Top Arts 2020
VCE focus questions
Top Arts focus questions

Top Arts, part of the VCAA Season of Excellence, showcases the exceptional work of students who have completed Art or Studio Arts as part of their Victorian Certificate of Education. We encourage you to work your way through the following focus questions to start putting what you have learnt into practice.

Choose an artwork that appeals to you (title of the work and name of the artist). What mediums have been used and how have the materials and techniques been used to reinforce the ideas and concepts presented in the work?

Consider the characteristics of the exhibition space (light, space, sound, arrangement of works). How do these factors affect the audience’s experience of the space?

Choose a different artwork in the exhibition.

VCE Art students - discuss the work using an analytical framework of your choice (contemporary, cultural, personal or structural).

VCE Studio Arts students - what considerations have been given to display this work (plinths, lighting, hanging, security presence, audience experience)?

What are the interactive elements of the exhibition? How do these change the audience’s experience of the exhibition?
Consider the exhibition as a whole. Are there any themes that students have explored that you find particularly unique? What themes seem popular amongst students in this year’s exhibition?

Pick a folio and describe how the student has used inspiration to inform the development of their concept.

List your ideas from Top Arts 2020.
What inspiration have you gained from the artworks and folios? Comment on new ideas, mediums or techniques you plan to explore over the year.

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Find and record an example of annotation that exemplifies good use of art language and terminology.

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Pick a folio and comment on how the student has made decisions about the materials and techniques they develop.

VCE Art students - how does the student use the analytical frameworks in their annotations on materials?
VCE Studio Arts students - consider how the student has made decisions as expressed in their potential directions.

Artist:

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Tasmia Islam
Holding life 2019
Suzanne Cory High School, Werribee
© Tasmia Islam

David Bennie
End of the road 2019
Camberwell Grammar School, Canterbury
© David Bennie
Choose an artwork that interests you. It may relate to your own work. Note the concept, subject matter expressing it, composition considerations, materials and techniques.

Chloe Newberry
Circles wearables 2019
Victoria College of the Arts Secondary School
© Chloe Newberry

Draw a quick sketch of one artwork and write annotations about it. (Remember to use art elements and principles.)

Sketch here
Folio preparation

Did you know most tertiary education providers require you to submit a folio of your work if you are applying to study a creative arts or design course? It is a good idea to start thinking about this during your VCE studies and develop a folio of work that you can use as part of your university submission.

What is a folio?
A folio is a collection of your personal work. It gives an insight into your creative thinking processes and the meaning behind your work. It showcases your passions, technical skills and diversity as an artist.

What artforms interest you?
E.g. hand drawings, computer aided drawings, paintings, graphic design, photographs, digital images, models, sculptures, video, scripting, short stories, 2D and 3D Flash animation.

What inspires you?
Investigate what inspires you. Select ideas, materials and techniques and source good examples of your favourite artists, photographers or designers. Jot down some of your inspiration.

How can you prepare your folio?
Research your interest areas. Search far and wide. Explore galleries and museums, books or magazines, watch films and live performances, take photos or discover online platforms. Brainstorm your ideas:
What are universities looking for?

Your folio should be a true reflection of you and the journey you have taken to get to this point. Explain the meaning behind your work to provide purpose and context. Your folio doesn’t need to contain masterpieces, but reveal a process that reflects imagination, curiosity and passion. Jot down some thoughts.

Simon Simpson
About Face
Bachelor of Creative Arts (Visual Arts) graduate, Deakin University

How do you communicate your creative process?

Stephanie Santos
Untitled
Bachelor of Creative Arts (Photography) graduate, Deakin University

Include work in your folio that excites and inspires you.
Where to from here?
Develop your ideas and showcase your curiosity. Show the creative process, ask questions about your work and collaborate with others.

Next steps
Search for opportunities to learn more. Participate in workshops, listen to others and discover your future possibilities.

To find out more about Deakin’s courses in creative arts and the folio entry requirements, attend one of our Creative Arts Folio Exploration Evenings. Visit deakin.edu.au/create to find out more.

‘The most beneficial aspect of studying photography at Deakin was the teachers and students I was fortunate to meet. You are able to learn from one another, share and brainstorm ideas, provide feedback and support.’

Natalie Polizzi
Bachelor of Creative Arts (Photography) graduate, Photography business owner and Account Manager
This publication was created by Deakin University. A Major Partner of NGV exhibition, Top Arts 2020.

Cover artwork:
Memphis Neagle
Lost 2019
Firbank Grammar School, Brighton
© Memphis Neagle

Deakin University Provider Code: 00113B