested sizes depending on their format.

General Comments

Works should be arranged numerically according to candidates' numbers. Two-dimensional (2D) artworks should be displayed on walls or display boards while three-dimensional (3D) artworks should be placed on a flat surface such as a table and should be clearly numbered and labelled. The labelling should be as follows; **name of school, Centre number and candidates numbers. Project categories should also be indicated on both the folio and the final product.** A lot of Centres complied to the above captioned, only a few Centres did not and as such Moderators had to advise accordingly.

Generally, the centres were prepared and ready for moderation except for a few which did not have paperwork prepared, works not on display and others which did not mark at all. Centres must improve in terms of their preparedness for the moderation exercise as the moderation schedule is usually provided in good time. The preparations must include entering the marks in Malepa system and printing the summary marksheet to avail to moderators.

Majority of centres did not conform to Art National standards. In situations where centres did not conform, teachers were advised to adjust or remark, as dictated by moderation principles. Centres are advised to ensure that they adhere to the marking standard as prescribed by Botswana Examinations Council to avoid delays in the moderation exercise, remember it has to be completed according to schedule.

Comments on Individual Questions

Knowledge with Understanding

Generally, candidates understood surface qualities and used colour and tones competently. They showed grasp of techniques in the use of media. They were mostly able to express quality of form, line, shape and structure.

Creative Response

Candidates showed competence in making aesthetic judgements. They were able to express ideas visually in order to provide interesting solutions.

Support Work

In most of the Centres, candidates showed positive attitudes towards practical work and self-reliance. They were able to investigate from various sources to support the production of their artifacts. There were some Centres where candidates failed to follow the design processes satisfactorily, especially in 2D design artefacts.