

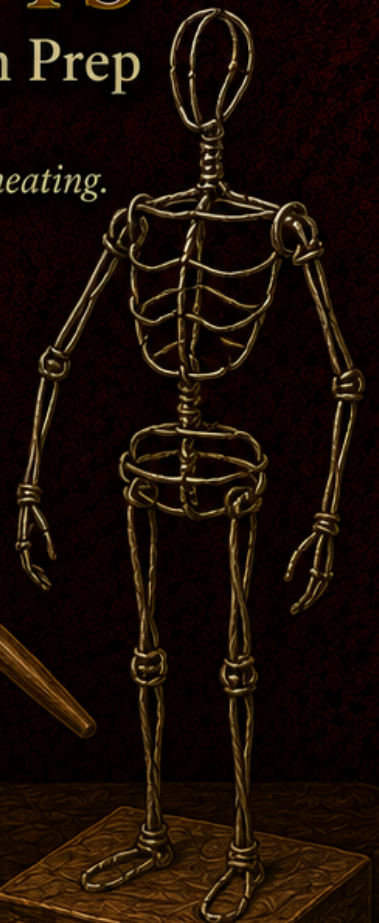


AP 3-D ART AND DESIGN

100 AI PROMPTS

for Smarter Revision *and* Exam Prep

*Active recall, exam technique,
and free-response thinking — without cheating.*



AI Study Method
THE VELVET METHOD™

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A six-step AI study system

AP 3-D Art and Design

100 AI Prompts for Smarter Revision & Exam Prep

Active recall, exam technique, and mark-scheme thinking — without cheating.

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We use artificial intelligence tools to help draft and structure example material; all educational guidance has been reviewed and curated for quality and accuracy. This book is designed to support revision and exam preparation and does not replace formal teaching, textbooks, or official specifications.

Students are responsible for ensuring that all work submitted for assessment is their own.

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What Is the Velvet Method?

The Velvet Method is a six-step framework for using AI as a study partner — not a shortcut. Each letter is a stage of effective revision, and each is grounded in what cognitive science says actually works: building understanding, retrieving it under pressure, and spacing your review over time.

V — View See the whole picture of a topic before you study the detail.

E — Evaluate Run a diagnostic to find exactly where your gaps are.

L — Learn Fill those gaps in a way that genuinely sticks.

V — Verify Prove you know it with exam-style questions and examiner-style feedback.

E — Explore Push into top-grade thinking: application, analysis, and unseen problems.

T — Transform Reflect, plan your next session, and lock it in with spaced repetition.

Used in order, the six stages turn AI from a machine that hands you answers into a tutor that strengthens your own thinking — so the work stays yours, and so does the understanding you carry into the exam.

How This Book Is Organised

This book follows the Velvet Method exactly. Its six chapters are the six stages, and the prompts in each chapter do that stage's job for AP 3-D Art and Design. View prompts help you map the course; Evaluate prompts diagnose your gaps; Learn prompts help you understand; Verify prompts test you against mark schemes; Explore prompts stretch you into top-grade thinking; and Transform prompts help you reflect and remember.

Work through the stages roughly in order when you tackle a whole topic, or dip into a single stage when you need it — a quick diagnostic before a test, or some examiner-style marking the night before.

Every prompt is a starting point, not a script. Adapt them, raise the difficulty, swap in your own topic, and ask the AI to challenge your thinking rather than do it for you. The goal is never to get answers from AI. It is to use AI to test, challenge, and sharpen what you know.

How to Run a Velvet Session

Having a hundred prompts is not the same as knowing how to use them. Here is how the six stages fit together in a real study session — and how to turn them into a habit rather than a one-off.

For a new topic, work roughly in order: View to map it, Evaluate to find your gaps, Learn to fill the most important ones, Verify to prove they're fixed, Explore to stretch, and Transform to lock it in and plan your next review. You won't always use all six — before a test you might go straight to Evaluate and Verify.

A worked example

Say you have ninety minutes on developing the Sustained Investigation. Open with a View prompt to map the elements — articulating an inquiry question that's specifically three-dimensional, documenting form/material/space/process across two views per work, showing revision in three dimensions, and capturing the photographic evidence the portfolio requires. Run the Evaluate diagnostic and find that translating a 2-D-style inquiry into 3-D-specific thinking and photographing form across views are shaky. Use two Learn prompts: an analogy for what 'three-dimensional revision' actually requires, and a Walk-Me-Through prompt for shooting two-views-per-work that capture form genuinely. Then Verify with an examiner-marked self-critique. Finally, a Transform prompt schedules a review of SI writing.

Spread it out

The method works partly because it spaces your learning, so resist racing through this whole book in one sitting. A realistic rhythm is one or two topics a week through the full cycle, with short Verify and Transform reviews of earlier topics layered on top. The spacing is not a delay — it is the mechanism.

Lean on the prompts less over time

At first, use the prompts word for word. As you grow more confident, strip the scaffolding away — shorten them, raise the difficulty, and eventually run a whole stage from memory. The aim is to need this book less and less.

Trust, but Verify

AI is a powerful study partner, but it is not always right — and the danger is that you are using it precisely because you don't yet know the material well enough to notice when it's wrong. Treating its output as automatically correct is the single biggest risk in studying with AI.

What to watch for in AP 3-D Art and Design especially: AI can invent CED unit numbers and learning objectives that don't appear in the official Course and Exam Description; it can confuse free-response rubric wording (College Board rubrics are very specific about what earns a point); it can blur the line between AP content and college-level content beyond the syllabus; and it can quote scoring percentages or score distributions that are out of date. It can suggest SI inquiry questions that are essentially 2-D in disguise. 3-D rewards genuinely three-dimensional inquiry — form, mass, void, material — not photographs of 2-D-ish work. Always cross-reference with the official AP CED and recent free-response scoring guidelines.

So build the habit of checking. Keep your specification and a trusted textbook to hand, and cross-reference anything that will go into your memory. Ask the AI to show its reasoning and where a mark point comes from, so you can judge it. When a marked answer surprises you, challenge it — ask why that is the model answer. And use the Verify-stage prompt that asks the AI to include a deliberate error, to keep your own eye sharp. If the AI and your specification ever disagree, the specification wins.

This is not a reason to distrust the tool. It is the skill that makes you safe to use it — and learning to check AI well is itself one of the most valuable things this method will teach you.

Quick Start: Which Prompt, When

Not sure where to begin? Match your situation to a stage:

Starting a brand-new topic: View (Prompts 1–10), then run a diagnostic.

A test tomorrow, short on time: the diagnostics (Prompts 11–25), then a few Verify prompts on your weak spots.

You've revised but it won't stick: Learn (Prompts 26–43), especially Feynman and draw-from-memory.

You know it but keep losing exam marks: Verify (Prompts 44–71), especially examiner marking and command words.

Aiming for the top grades: Explore (Prompts 72–88).

End of a session or week: Transform (Prompts 89–100).

When in doubt, run the Whole-Topic Diagnostic (Prompt 11) — it will tell you what you need.

These prompts are your toolkit.

The Velvet Method course is where you learn to wield them.

Six steps taught in full, worked examples for every stage, and a complete prompt library across your subjects.

Learn the method at aistudymethod.co.uk/courses

Contents

What Is the Velvet Method?	iii
How This Book Is Organised.....	iv
How to Run a Velvet Session.....	v
Trust, but Verify.....	vi
Quick Start: Which Prompt, When.....	vii
Note on Exam Boards and Syllabi.....	ix
View Prompts 1–10 — mapping the course.....	1
Evaluate Prompts 11–25 — diagnosing your gaps.....	4
Learn Prompts 26–43 — building understanding.....	8
Verify Prompts 44–71 — testing against mark schemes.....	12
Explore Prompts 72–88 — top-grade thinking.....	18
Transform Prompts 89–100 — reflection and spaced repetition.....	22
Final Closing Note.....	25
Using AI Beyond This Book.....	26
About the Velvet Method.....	27
The Velvet Method Series.....	28

Note on Exam Boards and Syllabi

This book supports AP 3-D Art and Design students preparing for the College Board's portfolio assessment.

AP 3-D Art and Design is a portfolio-based course assessed by portfolio rather than by exam. Students submit a Sustained Investigation (15 images plus 1200 characters documenting a question-driven inquiry, with images from at least two views per work) and 5 Selected Works (2 images each from different views, plus identifying details). The rubrics emphasise three-dimensional thinking — form, materials, space, and process — and the same scoring structure as 2-D.

Always cross-reference with your own specification and use it as the definitive guide to what you will be examined on. This book is a powerful revision companion; your specification remains the final word on content.



View

Before you revise a single detail, build the big picture. The View stage uses AI to map the syllabus, find the core ideas a topic depends on, and see how everything connects — so that when you study the detail, it has somewhere to attach. Start here for any new topic.

Prompt 1: Map the Whole Portfolio

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Act as an AP 3-D Art and Design tutor. Give me a structured overview of the entire portfolio assessment: the Sustained Investigation (15 images + 1200 characters of writing) and the Selected Works (5 works). For each, list the AP Course Skills assessed and the rubric criteria.

What this helps you practise: Seeing the whole portfolio as one connected map.

How to use it well: Keep this overview somewhere visible while you work.

Prompt 2: Build the Big Picture of an Inquiry Question

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Before I commit to my Sustained Investigation inquiry question on three-dimensional form, give me a one-paragraph framing: what makes an inquiry question 'sustainable' for a year-long body of work, what kind of question yields revision rather than parallel iteration, and how an inquiry question differs from a theme.

What this helps you practise: Building the framing that the Sustained Investigation rewards.

How to use it well: An inquiry question, not a theme, is what AP wants. Frame it now and the year flows.

Prompt 3: Create a Personalised Course-Skills Checklist

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Using the AP 3-D Art and Design CED, produce a checklist of the Course Skills I must demonstrate in my portfolio, written as 'I can...' statements (e.g., 'I can show evidence of revision across at least three SI images').

What this helps you practise: Turning the rubric into a concrete, testable list.

How to use it well: RAG-rate each statement; the reds become your studio-time priorities.

Prompt 4: Find the Spine of the Sustained Investigation

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Identify the four or five central things an AP 3-D Art and Design Sustained Investigation must show — inquiry question, evidence of practice, evidence of experimentation, evidence of

revision, and the writing that articulates the journey. Explain in one line why each is load-bearing.

What this helps you practise: Distinguishing the core SI requirements from the peripheral concerns.

How to use it well: Master the spine first. Without inquiry, practice, experimentation, revision and writing in tension with each other, the SI cannot reach the top band.

Prompt 5: See How the SI Connects to the Selected Works

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Show me how the Sustained Investigation and the Selected Works connect (or should be allowed not to connect). Give me a map of which Course Skills appear in each.

What this helps you practise: Understanding that AP rewards SW for demonstrating skill that may stand alone from the SI.

How to use it well: Don't force the SW to fit the SI's inquiry. Show your range.

Prompt 6: Prioritise by Rubric Weight

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Walk me through the AP 3-D Art and Design rubric for the Sustained Investigation and Selected Works. For each rubric criterion, tell me which is most often where students lose points.

What this helps you practise: Spending studio time where it earns the most rubric points.

How to use it well: Treat this as guidance — your teacher's feedback on YOUR portfolio is the most reliable signal.

Prompt 7: Get a Five-Minute Primer Before a New Direction

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

I'm about to take my Sustained Investigation in a new direction: [describe]. Give me a five-minute primer: what experimentation should look like at this point, what counts as revision rather than abandonment, and three questions I should be able to answer before I commit.

What this helps you practise: Priming a directional shift so it earns rubric points rather than confusing the portfolio.

How to use it well: Strategic shifts in direction are GOOD — but only if they're documented.

Prompt 8: Turn Rubric Points into Studio Goals

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Take the AP 3-D Art and Design rubric for Sustained Investigation and, for each rubric point, write the kind of studio goal that would earn it. For example, 'show three distinct experiments with materials' earns rubric points for materials/processes.

What this helps you practise: Seeing your rubric through the studio's lens.

How to use it well: Print these and pin them above your work table.

Prompt 9: Sketch a Process Map

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Describe a one-page process map I should keep visible: the questions I'm investigating, the materials/processes I'm exploring, the works I've already made, and the next planned experiment.

What this helps you practise: Organising your studio process around inquiry rather than around output.

How to use it well: Draw it yourself rather than copying — the process of mapping IS the inquiry.

Prompt 10: Set a Clear Goal for a Studio Session

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Help me set a specific, achievable objective for a 90-minute studio session on three-dimensional form. Define exactly what I should produce by the end (not 'a finished work' but a documented experiment), and break it into three concrete checkpoints.

What this helps you practise: Giving each studio session a clear purpose instead of vague 'making'.

How to use it well: A session with a defined endpoint is far more effective than open-ended making.

E

Evaluate

You can't fix gaps you haven't found. The Evaluate stage uses AI as a diagnostic: it tests you, catches the things you only think you know, and tells you precisely where to spend your time. Honest answers here save you hours later.

Prompt 11: Whole-Portfolio Diagnostic with Confidence Rating

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

You are an AP 3-D Art and Design grader running a diagnostic. Walk me through 12 short prompts spanning my portfolio — inquiry question, practice, experimentation, revision, SI writing, SW selection. I'll answer each and tag my confidence as (Sure), (Unsure) or (Guess). Then flag (Sure)+wrong as my most dangerous gap and rank what to prioritise. Before you write the questions, ask me to predict which two or three sub-topics I expect to find hardest. At the end, compare my prediction with where I actually struggled — the gap between the two is what I most need to calibrate.

What this helps you practise: Pinpointing exactly where your portfolio thinking is weakest.

How to use it well: The confidence tags catch the gaps a normal review hides.

Prompt 12: Rapid SI Writing Audit

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Quiz me on the AP 3-D Art and Design Sustained Investigation writing requirements: word/character counts, what to include, what to avoid, what kinds of detail earn points. Tell me where I'm thin.

What this helps you practise: Catching the SI-writing weaknesses that quietly cost rubric points.

How to use it well: The 1200-character SI writing is the single highest-leverage thing to drill.

Prompt 13: Find My Misconceptions

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me to explain [SI concept, e.g. the difference between revision and repetition, or between an inquiry question and a theme]. Probe for the misconceptions AP 3-D Art and Design students commonly hold, and tell me which ones I'm showing.

What this helps you practise: Surfacing the wrong ideas that quietly cost portfolio points.

How to use it well: AP {C} rewards specific kinds of thinking. Naming the misconceptions is the first step to fixing them.

Prompt 14: Pre-Critique Triage

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

I have a portfolio critique tomorrow on my Sustained Investigation. Run a quick diagnostic to find where my SI thinking is weakest, then tell me precisely which two or three things to address tonight, and roughly how long on each.

What this helps you practise: Turning night-before panic into a focused, prioritised plan.

How to use it well: Be honest in your answers.

Prompt 15: Inquiry-Question Diagnostic

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test my inquiry question. Ask me to state it, then probe whether it's specific enough to yield 15 images of genuine investigation, broad enough to allow revision, and connected to three-dimensional form. Tell me where it needs sharpening.

What this helps you practise: Diagnosing the load-bearing element of the entire SI.

How to use it well: If your inquiry question fails, the SI fails. Test it ruthlessly.

Prompt 16: Map the Gaps Across the Portfolio

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Sweep across my whole portfolio with a broad set of prompts including SI work, SI writing, and SW. Output a ranked gap list — my weakest area at the top.

What this helps you practise: Getting a portfolio-wide picture rather than image-by-image tunnel vision.

How to use it well: Use the ranked list to plan your studio time.

Prompt 17: Test Depth, Not Just Surface

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me about [SI element, e.g. the materials I'm working with, or the relationship between inquiry and form]. Keep asking 'why' and 'how do you know' until either my understanding runs out or you're satisfied. Then tell me where it ran out.

What this helps you practise: Distinguishing real understanding from memorised SI vocabulary.

How to use it well: The point where you can no longer answer 'why' is where your real studio work should begin.

Prompt 18: Diagnose My Selected Works Selection

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Quiz me on my Selected Works rationale. For each of my 5 SW, ask me to state why I chose it, which Course Skill it demonstrates, and what the rubric would reward. Tell me which SW is weakest in my portfolio.

What this helps you practise: Securing the SW selection that earns the 25 rubric points (5 works × 5 points).

How to use it well: Every SW must demonstrate a specific Course Skill. Drill the rationale.

Prompt 19: Diagnose My Documentation

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Quiz me on the documentation requirements: image count per work, view requirements where applicable, identifying details (medium, dimensions, etc.), file format. Tell me where my documentation is thin.

What this helps you practise: Securing documentation marks that AP students reliably lose to careless errors.

How to use it well: Documentation errors cost points that have nothing to do with skill.

Prompt 20: Test a Linked Element

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a diagnostic that specifically checks whether I can connect [SI element A] and [SI element B], not just discuss each separately. Tell me whether my weakness is in the individual elements or in linking them.

What this helps you practise: Diagnosing the integration-of-elements weakness.

How to use it well: You can understand inquiry and revision separately and still fail to show their relationship. This isolates which problem you actually have.

Prompt 21: Self-Explanation Check

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

I'm going to explain my Sustained Investigation in my own words. Listen, then identify every vague statement, weak connection, or missing link in my explanation, in order of importance.

What this helps you practise: Forcing the gaps in your SI thinking to reveal themselves.

How to use it well: Explaining out loud exposes far more than re-looking at your work.

Prompt 22: AP Grader Readiness Score

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Act as a strict AP 3-D Art and Design grader. Ask me the hardest questions you realistically could on my portfolio, then rate my portfolio against the rubric and justify each score.

What this helps you practise: Getting a frank, grader's-eye assessment of where you stand.

How to use it well: Ask it to be strict. A flattering score helps nobody.

Prompt 23: Confidence vs Competence Audit

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

For my portfolio, first ask me how confident I feel about each rubric criterion. Then test me on each. Finally, show me where my confidence and my actual performance don't match.

What this helps you practise: Exposing over-confidence, which is where careless rubric points are lost.

How to use it well: The mismatches matter most.

Prompt 24: Diagnose from a Mistake

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Here is feedback I got on a portfolio review: [paste]. Diagnose the underlying weakness in my SI thinking, not just the surface issue.

What this helps you practise: Learning from review feedback at the level of cause.

How to use it well: One review comment often points to a recurring fault.

Prompt 25: Weekly Diagnostic Sweep

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Run my weekly diagnostic across everything I've worked on this week in AP 3-D Art and Design: [list pieces]. Compare progress and tell me what has improved and what is slipping in the SI.

What this helps you practise: Tracking progress and catching stalls.

How to use it well: SI progress decays without weekly review.

L

Learn

Now fill the gaps in a way that sticks. The Learn stage uses AI to explain, analogise, roleplay, and break concepts down — and crucially to check your understanding, not just deliver information. One rule for every prompt here: when an explanation finally clicks, close the chat and reproduce it from memory, out loud or on paper, before moving on. Understanding something as you read it is not the same as being able to recall it later — the moment of 'I get it' is the cue to test yourself, not to stop.

Prompt 26: Explain Inquiry with an Analogy

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Explain [SI concept, e.g. how revision differs from repetition in AP 3-D Art and Design] using a clear everyday analogy. Then ask me to map each part of the analogy back onto my own portfolio.

What this helps you practise: Grasping an abstract portfolio concept by anchoring it to something familiar.

How to use it well: Always map the analogy back to your own work.

Prompt 27: Use the Feynman Technique

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

I'm going to explain [SI concept, e.g. why my inquiry question is genuinely investigative] as simply as if I were teaching a younger student. Listen, then point out where I used art-school jargon to paper over a gap. When you spot a gap in my explanation, do not correct me immediately. Give me one 60-second attempt to re-explain that part from memory first; only after my retry do you give the correction. This iteration is where the encoding consolidates.

What this helps you practise: Achieving genuine understanding by teaching it plainly.

How to use it well: If you can't explain it simply, you don't fully understand it.

Prompt 28: Roleplay a Critic

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Roleplay as a strict AP 3-D Art and Design grader looking at my Sustained Investigation. Walk through my SI image by image, asking the questions a rubric-driven grader would ask, and quiz me on the answers as we go.

What this helps you practise: Making the grader's perspective vivid and present in your studio process.

How to use it well: Inhabiting a grader's perspective forces you to see your work through the rubric, not through your fondness.

Prompt 29: Build a Mnemonic

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Help me create a memorable mnemonic for [list, e.g. the AP 3-D Art and Design Course Skills, or the SI rubric criteria]. Test me on whether I can reconstruct the list.

What this helps you practise: Locking the rubric and skill list into long-term memory.

How to use it well: Make the mnemonic slightly absurd or personal.

Prompt 30: Walk Me Through, Then Blank It Out

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Walk me through [SI move, e.g. writing the 1200-character investigation summary] step by step. Then give me a stripped-down version with the key moves blanked out for me to fill in.

What this helps you practise: Moving from guided understanding to independent execution.

How to use it well: The blank-it-out step is the learning.

Prompt 31: Compare and Contrast Revision vs Repetition

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Build a comparison table for revision vs repetition in AP 3-D Art and Design. For each, give visible markers a grader would notice, with example pairs.

What this helps you practise: Sharpening the revision/repetition distinction that's the single biggest SI mark-loser.

How to use it well: AP {C} explicitly rewards revision and explicitly does NOT reward repetition.

Prompt 32: Teach the Hard Bit Three Ways

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Explain [tricky concept, e.g. what 'evidence of inquiry' actually looks like in 15 images] in three completely different ways — a definition-led way, an analogy, and a worked example.

What this helps you practise: Finding the explanation that actually works for you.

How to use it well: Different concepts yield to different explanations.

Prompt 33: Ground the Abstract in the Concrete

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Take this abstract idea — [e.g. 'sustained investigation', or 'practice and experimentation'] — and give me two concrete, specific examples from AP 3-D Art and Design portfolios that earned 6s, then ask me to identify a third example from my own work.

What this helps you practise: Connecting AP rubric concepts to real portfolio practice.

How to use it well: Generating your own example is the test of understanding.

Prompt 34: Build an Inquiry-Question Bank

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

For my SI direction, generate three alternative inquiry questions, each more or less specific. Test me on which would best yield 15 genuinely investigative images, and which would risk repetition.

What this helps you practise: Building the inquiry-question instinct that the SI requires.

How to use it well: Inquiry questions can always be sharpened.

Prompt 35: Why Does the Rubric Reward That?

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Don't just tell me what the AP 3-D Art and Design rubric rewards — explain why. Why does AP 3-D Art and Design care about revision rather than just skill? Why does it care about writing as well as image?

What this helps you practise: Replacing rote rubric memory with understanding of what AP {C} is actually about.

How to use it well: Understanding the 'why' lets you make rubric-aware studio decisions.

Prompt 36: Unpack the SI Writing Word by Word

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Take a model AP 3-D Art and Design SI writing (1200 characters). Unpack it sentence by sentence: what is each sentence doing for the rubric, and what would be lost if it were removed?

What this helps you practise: Mastering the precise structure the SI writing requires.

How to use it well: Top-band SI writing is dense — no sentence is decorative.

Prompt 37: Link SI Image to Course Skill

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

For [SI image in my portfolio], walk me through which Course Skill it best demonstrates and how a grader would identify that. Then ask me to do the same for two more images.

What this helps you practise: Building the image-to-skill mapping the rubric requires.

How to use it well: Every SI image should demonstrate at least one Course Skill clearly.

Prompt 38: Interleave Two Confusable SI Concepts

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Alternate between explaining and quizzing me on [concept A, e.g. 'revision'] and [concept B, e.g. 'experimentation'] in AP 3-D Art and Design, which I keep mixing up. Switch deliberately so I have to tell them apart each time.

What this helps you practise: Building the discrimination to keep similar SI concepts separate.

How to use it well: Confusing rubric terms in your SI writing costs you points.

Prompt 39: Turn My Studio Notes into SI Writing

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Here are my studio notes: [paste]. Turn them into a draft of my 1200-character SI writing that emphasises inquiry, practice, experimentation, and revision.

What this helps you practise: Converting studio notes into rubric-shaped SI writing.

How to use it well: Studio notes are raw material. The SI writing is the curated argument.

Prompt 40: Explore What Happens If a Material Fails

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

For [material or process in my SI], walk through what would happen if I exhausted its possibilities mid-investigation. Use the failure to test whether I really understand my own inquiry.

What this helps you practise: Deepening understanding by examining material limits.

How to use it well: Material limits often force the most interesting revisions.

Prompt 41: Build Precise SI Vocabulary

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Generate the key vocabulary for AP 3-D Art and Design SI writing (inquiry, investigation, practice, experimentation, revision, materials, processes, ideas), each with a precise rubric-relevant definition. Test me by giving definitions and asking for the term.

What this helps you practise: Building the exact vocabulary the SI writing requires.

How to use it well: Imprecise vocabulary in SI writing loses points.

Prompt 42: Explain the Visual Logic of a Strong SI

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Talk me through interpreting a strong AP 3-D Art and Design SI as a sequence: image 1 to 15. What does each image earn in the rubric, and what does the sequence as a whole earn?

What this helps you practise: Understanding the SI as a sequence rather than 15 separate images.

How to use it well: AP {C} reads SI sequentially. Plan the sequence.

Prompt 43: Make a Process into a Story

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Turn [my SI process to date] into a short, vivid story with a clear sequence of decisions, then quiz me on the order and the key revision at each stage.

What this helps you practise: Using narrative structure to remember and articulate your own investigation.

How to use it well: Your SI writing benefits from clear narrative.

V

Verify

Familiar is not the same as known. The Verify stage uses AI as an examiner: it asks exam-style questions, marks you against realistic mark schemes, and shows you exactly where marks are won and lost. This is the heart of the method, so this is the longest chapter.

Prompt 44: AP Grader Marking the SI

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Act as an experienced AP 3-D Art and Design grader. Look at my Sustained Investigation: 15 images plus my 1200-character writing. Mark against the 6-point SI rubric: Identifies Inquiry; Practice/Experimentation/Revision; Visual Relationships; Materials/Processes/Ideas; Synthesis. Tell me the score per criterion and the single most valuable improvement.

What this helps you practise: Practising the SI at full assessment scale.

How to use it well: Note which criterion you keep losing — that pattern is your studio priority.

Prompt 45: Closed-Book SI Recall

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Quiz me on the AP 3-D Art and Design SI rubric without my notes. Ten short questions about what each criterion rewards. Before you confirm or reject my answer, ask me to articulate in one sentence how I arrived at it. Mark me on the reasoning as well as the conclusion — a right answer from shaky reasoning is not yet secure.

What this helps you practise: Strengthening memory of the SI rubric.

How to use it well: Commit before checking — the effort is the point.

Prompt 46: Drill the Inquiry-to-Image Chain

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me three SI images. Mark me specifically on whether I can articulate the chain: inquiry → choice of materials/process → image. If the chain breaks at any step, name the break.

What this helps you practise: Building the inquiry-to-image chain the rubric explicitly rewards.

How to use it well: An image without articulable connection to inquiry scores lower.

Prompt 47: Find the Missing Rubric Move

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Write a model AP 3-D Art and Design SI writing that earns 5/6. Then remove two of the mark-worthy moves and present it to me. Ask me to identify exactly which two are missing.

What this helps you practise: Training your eye to see what a high-band SI writing relies on.

How to use it well: Learning to spot what's missing from a good piece is how you stop leaving rubric points on the table.

Prompt 48: Demand Precise Documentation

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test me on my Selected Works documentation. For each of my 5 SW, ask me to give: medium, dimensions, intent, and any required details. Tell me what is missing or vague.

What this helps you practise: Producing the precise documentation SW requires.

How to use it well: One missing dimension or medium can cost a point.

Prompt 49: Mark a SI Writing Draft

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Here is my SI writing draft (under 1200 characters): [paste]. Mark it against the rubric. Tell me which rubric points it earns, which it doesn't, and where it wastes characters on decoration rather than evidence.

What this helps you practise: Producing SI writing that earns every available rubric point.

How to use it well: Every character should earn a rubric point. Decoration is waste.

Prompt 50: Mark a Selected Work Justification

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me one of my Selected Works. Ask me to write a 100-word justification covering medium, intent, and AP Course Skill demonstrated. Mark me against what AP 3-D Art and Design graders are looking for.

What this helps you practise: Practising the SW justification that secures the 5 rubric points.

How to use it well: Every SW justification must connect to a Course Skill explicitly.

Prompt 51: Structure a Strong Inquiry Question

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a topic or interest. Help me develop three increasingly sharper inquiry questions from it, then mark each against AP 3-D Art and Design criteria: is it specific enough to yield 15 images, broad enough to revise, and grounded in three-dimensional form?

What this helps you practise: Structuring inquiry questions to earn rubric points.

How to use it well: An inquiry question can always be sharpened. Stop only when sharpening kills the investigation.

Prompt 52: Check a Material Decision

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a material decision I'm considering for my SI. Mark me on whether the decision is rubric-aware: does it serve the inquiry, does it permit revision, does it show experimentation?

What this helps you practise: Building rubric-aware studio decisions.

How to use it well: Every material choice should serve the SI.

Prompt 53: Interpret a Strong Portfolio

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Walk me through an exemplar AP 3-D Art and Design portfolio that earned a 5. For each image and the SI writing, point out the rubric move it makes. Then ask me to do the same for my own portfolio.

What this helps you practise: Practising the rubric-spotting skill against models.

How to use it well: Reading other portfolios sharpens your own grader-eye.

Prompt 54: Cross-Rubric Retrieval Challenge

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me a question that requires me to connect at least three rubric criteria in a single piece of SI writing. Mark me on whether I integrated them or just listed them.

What this helps you practise: Building the rubric-integration skill the highest SI scores require.

How to use it well: Top-band SI writing integrates rubric criteria; mid-band SI writing addresses them in order.

Prompt 55: Same SI, Different Rubric Lens

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Take my SI as it stands. Apply three different rubric lenses: inquiry, revision, materials. Mark how my SI looks under each.

What this helps you practise: Practising rubric-lens flexibility.

How to use it well: Strong SIs read well under any rubric lens.

Prompt 56: Drill SI Writing Precision

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me my SI writing draft. Mark me line by line on whether each sentence earns a rubric point. Anything that doesn't earn a point must be cut to free up characters.

What this helps you practise: Hardening the character-by-character precision SI writing demands.

How to use it well: 1200 characters is tight. Every character must do work.

Prompt 57: Spring the Common Error Trap

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me questions on my SI designed around the errors AP 3-D Art and Design students most commonly make (treating SI as a series, confusing theme with inquiry, hiding revision behind variety). Catch me if I fall for one.

What this helps you practise: Inoculating yourself against the classic, predictable mistakes.

How to use it well: Graders know the common errors and grade for them.

Prompt 58: Rapid-Fire Rubric Recall

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Fire 15 short questions on the AP 3-D Art and Design rubric at me, one at a time. Test me on what each criterion rewards and what disqualifies a piece from earning it.

What this helps you practise: Making rubric language fast and automatic.

How to use it well: When you can articulate the rubric quickly, you can apply it under pressure.

Prompt 59: Predict the Grader's Response

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Show me one of my SI images. Before commenting, I'll predict what an AP 3-D Art and Design grader will see — both what works and what doesn't. Then give me your assessment and tell me how accurate I was.

What this helps you practise: Learning to think like the AP grader.

How to use it well: If you can predict the grader's response, you can revise toward it.

Prompt 60: Verify a Title and Medium List

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me to produce, from memory, the titles, mediums, and dimensions of my 5 Selected Works. Then critique my recall and tell me which I should drill more.

What this helps you practise: Hardening the documentation precision required for SW.

How to use it well: Inaccurate documentation costs points.

Prompt 61: Drill the SW-to-Course-Skill Match

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

For each of my 5 Selected Works, ask me to state the primary Course Skill it demonstrates. Mark me on whether I named the right Skill and gave evidence.

What this helps you practise: Producing SW choices that earn the 5 rubric points each.

How to use it well: Every SW must demonstrate a Course Skill explicitly.

Prompt 62: Practise a 'Compare' Critique

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me two of my SI images. Mark me on whether I made genuine comparative statements (linking the two) — for example, how the second revises the first — rather than describing each separately.

What this helps you practise: Writing comparative revision evidence rather than parallel descriptions.

How to use it well: A real comparison shows revision; parallel description suggests repetition.

Prompt 63: Practise an 'Evaluate' Critique

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me an evaluation question on my Sustained Investigation: which images are pulling their weight, and which are weak. Mark me on whether I presented evidence on both sides and reached a justified judgement.

What this helps you practise: Building the evaluative judgement the SI revision process requires.

How to use it well: Evaluating your own work is the studio's hardest move.

Prompt 64: Practise a 'Justify' Critique

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a 'justify' question on my SI inquiry question. Mark me on whether my justification is specific to AP 3-D Art and Design criteria.

What this helps you practise: Building the justification skill the SI writing requires.

How to use it well: 'Justify' demands AP-criterion language, not general art-school language.

Prompt 65: Climb the Inquiry-Material-Image Ladder

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

On a single SI direction, ask me first to articulate the inquiry, then to choose a material, then to plan an image. Mark each rung separately so I can see where my SI thinking stops being strong.

What this helps you practise: Seeing exactly where your SI shifts from solid to shaky.

How to use it well: The rung where your answer weakens shows where to focus your studio time.

Prompt 66: Mark My Real Portfolio

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Here are my SI writing and one SW description: [paste]. Mark them strictly to score 5 standard against the AP 3-D Art and Design rubrics, tell me the score per criterion, and rewrite one sentence to show what top-mark phrasing looks like.

What this helps you practise: Getting precise, personalised feedback on your actual writing.

How to use it well: The rewritten sentence is a model to imitate.

Prompt 67: Fill a Retrieval Grid

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Create a retrieval grid for AP 3-D Art and Design: cells covering the rubric criteria, the Course Skills, the SI requirements, and the SW requirements, which I'll fill in entirely from memory.

What this helps you practise: Wide-coverage rubric recall practice in one efficient exercise.

How to use it well: Retrieval grids cover a lot of ground fast.

Prompt 68: Simulate a Timed SI Writing

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me 25 minutes to draft my 1200-character SI writing from memory, then mark it against the rubric. Time pressure exposes which moves are automatic and which are fragile.

What this helps you practise: Practising SI writing under realistic pressure.

How to use it well: Writing under time forces the rubric moves to become reflex.

Prompt 69: Sit a Mini Portfolio Critique

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a short set of three portfolio prompts mixing SI evaluation, SW selection, and rubric application. Mark the whole set and tell me my weakest move.

What this helps you practise: Rehearsing the mixed demands of real portfolio review.

How to use it well: Mixed sets reveal which review moves you fear.

Prompt 70: Catch the AI's Deliberate Error

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Critique this portfolio yourself: [describe an imaginary or real portfolio]. Include exactly one subtle but real rubric-misreading in your critique — and challenge me to find and correct it. Tell me if I got it, then explain the error so I learn the spotting pattern. After I respond, ask me how confident I felt before checking. The gap between my confidence and my accuracy is the most important thing for me to learn — I want to surface where I'm certain but wrong, not just where I'm wrong.

What this helps you practise: Building the critical eye to spot when AI (or you) is misreading the rubric.

How to use it well: Practising spotting rubric-misreadings protects you from absorbing them.

Prompt 71: Mixed Whole-Portfolio Retrieval

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Quiz me with 12 questions drawn from across AP 3-D Art and Design: rubric criteria, SI moves, SW choices, documentation requirements. Mix randomly.

What this helps you practise: Retrieving under conditions that mimic real critique.

How to use it well: Random order is harder than block revision — and exactly what a real grader's questions are like.

E

Explore

Top grades come from thinking, not just knowing. The Explore stage uses AI to push you into application, analysis, unseen data, and synoptic links across the course — the level that separates good answers from excellent ones.

Prompt 72: Tackle an Unfamiliar Inquiry Direction

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me an unfamiliar inquiry direction in three-dimensional form. Ask me to develop a Sustained Investigation outline that could earn a 5: inquiry question, materials, experimentation plan, revision strategy.

What this helps you practise: Building the inquiry-to-outline skill the SI requires.

How to use it well: The hardest SI work is the planning.

Prompt 73: Build a Cross-Discipline Chain

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Challenge me to connect my SI inquiry to a discipline outside art — for example to a scientific concept, a social issue, or a historical event — and to articulate the connection in a way the SI writing could use.

What this helps you practise: Constructing the cross-discipline thinking that lifts SI writing.

How to use it well: Top SIs often have a clear conceptual hook beyond visual concerns.

Prompt 74: Apply a Material to a New Inquiry

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Take [material I haven't used] and ask me to apply it to my current SI inquiry. Then judge whether the application would yield genuine investigation or just decoration.

What this helps you practise: Transferring an inquiry to new materials.

How to use it well: Real inquiry adapts to new materials.

Prompt 75: Critique a Famous Portfolio

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Describe a strong exemplar AP 3-D Art and Design portfolio that earned a 5. Ask me to identify what makes it strong, what it does that mine doesn't, and which moves I could adapt.

What this helps you practise: Building the rubric-aware reading of exemplars.

How to use it well: Exemplars are the best teaching tools when read with rubric in hand.

Prompt 76: Predict and Justify

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Set me a counterfactual: what if I pivoted my SI inquiry mid-investigation? Predict what would change in my rubric score, and justify the prediction.

What this helps you practise: Reasoning forward from a pivot to its rubric consequences.

How to use it well: Counterfactual reasoning sharpens your sense of which SI elements carry the score.

Prompt 77: Investigate an Open Question

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Pose me a genuinely open question about my SI ('is my inquiry actually being investigated, or am I just illustrating it?') — explore possibilities with me rather than giving a single answer.

What this helps you practise: Practising the exploratory thinking behind the hardest SI decisions.

How to use it well: Sit with open SI questions rather than rushing to one answer.

Prompt 78: Connect to a Contemporary Practice

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Link my SI inquiry to a contemporary artist's practice — name a practising artist whose work touches similar questions. Ask me application questions about how their approach could inform mine.

What this helps you practise: Seeing how my SI sits in broader contemporary discourse.

How to use it well: AP {C} SI writing benefits from awareness of contemporary practice.

Prompt 79: Compare Two Strong Portfolios

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Pick two exemplar AP 3-D Art and Design portfolios that both earned 5s but did so differently. Ask me to compare them — what each prioritised, what each risked, what each demonstrated.

What this helps you practise: Building the comparative-exemplar skill that sharpens your own choices.

How to use it well: Different exemplars suggest different valid paths to a high score.

Prompt 80: Interpret a Studio Decision

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Walk me through a single studio decision I made recently. Ask me to interpret it as a grader would — what does it signal about inquiry, what does it signal about revision?

What this helps you practise: Building the studio-decision reading skill.

How to use it well: Every studio decision becomes evidence in the SI.

Prompt 81: Reason Across the Course Skills

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me a question that requires me to reason from one Course Skill to another across my portfolio. Judge whether I kept the chain of inference intact.

What this helps you practise: Building the cross-Skill reasoning that the highest band requires.

How to use it well: Top-band portfolios show all Course Skills in conversation, not in isolation.

Prompt 82: Design a Revision Strategy

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me to design a revision strategy for an SI image I'm not happy with. Require me to state what specifically I'd change, why it counts as revision rather than abandonment, and how it advances the inquiry.

What this helps you practise: Building the revision-design skill the SI explicitly rewards.

How to use it well: Revision is the most rubric-load-bearing studio move you make.

Prompt 83: Challenge My Reasoning

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

I'll make a claim about my SI ('this image demonstrates revision'). Your job is to challenge it — find the alternative reading, the missing evidence, the better defence.

What this helps you practise: Strengthening rubric-reading by stress-testing it.

How to use it well: Having your claim challenged is uncomfortable and valuable.

Prompt 84: Choose the Right SW

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me my list of all completed pieces this year. Ask me to choose 5 for Selected Works, justifying each choice against the Course Skills. Then tell me if I chose well.

What this helps you practise: Applying judgement to choose the SW that fit the rubric.

How to use it well: SW choice is portfolio-management, not artistic preference.

Prompt 85: Debate an Ethical or Aesthetic Issue

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Set me a contested aesthetic question relevant to my SI (representation, appropriation, sustainability of materials, exhibition ethics). Mark me on whether I presented a balanced argument with reasoned conclusion.

What this helps you practise: Building the aesthetic-judgement skill the highest-band SI writing benefits from.

How to use it well: Aesthetic debate adds depth to inquiry.

Prompt 86: Solve a Novel SI Problem

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a portfolio challenge I haven't faced — for example, two SI images that look almost identical. Don't tell me how to solve it — let me work it out, then review my approach.

What this helps you practise: Combining rubric-knowledge with studio judgement to solve unfamiliar problems.

How to use it well: The hardest SI problems test integration.

Prompt 87: Apply Synoptic Thinking to a Single Image

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Pick a single SI image. Ask me to analyse it across multiple rubric criteria: inquiry, practice, revision, materials, synthesis. Mark how well I integrated the criteria.

What this helps you practise: Integrating multiple rubric lenses around a single image.

How to use it well: Strong SI images carry multiple rubric points at once.

Prompt 88: Use a Limiting Case to Test Understanding

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Pose me a limiting case: what's the smallest variation between two SI images that still counts as revision (not repetition)? Mark me on whether my reasoning about the limit was rubric-sound.

What this helps you practise: Building the limit-testing habit that strengthens revision reading.

How to use it well: Limiting cases reveal what the rubric truly requires.

T

Transform

Learning that isn't reviewed is learning that fades. The Transform stage uses AI to help you reflect on how you studied, log your mistakes, plan your next session, and schedule spaced reviews — turning effort today into memory that lasts to the exam.

Prompt 89: Review the Session

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Summarise what I worked on in this AP 3-D Art and Design studio session. Tell me what now looks rubric-secure, what's still shaky, and what I should revisit — and schedule reviews at widening intervals (1 day, 3 days, 7 days, 14 days) — this is the rhythm the cognitive-science research on spacing shows beats forgetting. Before you schedule the reviews, ask me to compress the single biggest insight from this session into one sentence — the thing I want to remember next year, not just next week. That compression is the learning consolidating.

What this helps you practise: Consolidating a session and planning the right review timing.

How to use it well: Ending each session with a review-and-schedule step is what turns effort into lasting memory.

Prompt 90: Build a Spaced-Repetition Schedule

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Help me build a spaced-repetition schedule for [aspect of the portfolio] running up to my portfolio deadline.

What this helps you practise: Scheduling reviews at the intervals that beat forgetting.

How to use it well: Spacing is one of the most powerful study principles.

Prompt 91: Build an Error Log

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Help me set up an error log for AP 3-D Art and Design. Give me a simple structure to record each rubric mistake (image, the issue, the cause, the fix).

What this helps you practise: Turning mistakes into a targeted, personal revision resource.

How to use it well: Your errors are the most efficient thing you can revise.

Prompt 92: Plan Tomorrow from Today's Gaps

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Based on the gaps we found in today's session — [list them] — build me a focused plan for tomorrow's studio time.

What this helps you practise: Converting today's diagnosis directly into tomorrow's action.

How to use it well: A plan built from real diagnosed gaps beats a generic studio plan.

Prompt 93: Run a Metacognitive Check

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me reflective questions about how I just worked on AP 3-D Art and Design: did I revise or repeat, did I document or just make, did I read rubric or just feel? Then suggest one change to my method.

What this helps you practise: Becoming aware of, and improving, how you work.

How to use it well: Studying smarter starts with noticing how you study now.

Prompt 94: Set Up a Progress Tracker

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Help me create a simple progress tracker for AP 3-D Art and Design: a list of the rubric criteria and Course Skills with a confidence rating for each that I can update over time.

What this helps you practise: Keeping a clear, evolving picture of where you stand.

How to use it well: A tracker stops you over-investing in already-strong areas.

Prompt 95: Find My Recurring Mistakes

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Here are several portfolio comments I've received: [paste]. Look for the pattern — is there a recurring rubric-related error I keep making?

What this helps you practise: Spotting the systematic weakness behind scattered comments.

How to use it well: Individual comments are noise; the pattern is signal.

Prompt 96: Plan a Timetable to the Portfolio Deadline

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Work backwards from my portfolio deadline [date] to build a realistic AP 3-D Art and Design schedule across SI image-making, SI writing drafts, SW selection, documentation, and review.

What this helps you practise: Turning a daunting portfolio into a paced, finishable plan.

How to use it well: Working back from the deadline keeps the plan realistic.

Prompt 97: Analyse a Mock Critique

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Here are the comments from my last portfolio review: [paste]. Help me analyse: which rubric criterion cost me the most marks, and what I should prioritise.

What this helps you practise: Mining a critique for everything it can tell you.

How to use it well: Critiques are diagnostics, not verdicts.

Prompt 98: Turn Weaknesses into a To-Do List

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Take everything we've identified as weak across my recent work — [summarise] — and turn it into a concrete, prioritised to-do list of specific studio actions.

What this helps you practise: Converting fuzzy weaknesses into clear next actions.

How to use it well: 'Revise SI' is vague; 'make three more iterations of image 7 focusing on material variation' is an action.

Prompt 99: Build a Visual-Reference Bank

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Help me build a visual-reference bank: contemporary artists, historical works, and theoretical concepts I can cite in SI writing. Organise it so I can retrieve it under writing pressure.

What this helps you practise: Building the reference bank that strong SI writing draws on.

How to use it well: Named references in SI writing earn rubric points if they're truly load-bearing.

Prompt 100: Consolidate the Week

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

It's the end of my study week in AP 3-D Art and Design. I worked on [list pieces]. Run a consolidation: what improved, what's slipping, and a plan for next week.

What this helps you practise: Closing each week with review, reflection, and re-planning.

How to use it well: A weekly consolidation stops portfolio momentum stalling.

Final Closing Note

You have now worked through 100 prompts designed to help you think more clearly, revise more effectively, and prepare more confidently for your AP 3-D Art and Design exams.

Remember: the goal was never to rely on AI for answers. It was to use AI as a tool to test, challenge, and strengthen your own understanding. The strongest students are not those who avoid difficulty, but those who engage with it deliberately. Each gap you found, each explanation you improved, and each mistake you corrected has strengthened your thinking.

As you continue, aim to depend less on the prompts and more on your own judgement. AI can support you — but your reasoning, clarity, and persistence are what earn the marks.

Approach your exams calmly. Think carefully. Write clearly. You are more prepared than you think.

Using AI Beyond This Book

The prompts in this book are starting points, not final forms. As you grow more confident, begin to modify them:

- Add constraints, for example “limit your answer to three key points”.
- Increase the difficulty gradually as you improve.
- Ask the AI to challenge your reasoning rather than agree with it.
- Request alternative explanations when the first doesn't click.
- Ask it to critique your thinking instead of handing you the answer.

The most powerful use of AI is not asking it to tell you things — it is asking it to test and refine your thinking. Treat AI as a tutor, not a shortcut. The skill of asking better questions will keep mattering long after these exams are over.

About the Velvet Method

The Velvet Method is a study system built by teachers who believe that AI, used well, can give every student the kind of personalised support that was once the preserve of expensive private tutoring.

Our resources are designed around cognitive science — retrieval practice, spaced repetition, schema-building, and metacognition — and around a single principle: AI should strengthen a student's thinking, never replace it.

Explore the full series of subject guides, free revision games and tools, and the Velvet Method course at aistudymethod.co.uk.

The Velvet Method Series

The 100 AI Prompts series supports students across GCSE, A-Level and IB DP. Every title is free to download.

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- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Geography
- History
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Business Studies
- Religious Studies
- Psychology
- French
- Spanish
- German

A-Level

- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Economics
- History
- Geography
- English Literature
- Psychology
- Computer Science
- Politics
- Business

IB DP

- Mathematics: Analysis & Approaches
- Mathematics: Applications & Interpretation
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- Chemistry
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