



St. Maarten Academy

Academic

2026-2028 COURSE OUTLINE for Visual Arts, FORM 4 and 5

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Visual Arts area of study encompasses all three domains of learning, namely, *cognitive, affective, and psychomotor*. The pedagogy of the subject covers such topics as the theory and history of art, elements and principles of design and manipulative or practical skills. Visual Art, therefore, is of great relevance to students as it is important for learning and gaining insight into problem solving and creativity, evident in the interpretation of their own work and the work of others.

The subject offers students the opportunity to acquire a variety of experiences and skills in the areas of art, craft and design. It also fosters interest and enjoyment in the doing, production and consumption of art and seeks to develop informed citizens and raise the standards of cultural awareness among students.

CXC Visual Arts Syllabus

COURSE OBJECTIVES (CXC Syllabus)

Students should:

- Demonstrate knowledge of elements of art and principles of design
- Develop the ability to perceive, understand and express concepts and feelings in Two Dimensional and Three-Dimensional forms.
- Develop critical and analytical faculties – the ability to identify, research and evaluate problems in a systematic way.
- The ability to record ideas from direct observation and personal experience.
- The ability to communicate by using appropriate materials and technologies in a disciplined way.
- Develop a working vocabulary in art and design.
- Develop an appreciation of the work of other artists and designers in the Caribbean in both contemporary and historical contexts.
- An understanding of cultural change and the importance of art and design in the evaluation of personal experience in a multicultural society
- A well-organized comprehensive journal to include samples and supportive theoretical and visual material using knowledge of layout and design technique.

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STUDENTS MUST CHOOSE **TWO (2) EXPRESSIVE FORMS** TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CXC EXAMS

Over the course of Form 4 & 5, students must complete Technique samples and a total of 10 SBA's, of which the 6 best will be used as CXC Exam Pieces and the remainder will be submitted as possible Samples.

Form 4 students will be working on SBAs for their respective Expressive Forms during the year, ideally completing at least 6 SBA's. During this year they will also start on their Journal, which is the theoretical(written) Exam for Visual Arts.

Form 5 students must complete at least 5CXC Pieces and 50% of the Reflective Journal by October 2022 in addition to having no less than 80% attendance to be signed up for the 2028 CSEC Visual Arts exam.

All 6 CXC Pieces must be completed by December 2024, completion of SBA's/Exam Pieces in January and February of 2025 is only for students with extenuating circumstances.

All 6 completed Pieces are due at CXC in March 2025.

The completed Journal is due on the date of the final practical CXC exam.

COURSE UNITS OF LEARNING (Textbook and CXC Syllabus)

(This does not state the order of learning---just the most logical progression)

Unit 1: CXC Syllabus

- Art Critique Lessons
- What is expected from the student in order to complete the Visual Art syllabus.
- Discussion, research of Artists techniques, styles, etc.
- Talking about your art, your technique and method, self-critique.
- Review the Principles of Design and Elements of Art. Composition and Craftsmanship.

Unit 2: Reflective Journal (ongoing)

- Introduction of Reflective Journal assignment
- Research of chosen Expressive forms (internet, books, etc.)
- Interview/Research an artist with your Expressive form or Medium.

Form 4/5 – Reflective Journal

- Reflective Journal Cover Design
- Reflective Journal Entries all SBA's and steps, self-critiques
- Samples of other work
- Artist Interview completed, 5 pieces of art, critiques.
- Glossary
- Bibliography
- Reflection

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Unit 3: ART TECHNIQUES with each SBA (ongoing)

Drawing Techniques using various media

- Building art skills using various Media; **Watercolor, Acrylics, Charcoal, Collage, Mixed Media.**
- Drawing faces lesson – techniques, rules practice.
- Figure drawing lesson using; **Pencils, Charcoal, Oil Pastels**
- Sketchbook assignments
- Discussion; Various artists and research by students.

EXPRESSIVE FORMS CHOICES

- 1. Drawing**
- 2. Painting & Mixed Media**

- 3. Graphic & Communication Design**
- 4. Sculpture & Ceramics**

Test Code: 01250020 DRAWING

(Ongoing to form 5)

On completion of this Expressive Form, students should develop observational, interpretive and drawing skills of subjects, which will include natural and man-made objects and drawings from life (human or animal).

Must be from life, using dry media, charcoal, pencil, color pencils or ink

- Use color to demonstrate expressive qualities.
- Show a variety of color harmonies and contrasts.
- Explore a variety of painting media, materials and techniques used in picture making.
- Apply the elements and principles of art and design to produce compositions in a variety of media.
- Create aesthetically pleasing compositions from observation, imagination and interpretation based on specific themes.
- Produce samples of personal expressions in a variety of media.
- Critique their own work and that of established Caribbean and international artists.

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SBA 1 – Option A (Drawing)

- Nature, plants, trees, leaves, branches, etc. or CXC Past paper option
- Self-critique

SBA 2 – Option A (Drawing)

- CXC Past paper option to be decided on.
- Self-critique

SBA 3 – Option A (Drawing)

- Draw a still life of objects in your home. Example a teapot with cups and saucer etc. or a CXC Past paper.
- Self-critique

SBA 4 – Option A (Drawing)

- CXC Past paper option to be decided on.
- Self-critique

SBA 5 – Option A (Drawing)

- CXC Past paper option to be decided on.
- Self-critique

On completion of this Expressive Form, students should develop observational, interpretive and drawing skills of subjects, which will include natural and man-made objects and drawings from life (human or animal).

- Student will create 6 pieces of art based on their **Expressive Forms** and **Theme** chosen.
- Students will write detailed self-critiques of each work of art produced.
- Student will provide sketches of ideas for assignment.
- Research the themes chosen
- Artists researched - must have 5 pieces of art to critique.
- SBA minimum size 12" x 18", max size 19" x 20" on art paper, canvas board or wood.

SBA 1 – Option B (Painting and Mixed Media)

- Create an artwork that represents your theme or a given topic using Acrylics.
- Self-critique

SBA 2 – Option B (Painting and Mixed Media)

- Create an artwork that represents your theme using a new point of view or new medium (if you used acrylics before now use watercolor or collage).
- Self-critique

SBA 3 – Option B (Painting and Mixed Media)

- Create an artwork that represents your theme using a new point of view or new medium (if you used acrylics before now use watercolor or collage) and use a different material or size. Experiment with Abstract, non-representational, perspective, etc.
- Self-critique

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SBA 4 – Option B (Painting and Mixed Media)

- CXC Past paper option to be decided on. Use medium of choice.
- Self-critique

SBA 5 – Option B (Painting and Mixed Media)

- CXC Past paper option to be decided on. Use medium of choice.
- Self-critique

On completion of this Expressive Form, students should develop knowledge of design, layout techniques, lettering and illustration skills in order to portray ideas and messages.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES Students should be able to do:

- Apply the elements and principles of design to produce aesthetically pleasing compositions.
- Demonstrate skills in layout techniques using both manual and/or computer-aided design methods and graphic software.
- Define terminologies used in graphic and communications design, for example, layout, typography, poster, and logo.
- Analyse given design problems and arrive at an appropriate design solutions. ○ Use basic computer applications to create visual communication compositions.
- Use appropriate lettering styles and illustration (manual or computer-aided design method) to achieve a desired communication visual effect.
- Create visual communication material, such as posters, advertisements, illustrations for books, illuminated letters, packaging, letterheads, signage, labels, and logos.
- Critique their own work and that of established Caribbean and international artist.

• Intro to Design Programs Photoshop, Illustrator, MediBang Paint Pro. • Typography • Layout and composition	• Thumbnails of ideas • Design your personal logo Newspaper ad – how to create an ad to sell a product. • Design a theme poster	• Design a house style (BC/LH/Env) for a company. • Discussions: local and international graphic designer's work • Illustrating poetry and/or a book.
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SBA 1 – Option C (Graphic and Communication Design)

Design a logo, Business Card (BC), Letter Head (LH), and Envelope (Env), for your own brand.
Self-critique

SBA 2 – Option C (Graphic and Communication Design)

Illustrate a poem by a Caribbean artist to go inside a book. Use CXC poetry book for poem.
Self-critique

SBA 3 – Option C (Graphic and Communication Design)

Design a poster for a local event (Sporting event, music festival or food festival)
Self-critique (Past paper topic)

SBA 4 – Option B (Painting and Mixed Media)

- CXC Past paper option to be decided on.
- Self-critique

SBA 5 – Option B (Painting and Mixed Media)

- CXC Past paper option to be decided on.
- Self-critique

On completion of this Expressive Form, students should develop the ability to conceptualize, design and produce sculpture and/or ceramics in relief or in the round based on given themes, by means of modeling, casting, carving constructing, throwing and assembling, using materials, such as clay, stone, wood, metal and other natural and man-made materials.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES Students should be able to:

- Analyze the elements and principles of design identified in examples of sculptural and/or ceramic forms.
- Demonstrate using a variety of materials an understanding of the elements and principles of design as they relate to sculptural and/or ceramic forms.
- Produce sculptural and/or ceramic forms on given themes using traditional and non-traditional materials.
- Use appropriate tools, equipment, and techniques in the production of ceramic and sculptural pieces.
- Explore surface-decoration techniques, such as carving, burnishing, and glazing and processes, such as, drying, firing.
- Construct three-dimensional forms with stone, wood or man-made materials using appropriate techniques and apply correct surface finishes.
- Critique traditional and contemporary designs and processes employed in the Caribbean and internationally in producing sculptural and ceramic pieces.
- Assess their own work and that of local, regional, and international artists who are sculptors and ceramists or potters.

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SBA 1 – Option F (Sculpture and Ceramics)

- Create a square container using any 3-D technique(s) and materials(s) of your choice. Decorate the container using your choice of theme. The design must flow around the surface of the container. The piece should not exceed 20 cm in any direction.
- Self-critique

SBA 2 – Option F (Sculpture and Ceramics)

- Design and produce a free-standing sculpture titled “Washday”. The piece should not exceed 15cm x x30 cm.
- Self-critique.

SBA 3 – Option F (Sculpture and Ceramics)

- Design and produce a wine bottle holder based on the theme “Overlapping Leaves”. The piece should not exceed 20cm in any direction.
- Self-critique (Past Paper topic)

SBA 4 – Option B (Painting and Mixed Media)

- CXC Past paper option to be decided on.
- Self-critique

SBA 5 – Option B (Painting and Mixed Media)

- CXC Past paper option to be decided on.
- Self-critique

Completion of at least 10 SBAs (We will choose the best 6 (3 of each) for submission to CSEC) and 4 samples (2 of each) for the journal.

Pick up CXC Exam Paper – April 2028

Preparation for Final Exam – May 2028

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING SYSTEM

Weighed value of activities:

SBA's will be graded in 3 areas

- SBA Preliminary Sketches and research
- SBA Completed Project (Project will be graded using CXC marking scheme and converted to 100%)
- SBA Self Critique (Artist Statement)

CXC ASSESMENT SCHEME FOR SBAs

The criteria used for awarding marks for each skill for EACH piece (piece 1, 2, and 3) are as follows.

	PIECE 1&2		PIECE 3	
EXPRESSIVE FORMS	ALL OTHERS	DRAWING	ALL OTHERS	DRAWING
CRAFTMANSHIP ○ Appropriateness of material or relevance to the theme or task ○ Level of skill in manipulation of materials or media	15 MARKS	16 MARKS	30 MARKS	33 MARKS
DESIGN AND COMPOSITION ○ Manipulation of design elements (line, texture, color, shape, mass, space); ○ Functionality	7 MARKS	9 MARKS	16 MARKS	16 MARKS
INOVATION ○ Experimentation ○ Level of personal interpretation ○ Creativity	5 MARKS	5 MARKS	10 MARKS	9 MARKS
PREPARATORY WORK ○ Development of Concept ○ Development of Design	3 MARKS		6 MARKS	

Total 30/60 marks = 100 %

Weighting of examination components

PAPERS	Paper 01 Reflective Journal	Paper 02 Production Paper	Paper 03 School Based Assessment	TOTAL weighted Marks	%
<i>Theory, Process and Practice of Visual Arts</i>	90 (180)	-	-	180	33.33
<i>Expressive Form 1</i>	-	60 (120)	120 (60)	180	33.33
<i>Expressive Form 2</i>	-	60 (120)	120 (60)	180	33.33
TOTAL	90 (180)	120 (240)	240 (120)	540	100
%	33.33	44.44	22.22	100	-

*Weighted score in bracket

*SBA Assignments: Three pieces of artwork for each Expressive Form – the first and second pieces are 30 marks each and the third piece is 60 marks. *The allocation of marks by skill is on page 67.*

Note that the candidate's performance is reported using the Theory, Process and Practice of Visual Arts as well as the two selected expressive forms.

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*As per the CSEC Visual Arts Syllabus Amended October 2025

Format of the examinations

Paper 01	Reflective Journal	Completed over 5 terms
Paper 02	A Production Paper based on the two Expressive Forms chosen	6 Hours for each expressive form
Paper 03	School-Based Assessment Portfolio consisting of SIX pieces of work (THREE pieces from EACH Expressive Form chosen)	School-Based Assessment (SBA) Portfolio Completed over 5 terms

RESOURCES:

Online:

- a. www.CXC.org
- b. <http://thevirtualinstructor.com>
- c. www.incredibleart.org
- d. <http://www.awesomeartists.com>

Books:

- e. CXC Visual Arts Syllabus,
- f. Visual Arts for the Secondary School, by Alan Siepersaud (CXC)
- g. Drawing on the right side of the Brain by Betty Edwards,
- h. DK ART School - An Introduction to Art Techniques, by Ray Smith, Michael Wright & James Horton
- i. The Art Teachers Survival Guide for Secondary Schools by Helen D. Hume