



**National Society for Education in Art & Design**  
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17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Julie,

On behalf of NSEAD members, I note your advice to teachers and lecturers, schools, colleges and centres, posted 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 regarding action in case of disruption to examinations during the Coronavirus pandemic. We are asking for urgent clarification of the arrangements for Art and Design courses on the following points:

**Assessment**

Art and design subjects are uniquely placed. Both GCSE and A level qualifications require teachers to assess both coursework and externally set assignments (ESA). Any sudden and possible school closures will immediately result in coursework not being available for assessment and any internal or subsequently external moderation not being possible. How should teachers manage this?

**Moderation arrangements**

We are concerned that due to restrictions on travel, staff absence and other impacts of the pandemic, some teachers will not be able to attend essential and planned standardisation training. These are imperative for fair and accurate assessment to take place. What action will exam boards be asked to take to address this?

**Teacher assessment**

Art and design is a linear qualification. We do not agree that mock examinations are a true or correct reflection of student potential, and strongly advise that teacher assessment, if necessary, rather than exam marks, are considered. Can you confirm that the different assessment needs for linear qualifications, which are specific to art and design, will be considered?

As the professional body for art, craft and design education we strongly advise that subject-specific guidance is given to schools, colleges and centres as soon as possible. At this time of national emergency, our members are extremely concerned that they cannot give the reassurances needed to their students. We ask that you take into account the unique assessment and moderation needs of art and design qualifications, and can provide the reassurances that we seek without delay.

Yours sincerely,

Michele Gregson, General Secretary NSEAD



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