

Sample portfolio

NCFE Level 1 Award in Graphic Design (603/0844/8) NCFE Level 2 Award in Graphic Design (603/0845/X)

Contents

Introduction	3
Unit 02 Graphic design practice (Y/615/3951) – Level 1	4
Unit 02 Graphic design practice (A/615/3957) – Level 2	7
Unit 03 Responding to a graphic design brief (H/615/3953) – Level 1	23
Unit 03 Responding to a graphic design brief (F/615/3958) – Level 2	27

Introduction

This sample portfolio is designed to help Teachers understand the requirements of grading and provide guidance of how a portfolio could look in the chosen learning outcomes for the following qualifications:

- NCFE Level 1 Award in Graphic Design (603/0844/8)
- NCFE Level 2 Award in Graphic Design (603/0845/X).

The chosen learning outcomes exemplified within this sample portfolio are:

- Unit 02 Graphic design practice
 - Learning outcome 1 Understand the work of recognised graphic designers
- Unit 03 Responding to a graphic design brief
 - Learning outcome 1 Understand the requirements of a graphic design brief.

Learner evidence is provided for each learning outcome, with an accompanying commentary written by an External Quality Assurer (EQA) to explain the awarding of the grade and how the learner could go on to achieve a higher grade.

Each learning outcome is exemplified through learner evidence at the following grades:

- Level 1 Pass
- · Level 2 Pass
- Level 2 Merit
- · Level 2 Distinction.

We would encourage the use of our Evidence and Grading Tracker document which is available on our website ncfe.org.uk, although any method which clearly records the evidence against the assessment criteria may be used.

Unit 02 Graphic design practice (Y/615/3951) - Level 1

Learning outcome 1

The learner will:

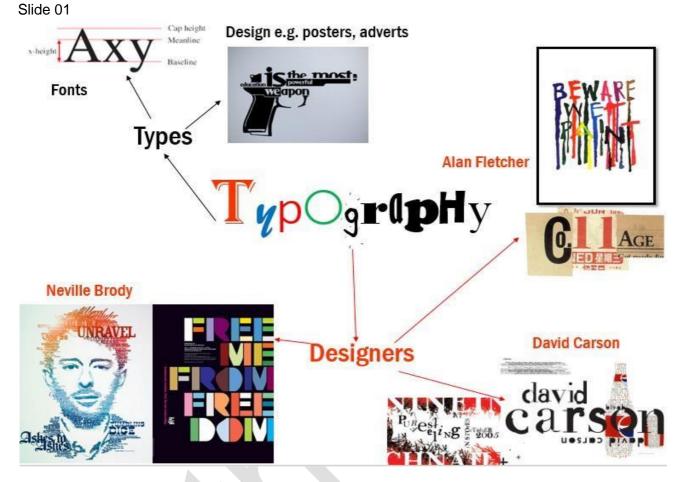
understand the work of recognised graphic designers

The learner must know about:

- examples of design practice in a chosen discipline
- · recognised graphic designers in a chosen discipline

Grading descriptors	Example
Pass:	Learners will use information from only one source
Uses information from one source	to recognise graphic designers from their chosen
	discipline and some of their practice.
Merit:	Learners will use information from at least two
Uses information from at least two different	different sources, to recognise graphic designers
sources	from their chosen discipline and some of their
	practice.
Distinction:	Learners will provide a summary of the practice of
Summarises information from at least two different	graphic designers from their chosen discipline,
sources	using information from at least two different
	sources.

Learner 1 evidence



Learner 1 evidence (cont'd)

Slide 02



EQA commentary

The evidence submitted is two PowerPoint slides.

On the first slide the learner has considered typography in spider diagram form; mentioning two types of typography fonts and design (eg posters and leaflets), and three typography designers. This provides evidence that the learner understands recognised graphic designers in a chosen discipline and some of their practice. Although the work is visually engaging, the learner has provided very little written information to demonstrate understanding.

On the second slide the learner has researched the work of Neville Brody, using the internet to visit Wikipedia. Although there is evidence the learner can find key information about Neville Brody's practice, the information provided is print screens from the website visited. This provides evidence the learner has used information from only one source to recognise graphic designers from their chosen discipline and some of their practice.

Grade awarded for this learning outcome – Level 1 Pass.

To achieve a higher grade the learner would need to use information from at least two different sources to recognise graphic designers from their chosen typography discipline and some of their practice. In addition to this, the learner would need to provide a summary of the designers practice to be assessed at a Level 1 Distinction grade.

Unit 02 Graphic design practice (A/615/3957) - Level 2

Learning outcome 1

The learner will:

understand the work of recognised graphic designers

The learner must know about:

- examples of design practice in a chosen discipline
- · recognised graphic designers in a chosen discipline
- · the characteristics of design practice

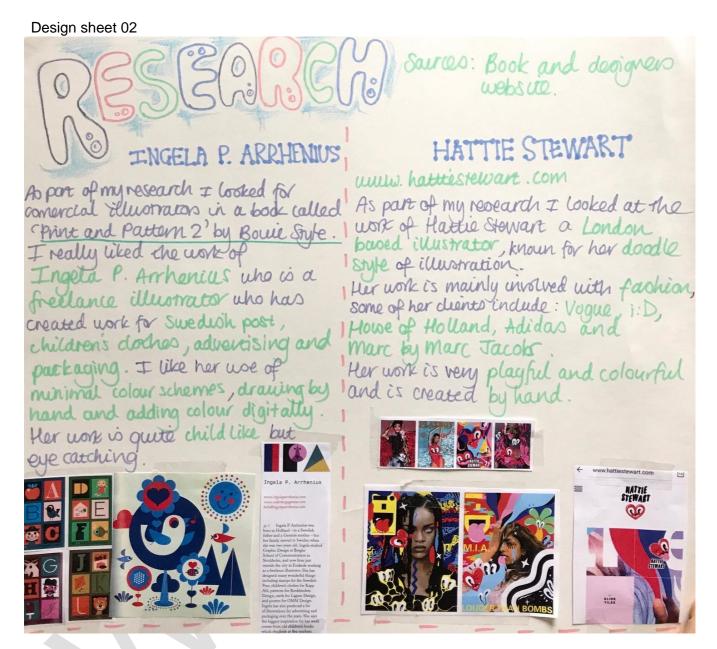
Grading descriptors	Example
Pass: Relates information from at least two	Learners will communicate some defining
sources.	characteristics of design within their chosen
	discipline, using at least two sources to obtain
	information.
Merit: Relates information from different formats	Learners will communicate the main characteristics
from at least two sources	of design within their chosen discipline, using
	information from at least two sources and in at
	least two different formats.
Distinction: Relates information from different	Learners will communicate the main characteristics
formats from different types of sources commenting	of design work within their chosen discipline using
on the credibility of sources	a range of different sources from different formats
	to obtain information. They will state which sources
	have the most value and why.

Learner 2 evidence

Design sheet 01



Learner 2 evidence (cont'd)



EQA commentary

The evidence submitted is two large A2 design sheets.

On the first design sheet the learner has researched 'illustration' looking at the definition of the word and the key characteristics of illustration, mentioning how 'it can be produced by hand or using ICT'. The learner also mentions some of the tools that can be used and that illustrators can have their own style. This is presented in brief bullet form. The learner has highlighted on the board why they chose to research illustration and some of the different forms of advertising illustrations can be found in, mentioning magazines and posters. This gives evidence that the learner has communicated some defining characteristics of design within their chosen discipline.

On the first design sheet the learner has also highlighted five recognised illustrators, although these are just in bullet point form, and has used some key words to describe the characteristics of the designer's work.

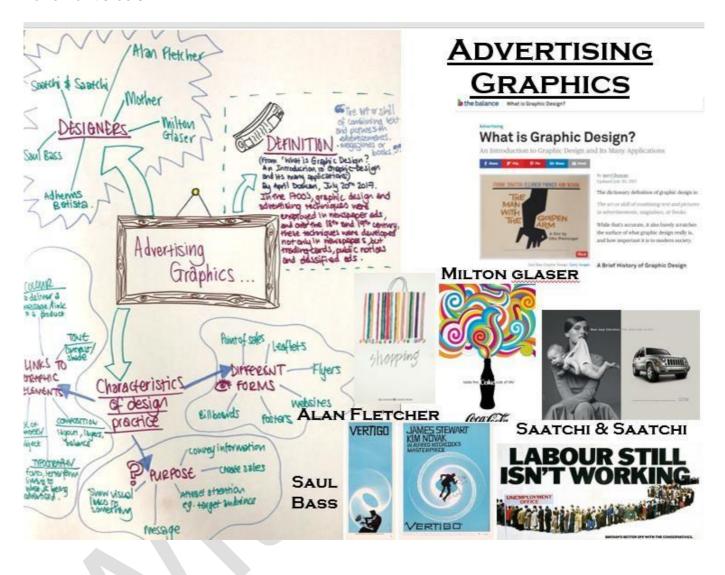
On the second design sheet the learner has chosen two recognised designers from the list on the first design sheet, to research in more detail. Looking at the work of Ingela P. Arrhenius using a book called 'Print and Pattern', the learner has gathered some information and examples of her practice, mentioning how the work is produced and who the designer has produced work for. The learner has then researched the work of Hattie Stewart by visiting her website, again gathering some information about her practice and visual examples of her work. The learner describes the characteristics of her work in some brief detail. This provides evidence that the learner has identified some recognised illustrators and the characteristics of their work using two sources in two different formats to gather information: a book and a website.

Grade awarded for this learning outcome – Level 2 Pass.

To achieve a Level 2 Merit this learner would need to give more information and detailed description of the characteristics of illustration, using more vocabulary linking to the graphics elements. The grade could be increased by including recognised designers who create different styles of illustration.

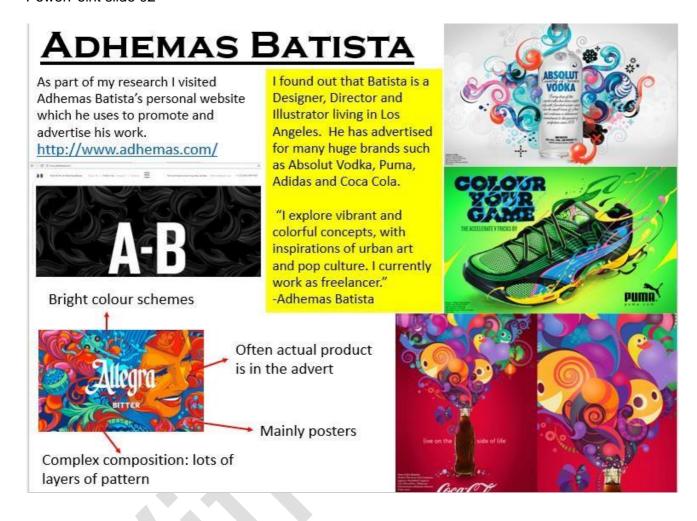
Learner 3 evidence

PowerPoint slide 01



Learner 3 evidence (cont'd)

PowerPoint slide 02



Learner 3 evidence (cont'd)

PowerPoint Slide 03



EQA commentary

The evidence submitted is three PowerPoint slides of research, the first including a photograph of an A2 design sheet.

On the first slide the learner has explored the theme of 'advertising graphics'. On their design sheet the learner has found a definition and brief history from a magazine article titled 'What is Graphic Design?' published in July 2017, a recent and relevant source of information. The learner also explores the characteristics of advertising in detail, mentioning six different examples of the different forms of advertising graphics. The learner then considers the purpose of advertising graphics, demonstrating good understanding by mentioning five different examples. Finally, the learner links this to graphic components. This provides evidence that the learner can confidently communicate the main characteristics of design within their chosen discipline and some of the key characteristics. Finally, on

this slide the learner highlights some key examples of recognised advertising designers, mentioning six different examples and showing a visual example of each.

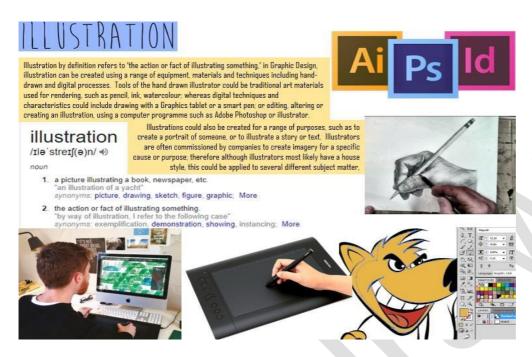
On the next two slides the learner researches the work of Adhemas Batista and Milton Glaser, using an artist's website and a New York Times newspaper article to gather information. The learner analyses each illustrators practice, providing artist quotes, key examples of their practice and looking at the characteristics with some reference to graphic elements. This provides evidence the learner knows about examples of graphic designers and characteristics of their practice. They have also used information from at least two sources and in at least two different formats.

Grade awarded for this learning outcome – **Level 2 Merit**.

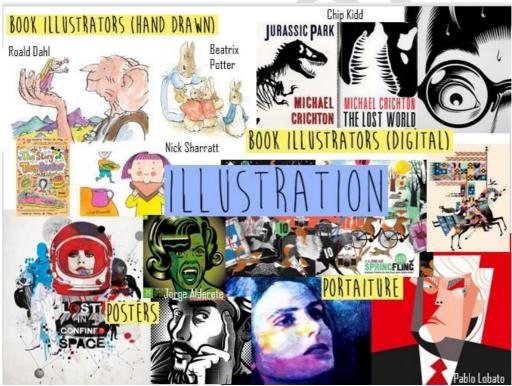
To achieve a Level 2 Distinction the learner would need to use a greater range of sources to find examples of advertising graphic designers and mention which sources of information have the most value and why.

Learner 4 evidence

Slide 01



Slide 02



Learner 4 evidence (cont'd)

Slide 03



Learner 4 evidence (cont'd)

Slide 04

PABLO LOBATO

Celebrities illustrated – Pablo Lobato

By The GROUND Editors On July 5, 2012 In Art, Editorial Submissions

Pablo Lobato is a superb example of an illustrator who uses some of the key characteristics and principles of Graphic

Design to convey meaning. In his celebrity portrait illustration he carefully selects angular shapes and a colour scheme to reflect the subject of his portrait, giving clues to their personality and identity, or perceived conceptions people may

have of them. ILLUSTRATION CHARACTERISTICS

COLOUR (application and selection

of colour to create meaning/deliver a

message



In this political illustration of Donald Trump, the illustrator has used a colour scheme of red, a colour often associated with anger, perhaps suggesting the designer has negative feelings towards the subject of his illustration.



"Pablo Lobato is a graphic designer and illustrator from Buenos Aires, Argentina. Soon after finishing his studies, Pablo started working as a graphic designer for different magazines. This, however, only lasted five years, since total boredom drove him back to his first passion – illustrations. Today, Pablo has made quite a name for him self in Argentina where he lives and works.

His work is truly amazing, I love the colors, shapes and his "Picasso" vibe. For more info about Pablo Lobato and to check out his full portfolio visit his agency AGM website."

Slide 05



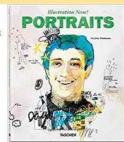
Learner 4 evidence (cont'd)

Slide 06

"My relationship with 'the portrait' changes substantially for me when the portrayed person ceases to be an unknown person, and becomes someone in my immediate surroundings"

Artist quote, taken from 'Illustration Now! Portraits,' Ed. Julius Wiedemann, Taschen

As part of my research I explored this book, it was an invaluable source of research as it holds an encyclopaedia of designers who all produce portraiture illustrations. It is also selected by Julius Wiedemann who had previous background working in Tokyo for digital design magazines; again making it a very trusted source for this kind of research.











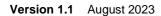




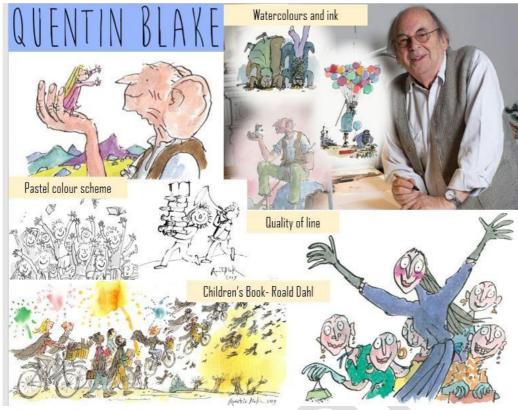


CHARACTERISTICS

- Colour- Minimal colour scheme often based around colour theory, e.g. hot/cold colour scheme
 contrasted with a black portrait.
- Pattern- often pattern is used to add colour and structure to the illustration, The artist tends to uses repeat patterns made up of geometric shapes such as circles.
- Composition- layers are a key component to make up this digital illustration technique, with the portrait almost being used as a stencil to the colourful pattern underneath.



Slide 07



Learner 4 evidence (cont'd)

Slide 08



EQA commentary

Evidence consists of seven PowerPoint presentation slides.

In the first slide the learner explores the theme of 'illustration' providing a detailed summary with reference made to various processes, equipment and materials used to create different styles of illustration. The learner also considers the various purpose of illustrator work in industry. This is evidence of a deep understanding of the characteristics and design practice of their chosen theme.

The learner then explores the work of illustrators in visual form, creating a mood board. The mood board looks at the work of children's book illustrators such as Quentin Blake, Nick Sharratt and Beatrix Blake; before contrasting these with digital book illustrators such as Chip Kidd. The learner then looks at illustration as a form of portraiture and how illustrators are used in the advertising industry through posters. This piece of work provides evidence that the learner can confidently give examples of recognised graphic designers in a chosen discipline.

The learner then explores the work of Pablo Lobato, Jorge Alderete and Quentin Blake, creating a mood board with key words associated with the graphic elements for each. The learner also creates detailed written research and analysis, using three different sources in three different formats; a magazine article, a book and a gallery visit (making reference to the gallery's website). This provides evidence that the learner can communicate the main characteristics of design work within their chosen discipline, using a range of different sources from different formats to obtain information. The learner has also clearly stated throughout their work, which sources have the most value and why, in reference to illustration.

Grade awarded for this learning outcome – **Level 2 Distinction**.

Unit 03 Responding to a graphic design brief (H/615/3953) - Level 1

Learning outcome 1

The learner will:

understand the requirements of a graphic design brief

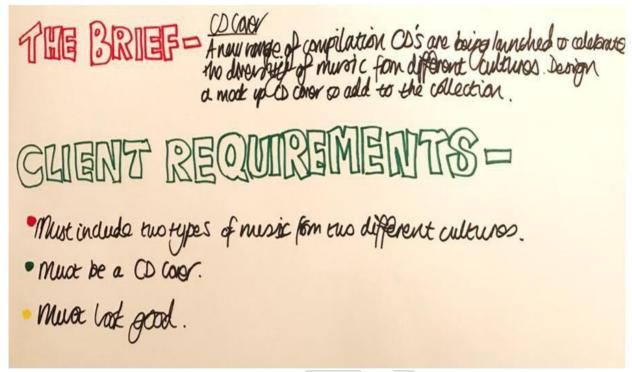
The learner must know how to:

- respond to a brief
- · develop ideas

Grading descriptors	Example
Pass: Makes general conclusions	Learners will make general conclusions about the requirements of the brief and will develop straightforward possible ideas.
	These may be inaccurate and not meet all of the requirements of the brief.
Merit: Makes simple conclusions	Learners will make simple conclusions about the requirements of the brief and will develop some straightforward and effective ideas.
	These may be inaccurate and not meet all of the requirements of the brief.
Distinction: Makes simple conclusions related to the brief	Learners will make simple conclusions about the requirements of the brief and will develop straightforward and effective ideas.
	These may be inaccurate in places, but most ideas meet the requirements of the brief.

Learner 6 evidence

A3 sheet of card

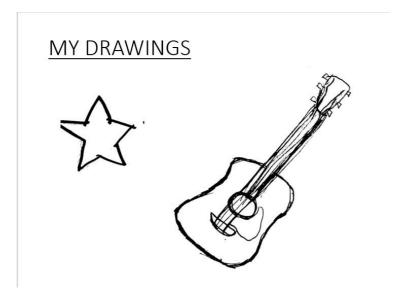


A3 drawing sheet 01



Learner 6 evidence (cont'd)

A3 drawing sheet 02



CD cover design



EQA commentary

The evidence submitted is an A3 sheet of card, two A3 drawing sheets and a digital CD cover design produced using Adobe Photoshop.

In the first A3 sheet the learner has analysed the design brief, looking at the client requirements. This provides evidence that the learner can make some general conclusions about the requirements of the brief.

On the next two sheets the learner creates hand drawn text designs for a 'rock' music genre, adding colour with coloured pencils in an American colour scheme, using slightly different fonts. The learner has then completed a drawing of an acoustic guitar and a star to use within their design. This shows some understanding to their chosen American rock genre of music and therefore meets some of the requirements of the brief.

The learner then produces a design idea for a CD cover, using Adobe Photoshop to edit their earlier hand drawn designs. We can see in the design that the learner has chosen their best text design to edit and add colour to, and has created an American flag design to add as a background. This provides evidence that the learner has developed straightforward possible ideas. The learner's designs only focus on the genre of rock music and therefore do not meet all the requirements of the brief, which was to include a fusion of two types of music from different cultures.

Grade awarded for this learning outcome – Level 1 Pass.

To achieve a Level 1 Merit, the learner would need use their drawing ideas to develop more than one idea in response to the brief. The learner would also need to make simple conclusions from the requirements of the brief, rather than general ones. To achieve a Level 1 Distinction grade the learner would need to develop straightforward but effective ideas, the majority of which meet the requirements of the brief.

Unit 03 Responding to a graphic design brief (F/615/3958) - Level 2

Learning outcome 1

The learner will:

understand the requirements of a graphic design brief

The learner must know how to:

- respond to a brief
- · develop ideas

Grading descriptors	Example
Pass: Makes accurate conclusions based on some information	Learners will analyse the brief and demonstrate their understanding of its requirements. Their conclusions will be accurate but will only take into account some of the client's requirements.
	The ideas developed in response to the brief will only be based on some of the client's requirements.
Merit: Makes accurate conclusions based on all the information	Learners will analyse the brief and demonstrate their understanding of its requirements. Their conclusions will be accurate and take into account all of the client's requirements.
	The ideas developed in response to the brief will be based on all of the client's requirements.
Distinction: Makes accurate conclusions weighing up all the information	Learners will analyse the brief and demonstrate that their understanding is based on an examination of all of its requirements. Their conclusions will be accurate and effectively balance all of the client's requirements.
	The ideas developed in response to the brief will successfully resolve all of the client's requirements.

Learner 7 evidence

Slide 01

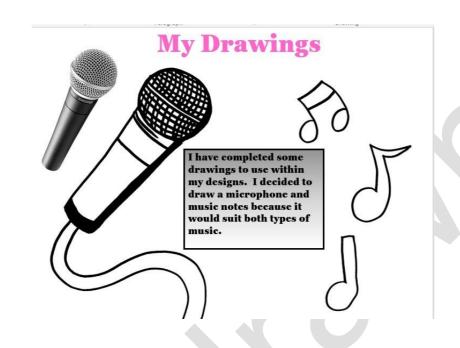


Slide 02



Learner 7 evidence (cont'd)

Slide 03



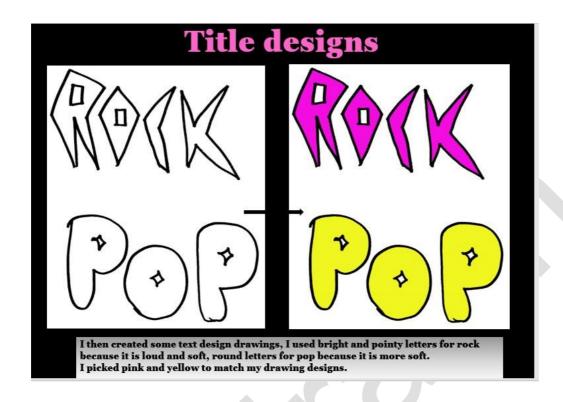
Slide 04

Drawing colour work



Learner 7 evidence (cont'd)

Slide 05



Slide 06

Background Design



I then used my colour music note and duplicated them lots of times to make a repeat pattern, I made the background black to suit my rock idea.

Learner 7 evidence (cont'd)

Slide 07

Design Idea 1

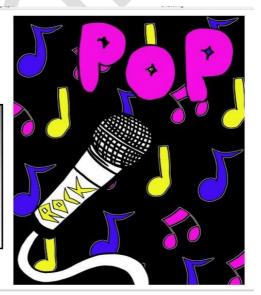
This is my first cover design, I went for a grid layout and used opposite colours for the background squares. I then used music notes or the other squares. I think this design is bright and would stand out on shelf.



Slide 08

Design Idea 2

This is my second cover design, in this design I used all of my drawings. I left the microphone white to stand out and added the rock writing on the side of it. I think this design shows rock better.



Learner 7 evidence (cont'd)

Slide 09



EQA Commentary

The evidence submitted includes nine PowerPoint slides, which feature the learner's own drawings and design work produced using Adobe Photoshop.

In the first slide the learner analyses their design brief. This is evidence that the learner has understood the requirements of the brief. Their conclusions are clearly accurate but only take into account some of the client's requirements. This can be seen when the learner only mentions two different types of music, rather than two types of music from two different cultures, and doesn't acknowledge the need to fuse imagery together from both.

The learner then goes on to produce a mood board linking Rock and Pop music imagery, explaining why they have chosen these two types of music to merge in their designs. This again demonstrates some awareness of the requirements of the brief. The learner then produces drawings to use within their designs, however these are rather generic and don't clearly demonstrate visual links to their chosen type of music genres, although the learners' text designs show a difference in the style of font used to represent each music. The drawings are then edited using Adobe Photoshop to add colour.

The learner then produces a background design using their music note drawing and creates three different CD cover designs for their final CD. Each design is colourful and produced using the learners own drawings and are showing they are clearly developed in response to the brief. However, they are only based on some of the client's requirements, for example, the learner shows no cultural links to their chosen music genres.

Grade awarded for this learning outcome – Level 2 Pass

To achieve a Level 2 Merit, the learner would need to take into consideration all of the requirements of the design brief and show this throughout all ideas produced.



Learner 8 evidence

PowerPoint 01



PowerPoint 02



Learner 8 evidence (cont'd)

PowerPoint 03



Here I have produced a range of text designs using Adobe Photoshop CC 2015, with my dance text designs I tried to use a bold, block capital font to reflect the loud music. I also used bright colours or cold colours in my designs as I found out that those colours tend to be used in existing dance imagery. I used a range of tools on Photoshop, such as warp text, gradient overlay and stroke to make my text look 3D and bold enough to stand out on my cover designs.

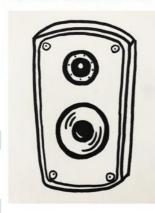
Here I have produced a range of Reggae text designs using Adobe Photoshop CC 2015, I have tried to use a reggae colour scheme of red, yellow and green throughout my designs. I feel my best designs were the ones which used the 3d text effect on Photoshop; which would make my text look industry standard on my cover design.





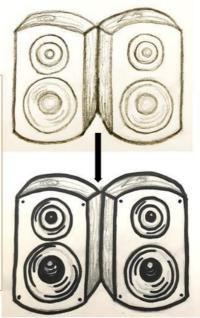
PowerPoint 04

DANCE DRAWINGS





I decided to draw speakers to use to represent Dance music; as it was one of the most commonly associated images I could find during my research. I experimented drawing in ink and pencil and found that my ink drawings were the most successful, as they were bold and would be easier to edit on Photoshop.



PowerPoint 05

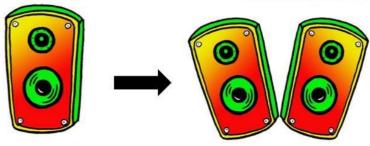


PowerPoint 06

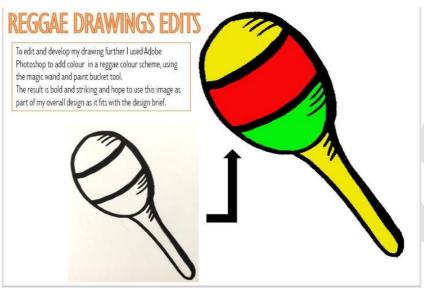
DANCE DRAWINGS EDIT

As part of my idea development, I decided to add colour to my speaker drawing using Adobe Photoshop. I chose a reggae colour scheme of red, yellow and green and experimented with using the gradient tool, I was really pleased with the result as it combined a dance image with a reggae colour scheme. I also experimented with duplicate layer to create a speaker pattern to use within my designs.

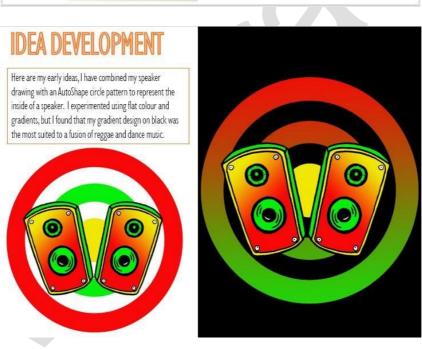




Powerpoint 07



PowerPoint 08



PowerPoint 09

DESIGN IDEA 1:

In this design I have incorporated my maracas into my speaker pattern, trying to achieve a symmetrical effect.

I think the overall effect is eye catching and fits the brief of representing two different types of music from two different cultures. To improve I will need to add a title and perhaps more detail in the background.



PowerPoint 10

DESIGN IDEA 2

In this design I have incorporated text, using two different fonts to represent the different types of music. I then added further detail to the background, drawing out a sound bar design using the rectangular marquee tool.

I think this image is a much more successful design as the composition has more depth.



PowerPoint 11

DESIGN IDEA 3:

In this design I incorporated the sound bar

design at the top and bottom of my design to help frame the overall image.

However I tried a different pattern behind my drawings to create a vanishing point, I think this has improved the look of the piece as the drawings have become the main focus.



EQA commentary

The evidence submitted includes 11 PowerPoint slides, which feature the learner's own drawings and design work produced using Adobe Photoshop*.

In the first slide the learner analyses their design brief, demonstrating their understanding of its requirements in a creative way. They have underlined key words from the brief and clearly listed the client's requirements, with reference to their target audience; also listing possible types of music from a range of cultures they could use within their designs. This provides evidence that the learner has drawn clear, accurate conclusions from the design brief and that they have taken into account all of the client's requirements.

The learner then goes on to produce a mood board linking reggae and dance music imagery. They explain which types of musical instruments could be used to represent each genre, referring back to the design brief. This provides evidence of awareness of all of the requirements of the brief. The learner then produces drawings to use within their designs, linking them to each type of music. The imagery the learner has chosen to draw, are carefully considered and explained, before being edited on Adobe Photoshop. The learner demonstrates skill in doing this and annotates all development work to explain their ideas in reference to the brief.

The learner also produces detailed text designs for their CD cover designs, which provides evidence of a strong awareness of the brief. All ideas clearly link to the requirements of the client.

Finally, the learner produces several CD cover designs using their earlier developmental work. These designs are of a good standard, are well annotated and take into consideration all of the requirements of the brief.

Grade awarded for this learning outcome - Level 2 Merit

To achieve a Level 2 Distinction the learner would need to demonstrate they have effectively weighed up all of the client's requirements, by examining what has been asked of them. They would also need to ensure that their ideas developed in response to the brief have successfully resolved all of the client's requirements.

*The learner has chosen to use Adobe Photoshop, it is not a requirement.

Learner 9 evidence

Slide 01





Slide 03

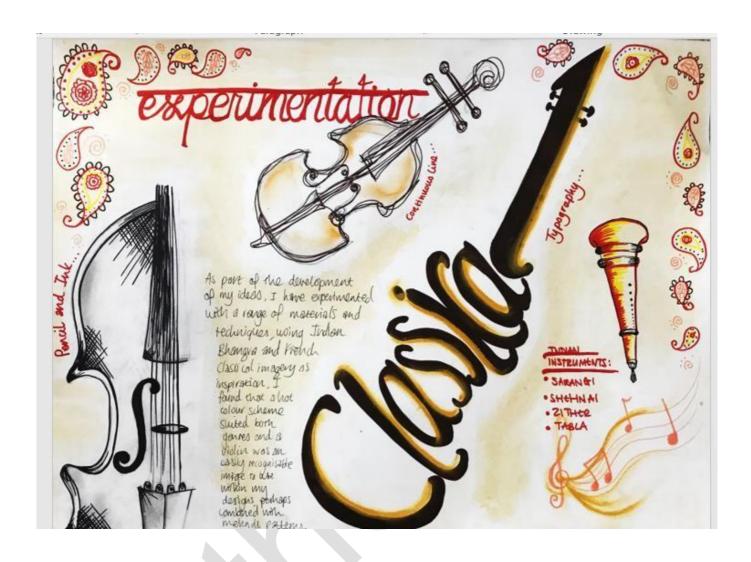


Slide 04

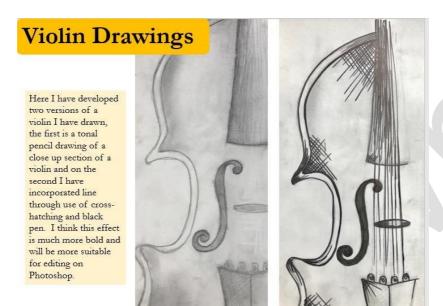


Learner 9 evidence (cont'd)

Experimentation board



Slide 05



Slide 06

Violin Edit 1



Here I have created an edit of my original violin drawing using Adobe Photoshop I have applied a cream colour to the background to represent how classical music started many years ago. I then selected the violin and applied a threshold effect to make the image more bold and the outlines more defined.



Slide 07

Violin Edit 2





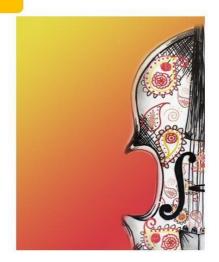
Here I have tried to incorporate an Indian inspiration to the violin, to represent the merge of the two cultures and music. To do this I photographed a section of the mehndi pattern I drew on my experimentation board and used duplicate layer to create a repeat pattern. The result is extremely effective and fits the clients needs around imagery.



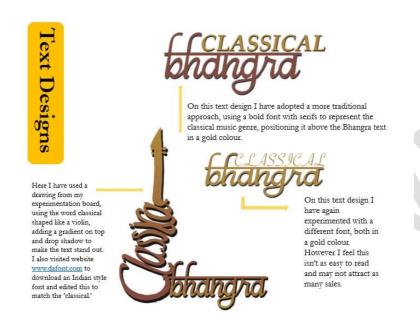
Slide 08

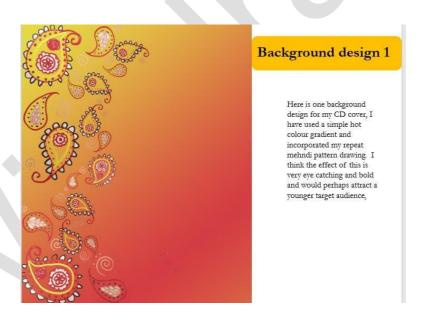
Violin Edit 3

Here I have tried to incorporate a different colour scheme, using the colour dropper tool to select two colours from my original drawing. I feel this allows the violin to draw the viewer in. I think this sort of design would attract a younger target audience to buy the CD.



Slide 09





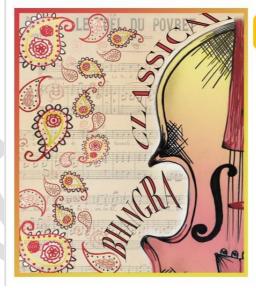
Slide 11



Background design 2

On this background design I have incorporated an image of French classical sheet music to create a contrast in imagery to represent the two types of music. Although the image is interesting I'm not sure it works as a whole.

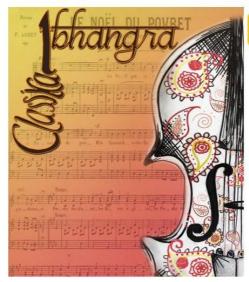
Slide 12



Design Idea 1

Here is my first cover design, I have used my sheet music background design and violin drawing, using colour overlay brushes on Photoshop to add more colour the overall image. I then used warp text to add a title to the CD. Although the colour scheme of the image works as a whole and this design fits the client requirements; I feel the composition is too cluttered and I hope to improve this throughout my designs.

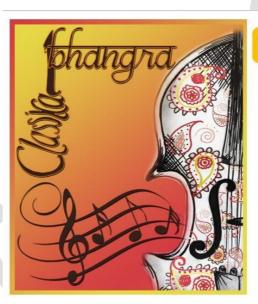
Learner 9 evidence (cont'd)



Design Idea 2

On this design I used a different violin edit, creating a contrast with a gradient background keeping the sheet music and incorporating my best logo design. I think this design is perhaps unbalanced and needs more layers to it.

Slide 14



Design Idea 3

On this design idea I have removed the sheet music and used an image of music notes to represent music coming from the instrument. I feel this design is more simple but really well balanced.

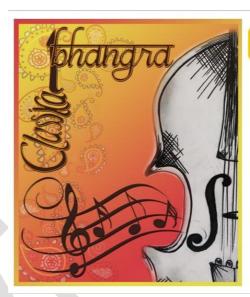
Learner 9 evidence (cont'd)



Design Idea 4

On this design I have adopted a simple violin edit and opting for most of the detail in the design to be in background. I have used a gradient background combined with sheet music imagery and mehndi pattern. The background is successful but I'm not sure the violin fits the rest of the image.

Slide 16



Design Idea 5

On this design I have removed the sheet music but kept the mehndi patterns and I feel this is one of the strongest designs I have produced so far...

EQA commentary

The evidence submitted includes 16 PowerPoint slides and an A2 experimentation board, which feature the learner's own drawings and design work produced using Adobe Photoshop.

In the first slide the learner analyses their design brief, demonstrating they have examined the requirements of the brief by considering what they must do in order to fulfil the brief and client's needs fully. They have also considered who the client is to help them understand their requirements, demonstrating accurate conclusions and that they have effectively weighed up all of the client's requirements.

Using a spider diagram, the learner then considers which types of music to combine in their designs. They decide upon fusing French Classical music and Indian Bhangra music and produce a mood board for each. The learner then produces a large A2 sheet in which they successfully experiment combining french classical and Indian bhangra imagery through drawing. The learner experiments with several drawing techniques and typography, producing work of a high standard.

The learner also completes digital edits of the best of their drawings using Adobe Photoshop. All early designs developed in response to the brief successfully resolve all of the client's requirements, including their text designs, which are annotated to explain intentions.

The learner produces several background ideas and CD cover mock ups, which all resolve the client's requirements and are annotated to weigh up the requirements of the client; demonstrating an excellent awareness of the brief throughout. The learner also shows the ability to critically assess their work through the eyes of the client and the development of their ideas show a clear improvement throughout.

Grade awarded for this learning outcome – **Level 2 Distinction**.