

# Present: The AP Portfolio

## AP 2-D Art and Design ■ Topic 6

AP 2-D Art and Design



## What we will cover

- 1 The two portfolio sections
- 2 Sustained Investigation
- 3 Selected Works
- 4 Writing about your work
- 5 Presentation & image quality
- 6 The scoring guidelines
- 7 Academic integrity



# The AP exam is a portfolio, not a written test

Big Idea 3 is about **presenting**. The **portfolio** has **two sections**, both submitted **digitally**.

There is **no timed exam** – the portfolio is built across the **whole course**.

# The AP exam is a portfolio, not a written test, in detail

## Sustained Investigation

15 images · written evidence · ~60%



*practice, experimentation  
& revision over time*

## Selected Works

5 works · ~40%



*your best pieces,  
showing 2-D skills  
and craft*

AP 2-D Art · The two parts of the portfolio and their weighting

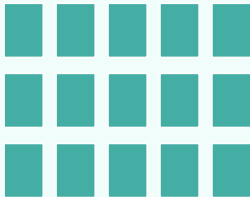
*15 images, plus 5 selected works*

Big Idea 3 is about **presenting**.

# The AP 2-D Art and Design Portfolio

## Sustained Investigation

15 images + written evidence



## Selected Works

5 works + written info



*both submitted as digital images · scored against the guidelines*

AP Art 2-D · Present · the two-part portfolio structure

The portfolio is a 15-image Sustained Investigation plus 5 Selected Works, submitted as digital images

## The two sections at a glance

### Sustained Investigation

15 images showing inquiry, practice, experimentation and revision

+ written evidence

weighted more than Selected Works

### Selected Works

5 works that best show your 2-D skills

+ materials, processes, ideas and size

they need not belong to the investigation

Works may be physical or digital  
– but all are submitted as digital images.



*Selected works show sustained craft*

## Sustained Investigation – images and written evidence

Judged on the **inquiry** and the **practice**,  
**experimentation and revision** it shows.

- 15 images – works **and** process documentation, over time
- written evidence: name the **guiding questions**
- describe **how** the work shows the three actions

Images should **tell the story of the inquiry**, not just show finished pieces – detail and **in-progress** shots are allowed.

## Selected Works: Demonstrating Skills

The Selected Works section shows your best evidence of **2-D skills** and synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas.

- Submit **5 works** (physical or digital) as high-quality images.
- For each, give the **materials, processes, and ideas** used, plus the size.
- These works are judged mainly on the skilful use of the elements and principles; they need not belong to the sustained investigation.



## Writing about your work

Writing communicates inquiry, processes and ideas to viewers who **cannot ask you questions**.

- stay within character limits – concise and **specific**
- state the guiding question clearly
- use **evidence**, not vague claims

**Idea** → **process** → **revision** beats describing finished pictures.



*Written evidence starts from inquiry notes and tests*

## Presentation and image quality

Image quality is **part of the grade** – poor images can **hide real skill**.

- even lighting, sharp focus, true colour
- crop to the work; avoid glare and keystoneing
- keep resolution high



*Selected works need clear craft and presentation quality*



## Understanding the scoring guidelines

Both sections are scored against **published scoring guidelines** :

**Sustained Investigation** –  
inquiry + evidence of practice, experimentation, revision

**Selected Works** – 2-D skills + synthesis of materials, processes, ideas

Readers use **visual evidence in the work** *plus* your writing to apply the criteria.

Design your work **with the criteria in mind** – but **not to a formula**.

## Academic integrity and citing sources

Portfolios must be your **own** work – using others' work without permission or citation is a **serious violation**.

- work from **published sources** you did not create must move **far beyond duplication** and **cite** the source
- never present another artist's work – or an **AI-generated image** – as your own

Citing influences shows **integrity**, **not weakness**.

When in doubt, work from **your own** photos, observation and imagination.

## Worked example – writing the investigation statement

**For the Sustained Investigation you write a short statement about your inquiry and how the work developed.**

- *“My inquiry asked how repetition can show the passing of time. I began with pencil grids, then moved to printmaking so I could repeat one image with small changes, revising the spacing in later prints to slow the visual rhythm.”*
- Idea, materials, and **change** – in one or two sentences.

The statement is evidence of decision-making. A description of the finished work, with no revision named, evidences nothing.



## Topic 6 – key takeaways

1

### Two sections

15-image Sustained Investigation  
+ 5 Selected Works

2

### Show process

in-progress images, not only  
finished pieces

3

### Write tightly

name the guiding question; idea  
to process to revision

4

### Integrity

transform any source far beyond  
copying, and cite it

## Check yourself

- 1 How many works go in Selected Works?
- 2 Must Selected Works come from the investigation?
- 3 What is keystoneing, and why avoid it?
- 4 You worked from a photographer's image. What must you do?

**Answers** 1. 5    2. no    3. tilted edges from an angled camera – it distorts the work  
4. move far beyond it and cite the source