



Why do we draw?

We draw for pleasure, to relax, to record ideas, and to communicate with each other. Drawing is important in all areas of art and design, but particularly in fine art. Drawing, painting and sculpture are the skills most closely associated with fine art practice.

The WJEC GCSE has **two** units:

- **Unit 1:** Portfolio (120 marks)
- **Unit 2:** Externally Set Assignment (80 marks)

To meet the requirements of the course, you should be able to develop and refine practical and technical skills, communicating artistic intent with purpose.

This must include drawing. Any type of drawing is important in art and design.

'Observational drawings' are highly valued. Drawing from first-hand (primary) sources is almost always the best way to record your ideas and improve your skills.

Tips

You can draw with all sorts of materials: a stirrer dipped in tea, chalk on the ground, make-up, a stick in the sand, rubber, a digital tablet, a craft knife and card, through your breath on a window, a sewing machine, string and glue, doodles on a photograph, a cocktail stick on rolled out playdough, pencil rubbings on a textured surface, and with your fingertip.

Sketch drawing

Henri Matisse (1869–1954) explained: *'Drawing is putting a line (a)round an idea.'*

Sketching is a way of pouring ideas out of your head and onto paper. Sometimes, these are from observation, your imagination, your memory, and often, a combination of all three.

A sketchbook is regularly used by artists as a place to collect ideas. These ideas often go on to be developed into something more defined and will sometimes become a finished work of art.

Different types of drawing

- Observational drawing (drawing from life)
- Line drawing
- Tonal drawing
- Sketch drawing (to convey ideas)
- Expressive drawing
- Illustrative drawing
- Perspective drawing
- Digital drawing
- Mono-printing
- Drawing with light

Key artists to look at

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| • Gwen John | • Adebajji Alade |
| • Curtis Holder | • David Hockney |
| • Bridget Riley | • Kate Malone |
| • Gustavus Payne | |

Techniques to improve your drawing

- Continuous line
- Blind contour drawing
- Non-dominant hand
- Changing pressure
- Tonal gradation (light to dark, dark to light)
- Reductive drawing
- Pigment release

Traditional drawing materials

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| • Pencils: B – 8B | • Fine liner pens |
| • Coloured pencils | • Biro pens |
| • Charcoal sticks or pencils | • Ink with brush, nib or quill |
| • Graphite sticks | • Soft pastels |
| • Graphite powder | • Oil pastels |
| • Conté | • Felt pens |