

What is drawing?

Drawing is a form of expression in which a person uses drawing materials to create a study by making marks onto a two-dimensional surface. It is an experimental processes and a drawing can be created using a variety of materials, techniques, processes and styles. **Drawing** is a vital component of GCSE Art and Design as it is an important method of **researching, investigating, developing** and **communicating ideas**. You should draw from both **primary** and **secondary** sources to help develop your theme and ideas.

As part of your initial research and development it is important to explore different drawing media and techniques. You could experiment with combining them to see what effects you can achieve.

Drawing tools and materials.

It is important that you use a variety of tools and materials when drawing. Experimenting with a **diverse** range of techniques and processes will give you the opportunity to gain more marks within the assessment objectives.

Drawing materials include **pencils, graphite sticks, biros, fine line pens, felt-tips, charcoal, chalk, oil pastels, drawing ink** and **erasers**. It is also important to consider a variety of **surfaces** to draw onto creating interesting **textures** and **backgrounds** to your drawings.

Pencils come in a range of different hardness. The h range is hard and light and useful for design or technical drawings. The b range is soft and dark and more suitable for shading and tonal drawings.

Graphite sticks are like pencils, but without the wooden casing. They are useful for shading and blending.

Coloured pencils can be blended on the page and their tone can be altered by pressure. Some coloured pencils are water-soluble. Water can be brushed over them, or they can be used on wet paper to create more painterly effects. Water-soluble pencils tend to be softer than ordinary coloured pencils.

Charcoal is a fast and responsive drawing media. It gives both soft and strong lines depending on how you use it. It smudges easily so use a fixative to keep it in place.

Chalk pastels have a soft, matt quality. Colours can be blended by working over the top of each other. Like charcoal, chalk pastels smudge easily so use a fixative to keep it in place.

Oil pastels are made from pigments, waxes and fats. They are good for strong coloured drawings. Working colours over the top of each other can blend them. They can be scraped away in sections and combined with other materials such as inks or watercolours to give a wax resist effect, or white spirit to create a more painterly effect.

Wax crayons are harder and more brittle than oil pastels. Like oil pastels they can be layered and scratched, and used to create a wax resist effect.

Biros are good for drawing. They can be very expressive and are useful for exploring crosshatching. Different coloured pens can give different tonal effects.

Fine liners and **felt-tip pens** create bold, bright colours. Some fine liners or felt-tips can be used with water, which makes them act more like ink.

Drawing ink can be used with a pen nib for drawing and crosshatching, or with a brush for a softer effect. You can use a variety of objects with ink to create textures and marks. Inks can be used with wax resists for interesting effects.

Erasers are normally used for removing unwanted marks but they can be used to create drawings too. Cover an area with charcoal or graphite and use an eraser to remove different amounts of the surface to create different tones and expressive marks.

Papers and surfaces can be used to create texture on which your drawing is completed. Considering and preparing a surface can give an interesting and exciting effect to the drawing. You could use newspaper,

brown paper, tissue paper, tracing paper, wall paper, textured papers and any other interesting surfaces you come across to enhance your drawing.

Drawing techniques.

Mark Making

Mark making describes the different **lines, dots, marks, patterns, and textures** we create in a drawing. It can be loose and expressive or controlled and neat. It can apply to any drawing materials and used on any surface. You can experiment by exploring your materials and creating marks in different media. You can also use a variety of found objects to create textures when mark making. For example you could use a tooth brush, stick or cocktail stick dipped in ink to create a variety of textures and marks as well as the more regularly used materials like pencils and biros. Use your imagination when creating your marks.



Observational drawing

Observational drawing is an important element of the GCSE Art and Design course. This type of drawing is when you draw from a primary source, not from a secondary source like a photograph or image. You can draw anything from observation, including objects and still life arrangements, figure and portrait studies, landscapes and other realistic view points. You can draw in a variety of styles and with a range of media, processes and techniques.

When you are completing your observational study it is vital to look closely at what you are drawing. By doing this you will draw what you actually see rather than what you think you see. By looking continually from what you are drawing to the piece of paper and back again will enable your drawing to be far more accurate. You will be able to record shape, proportion, detail and tone. By drawing from observation you

gain a different experience than you would drawing from a secondary source. You are able to see the subject matter in more detail taking in your surroundings and atmosphere, changing light and shadows, textures and surfaces as well as being able to view your subject matter from a variety of viewpoints looking at edges and spaces.



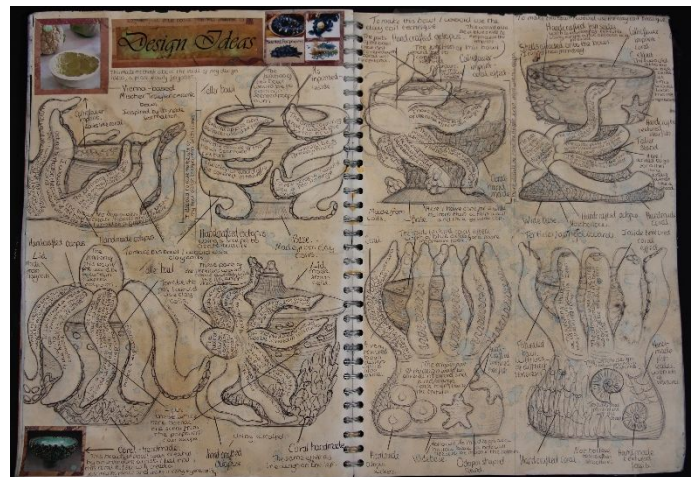


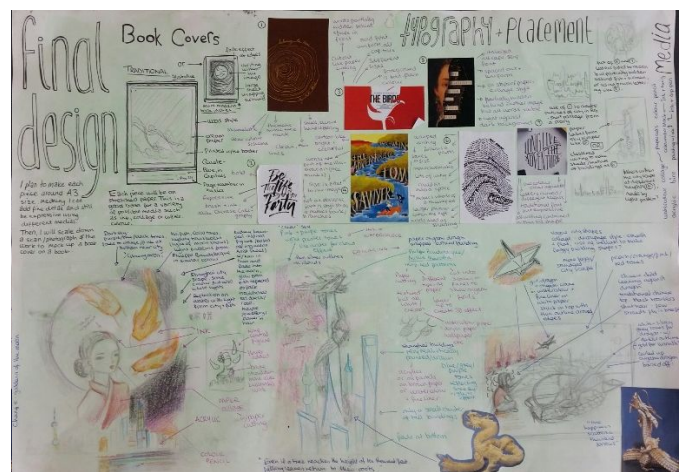
Composition and Design

Composition is how you arrange a drawing. You need to consider where you position shapes and lines on the page. Think about the focal point and use **contrast**, **positioning** and **size** to draw attention to it.

Use your pencil very lightly when you start to sketch out your composition so you can rub out any mistakes.

As part of the GCSE course you will **design** a variety of outcomes. You need to consider the composition and try different ideas and variations developed from your investigations. Your drawing skills will play an important part in this process. Below are examples of how students have developed an outcome through drawing and experimenting with ideas and composition.

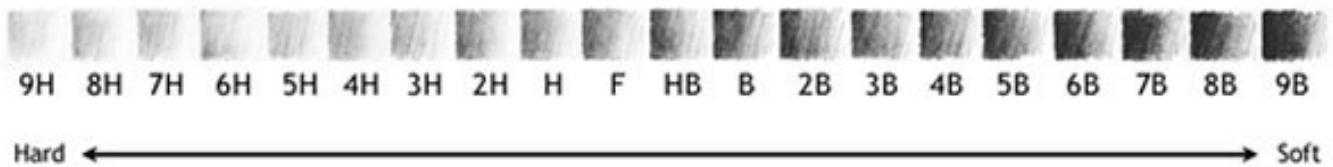




Tonal Pencil Drawing

Whether you intend to draw realistic or abstract subjects, an understanding of tone, the variations of light and shade, is very important.

It is important to have a variety of pencils to create a tonal study. The b range is soft and dark and more suitable for shading and tonal drawings.



You need to study the **tones** in your subject - the different shades of light and dark. The tones are dependent on where the light source is. It is important to look closely at these light and dark shades when creating your drawing. Be confident when applying your tones as a common mistake is that the darkest and lightest areas are ignored and your drawing would seem flat. Experiment with confidence!

Objects are three dimensional, so the tone will change over the surface. Think about the direction of your marks when shading. Diagonal shading or shading against the grain will flatten the appearance of a form.

Don't just press harder to get a darker shade. Build up the tone using several layers or by using softer pencils. If you are shading using crosshatching, think about how close you make your crossing lines - the closer the lines, the darker your shading.



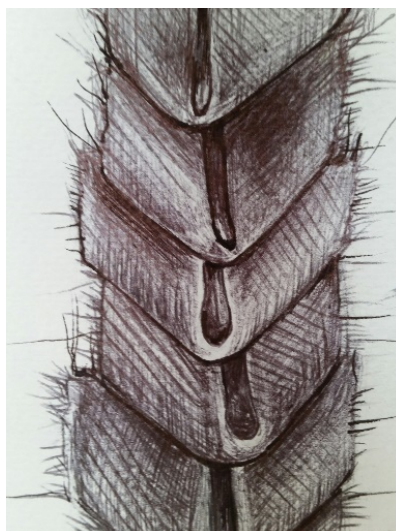
Hatching and Crosshatching

Hatching and crosshatching are techniques to create light and dark tones (shading) as well as texture in a drawing. These techniques are often used in pencil, biro and pen and ink drawings.

Hatching is the use of fine strokes or parallel lines. Darker tones will be created when the lines are drawn closely together and lighter tones and highlights are created when there is more space between the lines.

Crosshatching is hatching in two directions with lines drawn one across the other. Again crosshatching is used to create tonal effects by layering and varying the spacing of lines. When you increase the density of marks darker tones are created.

Hatching and crosshatching can also follow the contour of a subject which enhances its form and shape.



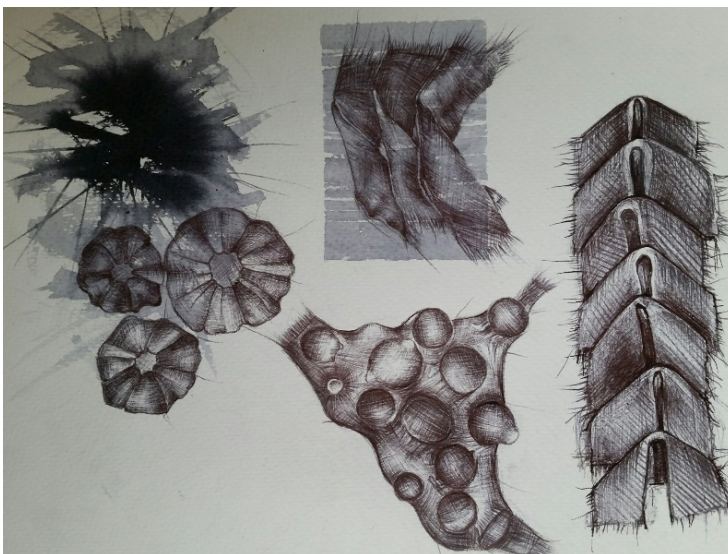
Line drawing

A **contour drawing** uses the outline of shapes to show the subject using only lines. A **continuous line drawing** is a similar type of drawing using lines only however there must be **continuous** contact with the drawing tool and the surface on which you are drawing. Look carefully at what you are drawing, consider form, shape, proportion, space and detail without taking your pen off the paper! Do some timed studies giving yourself short periods of time to complete your drawings. Experiment by completing a study in 2 minutes, then 5 minutes and then 10 minutes! This can be a really fun exercise and helps you look closely at your subject matter! Have a look at the examples below demonstrating these techniques.



Biro Drawings

A biro or ball point pen is an effective drawing tool. You can use a biro to create marks and textures through mark making as well as building up layers to create depth and tone. You can follow many of the same rules when using a biro as when pencil shading. Ensure you look carefully at your subject matter to gain the variations in light as well as using marks to create surface texture.



Coloured Pencil Drawing

Coloured pencils can be used in very similar ways to pencils when creating a variety of marks and tones. The same basic rules apply. However with coloured pencils you gain wonderful results by mixing colours. You can do this by layering colours on top of one another to create differing tones within colours.



Ink Drawings

You can use ink with a variety of tools to create a drawing. A popular tool to use is a nib pen which can be dipped in the ink and applied to a surface. The main difference between shading with a pencil or biro and shading with pen and ink is you cannot apply shading by increasing pressure onto the paper like you can when using a pencil or biro. You need to use mark making techniques to create your drawing.

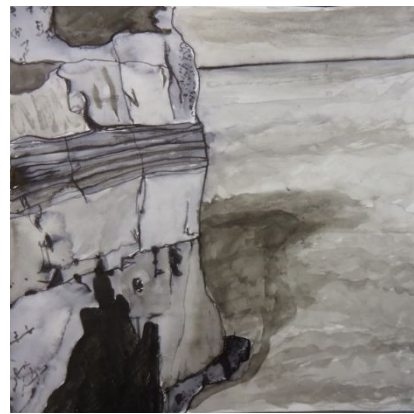
These mark making techniques are very similar if not the same as when you use a pencil or biro. These marks can include hatching, cross hatching, dotting or any other marks you want to use to create texture, tone, form, pattern and line within your subject matter.



As well as the nib pen you can experiment with many other tools. You can use a stick (which could be sharpened to a variety of points/thicknesses) to create rougher more expressive marks within a drawing.



A cocktail stick is an excellent tool to create finer more delicate marks. Where as a cotton bud would create thicker lines and would be easier to block areas of ink. You can use a paintbrush and water with the ink to create ink washes which help to make tonal variations within a drawing.



Pastel drawings

Pastel drawings are a bridge between painting and drawing. The finished pieces can look just as vibrant as paintings, yet the process to create them resembles drawing more than painting.

Oil pastels create strong coloured drawings. Working colours over the top of each other can help blend colours together. The layers of colour create the intense paint like quality. They can be scraped away in sections and combined with other materials such as inks or watercolours to give a wax resist effect, or white spirit to create a more painterly effect. You can create marks and textures using oil pastels as well as depth and tone within the colours.



Papers and surfaces can be used to create texture on which your drawing is completed. Considering and preparing a surface can give an interesting and exciting effect to the drawing. You could use newspaper, brown paper, tissue paper, tracing paper, wall paper, textured papers and any other interesting surfaces you come across to enhance your drawing.

