

# Guide to Answering the Higher Question Paper - Design

## Questions 1 or 2 (you must answer either question 1 or 2 fully)

The most important thing to understand is exactly what the question wants you to do. Marks are only awarded for a **valid response** to the question. The question will ask you to do one of two things:

**DESCRIBE:** This is asking you to identify and describe some of the characteristics of the design in question.

**EXPLAIN:** This is asking you to state how aspects of the design relate to each other and the effect of these relationships.

Questions 1 and 2 will relate to an image and will always have a similar format:

With reference to the image above:

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| a. <b>Describe</b> the designer's use of .....(1)..... and.....(2)..... in this work;   | <b>6</b> |
| b. <b>Explain</b> how the <b>combined</b> use of ... (1)..... and.....(2)..... contributes to the .....(3)..... of this work. | <b>4</b> |

## HOW TO STRUCTURE YOUR ANSWER TO QUESTION 1 OR 2:

**Part (a)** is asking you to **DESCRIBE**. 6 marks are available and it will ask you to describe such things as *materials, process/technologies, colour* (or any of the other visual elements), *ergonomics* etc...

**For example fill in the above blanks with (1)Pattern, (2)Use of Materials.**

You should try to make valid, descriptive points e.g. "*the designer has used **geometric printed patterns on soft diaphanous silky fabric**, and has used this in the harem pants to emphasise the dancers fluid movements.*"

**Part (b)** is asking you to **EXPLAIN** how the combined use of the design elements in part (a) contributes to the overall success of the design. 4 marks are available and it will be asking you about things like *appeal to a target market, visual impact, fitness for purpose* etc...

**For example fill in the blanks with (1)Pattern, (2)Use of Materials, (3)Visual Impact.**

You should try to make valid points that reveal cause and effect or clarify how aspects of the work relate to each other e.g. "*the use of **geometric patterns combined with silky fabric, gathered at the waist and ankles** create a **bold and striking piece of costume design**. This combination enables the dancer to move freely on stage and strike a bold figure that catches the eye of the audience.*"

## Questions 3 or 4 (you must answer either question 3 or 4 fully)

The most important thing to understand is exactly what the question wants you to do. Marks are only awarded for a **valid response** to the question.

**DISCUSS:** This is asking you to communicate any information you know and ideas you have about particular designers, groups of designers or design movements you have studied **relevant to the question being asked.**

**EXPLAIN:** This is asking you to state how aspects of the design relate to each other and the effect of these relationships.

### HOW TO STRUCTURE YOUR ANSWER TO QUESTION 3 OR 4:

In this question both parts (a) and (b) are asking you to **DISCUSS** and **EXPLAIN**. This means you should try and communicate any ideas and knowledge that you have about **'Scheherazade' and/or 'Lion King' costume pieces**. What this means is that:

**Part (a)** is worth 10 marks and will be asking you to **DISCUSS** particular aspects of the designs, such as *decoration, use of techniques/technologies, sources of inspiration* etc... You can reference one or more works by both **Leon Bakst and Julie Taymor**, or you can discuss one or more works by one designer of your choice in greater detail.

With reference to any designer(s) you have studied.

- a. **Discuss** the designer's(s) **awareness of target market** and/or use of **one significant visual element** in the design work(s). **10**

#### **For example:**

- *'Bakst's risky interpretation of 'Scheherazade' featuring the costume of Shah Zeman would shock the **target market of theatre going Parisians**. This was evident in Shah Zeman's Oriental style, which was a radical departure from traditional ballet costumes of the time.'*
- *'Shah Zeman's costume for 'Scheherazade, 1910' by Leon Bakst **uses richly decorative geometric based patterns** to give the costume a strong visual impact on stage and reflect the power and status of the regal character.'*

**Part (b)** is also worth 10 marks and is asking you to **EXPLAIN** social and cultural influences on the designer(s) you have discussed in part (a).

With reference to any designer(s) you have studied.

- b. **Explain** the influence of social, cultural and/or other factors on any of the design work(s) discussed. **10**

#### **For example:**

- *'Shah Zeman's costume is an imagined orientalist mix of Ottoman and Persian styles, which the Parisian theatre going public had never seen before. They were enthralled by the colour, exoticism and barbarism that the costumes depicted.'*