

## Visual Arts EE – Klee – Examiner’s comments

### Criterion A – Focus and method

**3 out of 6** – The topic is communicated. The candidate aims to show how the CoBrA artists were inspired by children’s art. The research question is clearly stated but the focus of the essay drifts away from the question, by exploring child psychology and generalising about the spontaneity of the artists. The method of this research is not clearly communicated. It seems that the candidate has read secondary sources and visited museums to experience the primary sources, but this process has not been made explicit. The candidate rarely analyses the primary sources. They are added to the essay as figures, but not explored in depth in the essay.

### Criterion B – Knowledge and understanding

**4 out of 6** - The candidate has good knowledge and understanding of the subject. The selection of the material is mostly relevant and appropriate to the research question. The drawings and paintings made by both the artists and the children are perfect illustrations. Unfortunately, the application of subject-specific knowledge to these works is rather limited. While terms like ‘naïve’ and ‘abstract’ are appropriate, there is room for deeper analysis. Furthermore, there is not much understanding of how Klee and CoBrA were received in their times.

### Criterion C – Critical thinking

**6 out of 12** – While the candidate clearly presents her research, a strong argument or conclusion is not constructed. Many of the statements seem to be ‘for your information’ only. There are quite a few generalisations, such as “children think and express in different manners than adults.” The page on Paul Klee is very descriptive, and the page on children’s psychology is rather open-ended. There is some analysis of Appel’s ‘Man and animals’ (Figure 5), which connect the arguments about primary colours and post-war trauma to the influence of children’s art. However, the essay has missed the opportunity to do more of this. Figure 8, the example of Klee’s train, is not explored in the essay, which is a missed chance to comment on how his child-like drawings were received in his times.

### Criterion D - Presentation

**4 out of 4** - The candidate has used a clear layout and presentation. The table of contents, the use of figures and footnotes help the reader of the essay.

### Criterion E - Engagement

**4 out of 6** – It is clear that the student has an interest in the topic. The RPPF shows how the focus of the research and writing gradually became more focused on a particular artist, style and time period. While the supervisor admits to ‘steering’ the candidate, the candidate also sees the advantage of narrowing the scope of her question.