



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE

GRADE 12

DESIGN P1

(THEORY)

NOVEMBER 2025

MARKS: 100

TIME: 3 hours

**This question paper consists of 15 pages.
This question paper must be printed in full colour.**

INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

1. This question paper consists of SIX questions.
2. There are THREE choice questions in this question paper. Read the options carefully.
3. This question paper consists of THREE sections:

SECTION A: Design literacy (30 marks)
QUESTIONS 1 to 3

SECTION B: Design history (30 marks)
QUESTION 4

SECTION C: Design in a sociocultural/environmental and sustainable context (40 marks)
QUESTIONS 5 and 6
4. Read the requirements of each question carefully.
5. Answer in full sentences and avoid the listing of facts. Do NOT answer in tabular form.
6. Number the answers correctly according to the numbering system used in this question paper. Incorrect numbering will NOT be credited.
7. Answer all bullet points required in each question.
8. Do NOT repeat the same facts and examples in different questions.
9. Use the mark allocation to determine the time to be spent on each question.
10. Write neatly and legibly.

GLOSSARY	
Ubuntu:	A value system that includes the essential human virtues such as compassion, humanity and empathy
Containment bed:	A bed frequently used during pandemics or disease outbreaks that are highly contagious; to isolate infected individuals from others and curb further spreading of infection
Ebola:	An infectious and frequently fatal disease characterised by fever and severe internal bleeding. Ebola is spread through contact with the body fluids of an infected individual.
Observation tower:	A tall narrow building from which one can observe the environment
Body shaming:	Expressing inappropriate and negative comments about another person's body, their weight, shape or appearance
Nguni:	A collective term for black people historically originating in the eastern regions of Southern Africa, such as Swaziland, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape
Aluminium:	A strong metal alloy used for window frames and functional objects
Mahogany:	A type of wood that is very hard and expensive

SECTION A: DESIGN LITERACY**QUESTION 1: 'UNSEEN' EXAMPLES****Answer EITHER QUESTION 1.1 OR QUESTION 1.2.**

1.1

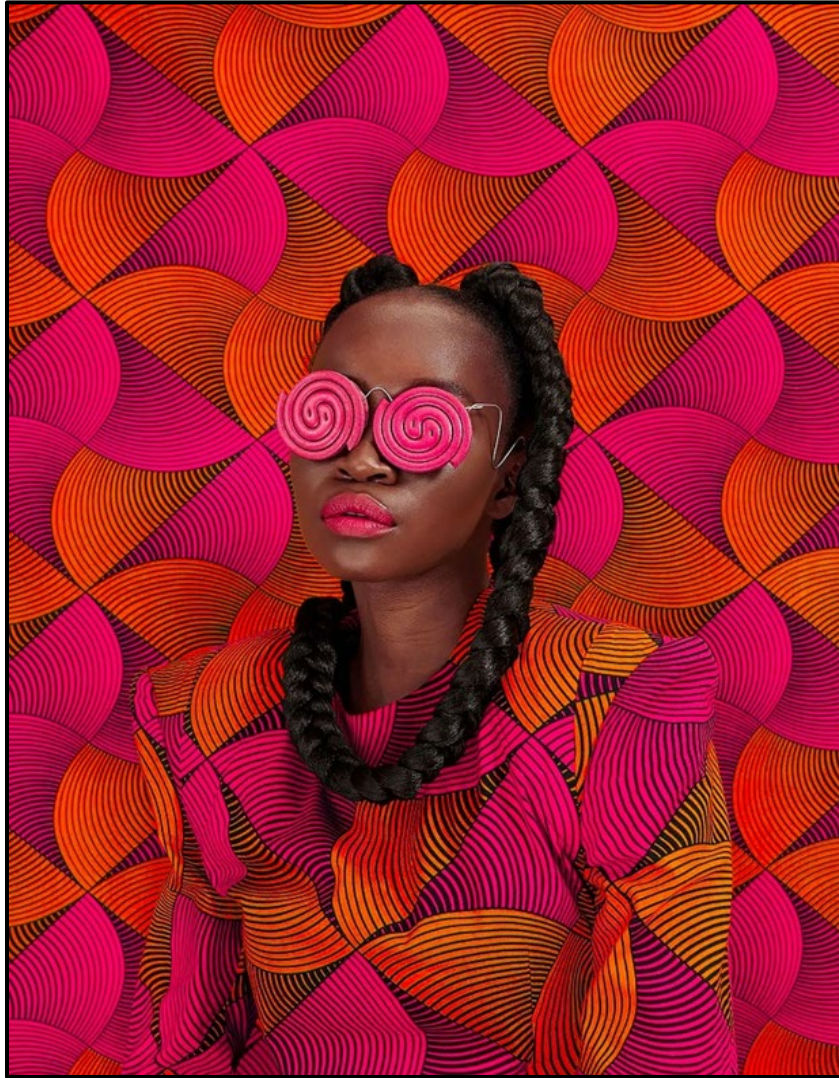


FIGURE A: **Textile design** advert by Thandiwe Muriu (Kenya), 2023.

1.1.1 Analyse the use of the following elements and principles in FIGURE A above:

- Colour
- Texture
- Unity
- Movement

(4 x 2) (8)

1.1.2 Identify the focal point of the textile design advert in FIGURE A and discuss how it was achieved.

(2)
[10]

OR

1.2

FIGURE B: **Handbag** by Erkek Johnature (UK), 2023.

1.2.1 Analyse the use of the following elements and principles in relation to the handbag design shown in FIGURE B above:

- Line
- Shape
- Variety
- Balance

(4 x 2) (8)

1.2.2 Discuss the possible influences for FIGURE B above.

(2)
[10]

QUESTION 2: COMMUNICATION THROUGH DESIGN

2.1

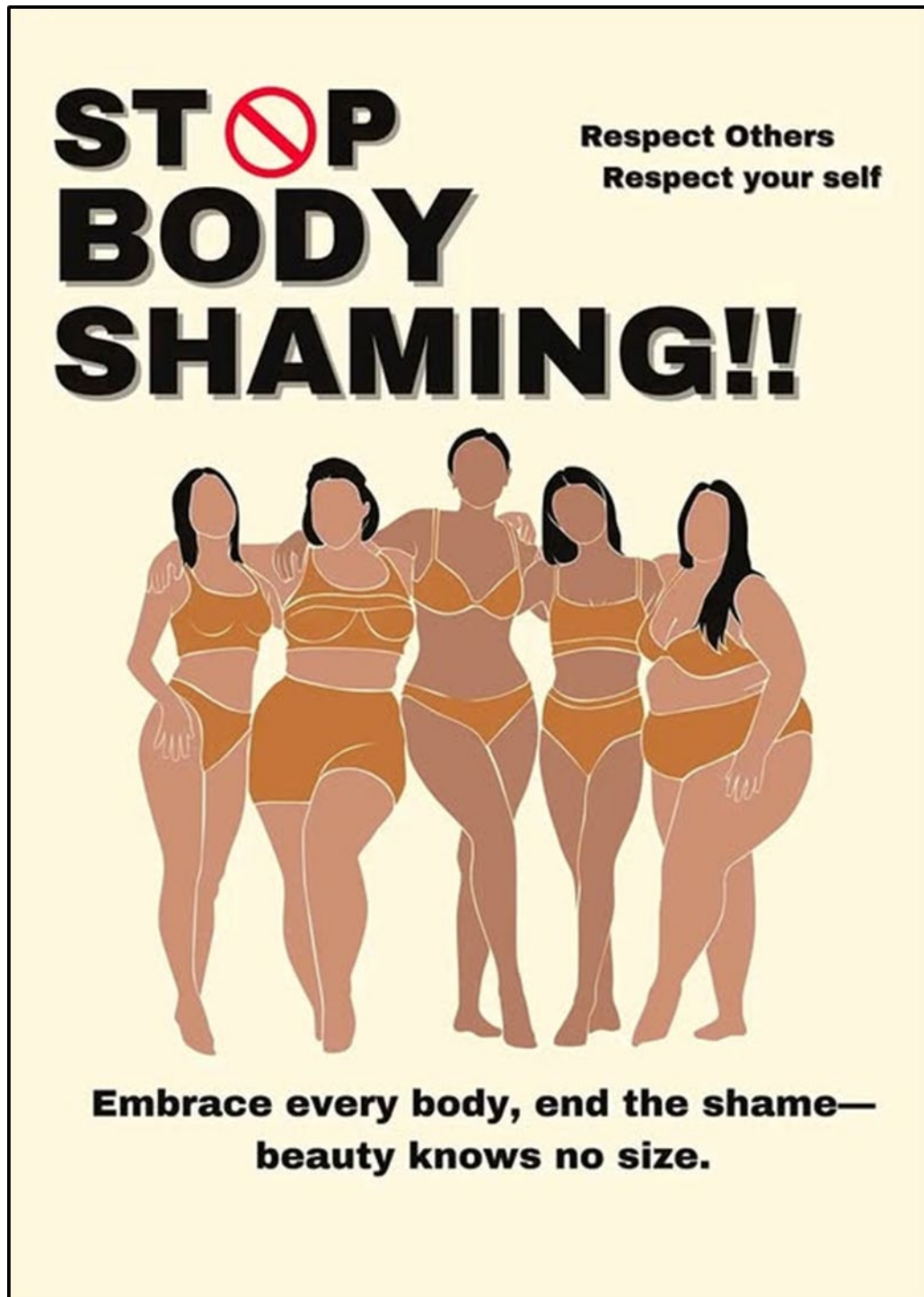


FIGURE C: **Embrace Every Body, End the Shame – Beauty Knows No Size**, designer unknown (USA), 2024.

- 2.1.1 Identify and discuss the message conveyed by the poster in FIGURE C above. (2)
- 2.1.2 Identify and explain ONE possible stereotype or bias evident in the poster. (2)

2.2



FIGURE D: **Undercut handmade aluminium chair** by Uriel Schwartz (USA), 2024.



FIGURE E: **Nguni folding chair** by Groundcover Leather Company (South Africa), 2022.

Write a paragraph in which you compare the chair in FIGURE D with the chair in FIGURE E.

Refer to the use of the following in your comparison:

- Form
- Aesthetics OR Inspiration
- Ergonomics

(3 x 2)

(6)
[10]

QUESTION 3: ARCHITECTURE**Answer QUESTION 3.1 OR QUESTION 3.2 OR QUESTION 3.3.**

3.1

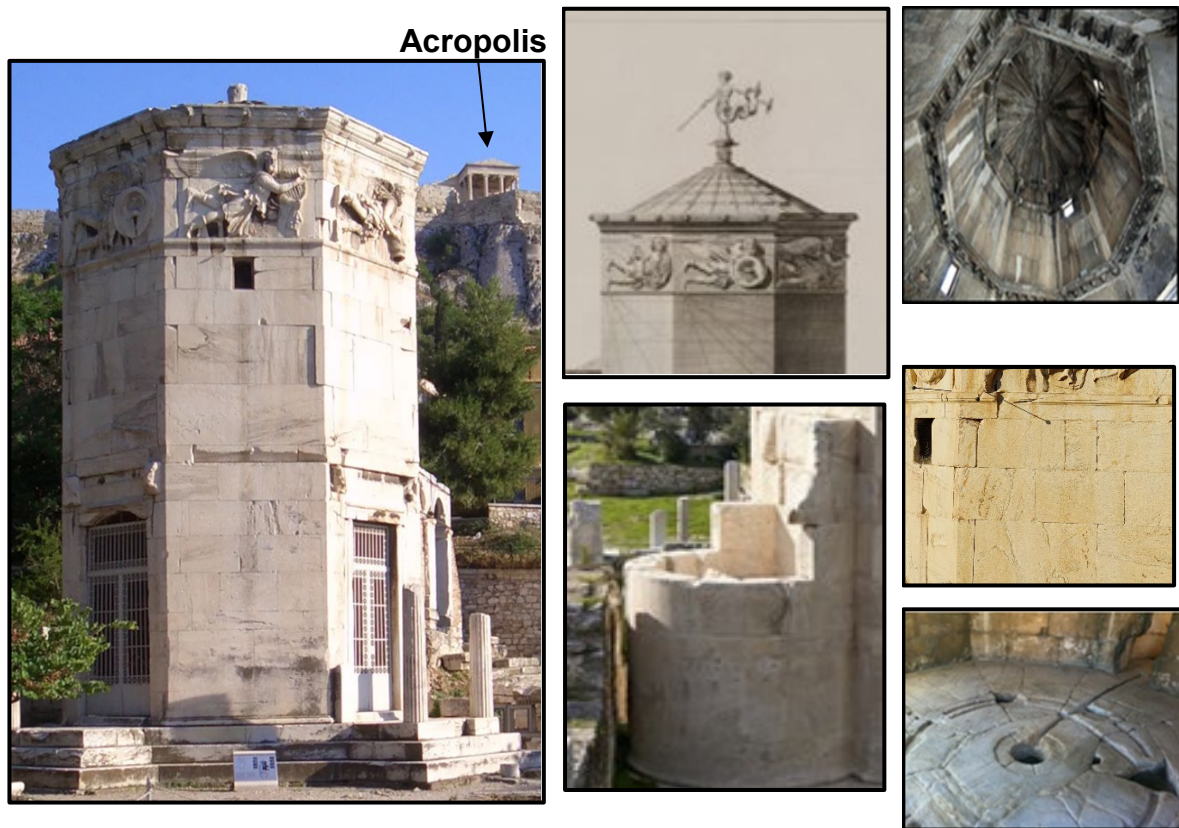


FIGURE F: Classical **Tower of the Winds** by the Greek astronomer Andronikos of Cyrrhus (Roman Agora, Athens, Greece), 50 BCE. The tower was used to indicate wind direction. This tower was also used as a clock. On the outside of the tower, time was indicated by sundials, but inside the tower a water clock measured time with water pressure.



FIGURE G: Contemporary **Observation Tower Kärven** designed by White Arkitekter (Sweden), 2024.

- 3.1 Write an essay (at least ONE page) in which you compare the Classical Tower of the Winds in FIGURE F with the contemporary Observation Tower Kärven in FIGURE G.

Refer to the following in your essay:

- Function
- Materials
- Decoration OR Influence
- Technology
- Significance of location/site

(5 x 2) **[10]**

OR

- 3.2 Write an essay (at least ONE page) in which you compare any Classical building/structure with any contemporary building/structure that you have studied.

Refer to the following in your essay:

- Function
- Materials
- Decoration OR Influence
- Technology
- Significance of location/site

(5 x 2) **[10]**

OR

- 3.3 Write an essay (at least ONE page) in which you compare any Classical building/structure with any Indigenous Knowledge Systems building/structure that you have studied.

Refer to the following in your essay:

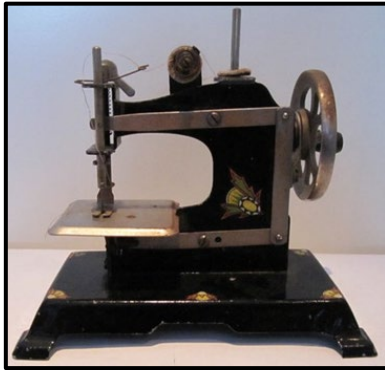
- Function
- Materials
- Decoration OR Influence
- Technology
- Significance of location/site

(5 x 2) **[10]**

TOTAL SECTION A: 30

SECTION B: DESIGN HISTORY**QUESTION 4**

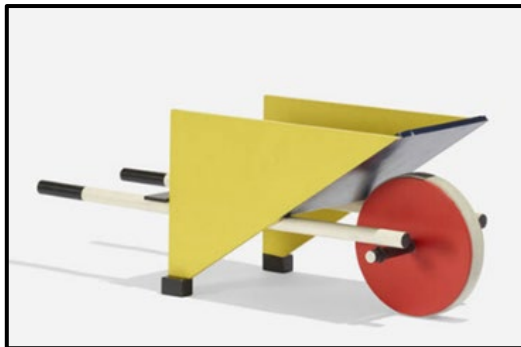
4.1 Study the images below and answer the question on the next page.



Art Nouveau



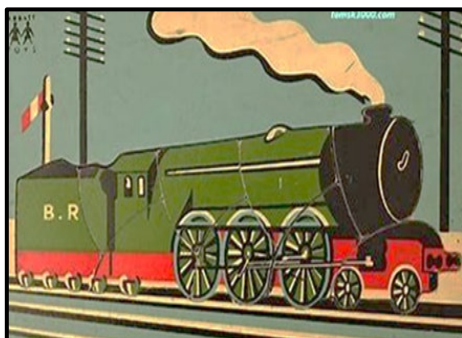
Art Deco



De Stijl



Pop



Modernism



Scandinavian



Bauhaus



Deconstructivism

'If you don't like the way the world is, you change it ... one step at a time.'

– Marian Wright Edelman

Choose any TWO of the movements/styles from the list below, represented by the images on the previous page, and explain how the design movements/styles changed the world.

- Art Nouveau
- De Stijl
- Bauhaus
- Art Deco
- Modernism
- Pop design
- Scandinavian
- Deconstructivism

Write TWO separate essays (at least ONE page each) in which you refer to the following:

- Discuss the statement above with reference to the movement/style you have chosen. (2 marks)
 - Explain the aims, influences and characteristics of the design movement. (5 marks)
 - Name a design and the designer/design group. (1 mark)
 - Include a discussion of the chosen design. (2 marks)
- (2 x 10)

[20]

4.2



FIGURE H: **Arts and Craft mahogany bookcase** by Wylie and Lockhead (UK), 1900s.



FIGURE I: **Postmodernism Carlton bookcase** by Ettore Sottsass Memphis Group (USA), 1981.

Write an essay (at least ONE page) in which you compare the bookcases in FIGURE H and FIGURE I above and explain how they are typical of the design movements they represent.

Refer to the following to support your answer:

- Inspiration
- Colour
- Balance
- Aims of the movement reflected in the bookcases
- Fitness for purpose/function

(5 x 2) [10]

TOTAL SECTION B: 30

SECTION C: DESIGN IN A SOCIOCULTURAL/ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABLE CONTEXT**QUESTION 5****Answer EITHER QUESTION 5.1 OR QUESTION 5.2.**

5.1

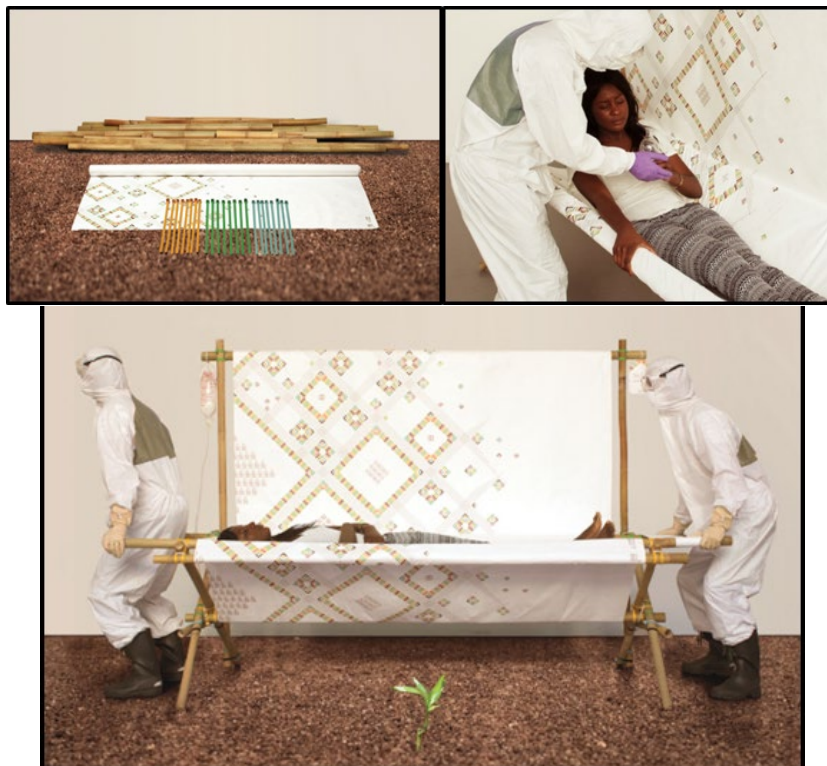


FIGURE J: **Ubuntu containment bed** by Ilteris Ilbasan (Türkiye), 2022.
The Ubuntu containment bed is affordable, easy to assemble and used during an Ebola (deadly virus) outbreak. Ebola requires emergency medical care.

- 5.1.1 Discuss the sociocultural benefits of the design in FIGURE J above. (2)
- 5.1.2 Name ONE other example of a sociocultural design solution besides FIGURE J. Explain how this design solution improves the lives of human beings. (2)
- 5.1.3 Write TWO separate essays (at least ONE page each) in which you discuss the work of ONE South African contemporary designer/design group **AND** ONE international contemporary designer/design group who address sociocultural issues in their work.

Refer to the following in your essay:

- Name of the designer/design group and ONE design product (1 mark)
- Discussion of the aims, design materials and techniques used by the designer/design group (5 marks)
- An explanation of how this design addresses sociocultural issues (2 marks)

You may NOT refer to any designer(s)/design group(s) that you discussed previously or design examples used in this question paper. (8 x 2)

(16)
[20]

OR

5.2



FIGURE K: **Armchairs** by Andile Dyalvane (South Africa), 2021.

5.2.1 Identify and discuss the influence of traditional community craft techniques evident in FIGURE K above. (2)

5.2.2 Write an essay (at least ONE page) on ONE indigenous traditional craft that you have studied this year.

Refer to the following in your essay:

- Name of the indigenous cultural community that produced the traditional craft (1 mark)
- The materials, methods and processes used to create the traditional craft (5 marks)
- The social value and function of the craft (2 marks) (8)

5.2.3 Write an essay (at least ONE page) in which you discuss the work of ONE South African/African contemporary designer/design group whose designs are inspired by or make use of any indigenous South African/African craft techniques and/or materials.

Refer to the following in your essay:

- Name of the design/design group and ONE contemporary design product (1 mark)
 - Discussion of the aims, influences and materials of the designer/design group (6 marks)
 - Explanation of how the contemporary design product is an adaptation and continuation of the indigenous craft technique (3 marks) (10)
- [20]**

QUESTION 6

6.1



FIGURE L: **From Africa with Love** pendant light by Heath Nash (South Africa), 2013.

6.1.1 Define the term *eco-friendly* by referring to FIGURE L above. (2)

6.1.2 Discuss TWO other methods of making products that are eco-friendly besides FIGURE L. (Do NOT refer to design examples in this question paper.) (2)

6.2 Write TWO separate essays (at least ONE page each) in which you discuss the work of ONE South African contemporary designer/design group AND ONE international contemporary designer/design group whose work addresses sustainable/environmental issues.

Refer to the following in your essays:

- Name of the designer/design group and ONE of their designs (1 mark)
- Aims, materials and processes (5 marks)
- A discussion of the design product and an explanation of how it addresses sustainable/environmental concerns (2 marks)

You may NOT refer to any designer(s)/design group(s) that you have discussed previously or design examples used in this question paper. (8 x 2)

(16)
[20]

TOTAL SECTION C: 40
GRAND TOTAL: 100