

Sketchbook Practice

Art & Design

What a sketchbook is for, and what assessors are looking for in one.

A working tool, not a display object.

Put in

Observed drawing, however rough

Failed attempts, kept and annotated

Notes on what you were trying to do

Colour and material tests

References, with their sources recorded

Leave out

Only finished, presentable pages

Copies with no note of why

Pages torn out to hide a failure

Habits

Date every page

Write beside the image, not weeks later

Draw badly rather than not at all

Ten minutes daily beats three hours weekly

Assessors look for

Decisions, not only outcomes

Development from one page to the next

Sources acknowledged

A sketchbook of successes proves nothing. Development is visible only where something failed and was then changed.