



**AO2** Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, techniques, tools, digital technologies and processes.

### Definition

**Refine:** To refine can mean to perfect, clarify or improve. In Art and Design, this involves practicing a technique and honing your skills until you are happy with the results; developing ideas through multiple iterations; or adjusting details to achieve the best outcome. This process can occur throughout the life of a project and should aim towards a clear end goal. The later stages of refining are often described as ‘tweaking’ or ‘fine-tuning’. You can move into this stage once you are satisfied with the basic ideas, as well as the media, techniques, tools, digital technologies and processes you are using.

### What is involved in creative making?

Creative making can involve exploring:

- stimulating sources, including new or previously overlooked locations or subjects
- topics that you are interested in or passionate about
- existing ideas, including those from contextual sources, and reinterpreting or combining them in unexpected ways.

This is followed by a phase of initial visualising to give ideas a broad shape or outline. Next comes development, which involves exploring appropriate resources, media, techniques, tools, digital technologies and processes.

### What is the purpose of this AO?

This AO is intended to help you refine your ideas and practical abilities in the creative processes of making art and design.

### What is the most important stage?

One of the most important phases of development is the last but one stage, where:

- a range of possible outcomes should be considered more critically, with sharper focus
- good judgement should be evident in selecting aspects such as media, technique, scale, composition and colour for the final outcome
- due account should be made of the refined control needed to produce high-quality outcomes.

### Achieving your best in this AO

- Explore a sufficient, but not excessive, breadth of media and techniques to make informed choices.
- Balance this with a deeper study in some areas, allowing you to develop high levels of skill and showcase your best abilities.
- Clearly demonstrate the process of reviewing and refining your work, showing rigour, discrimination and imagination.
- Maintain a positive attitude towards your work, build realistic self-belief and promote confidence to take calculated risks.

### Why is it helpful?

This AO should help you to:

- explore promising ideas and clarify them
- develop the knowledge, understanding and practical skills needed to experiment with media and processes, showing a sense of purpose
- improve your control of manual and digital techniques
- select and refine these techniques to enhance your responses
- make effective use of the elements of visual language, such as line, tone, colour and texture.

### Tip

Evidence of your creative processes is as important as your final outcomes.