

Key Concepts

Concept:	Meaning:
Aesthetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deals with the characteristics, creation, meaning, and perception of beauty and taste • The study of aesthetics develops skills for the critical appreciation and analysis of art, culture and nature
Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A conversion, transformation or movement from one form, state or value to another • Inquiry into the concept of change involves understanding and evaluating causes, processes, and consequences
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exchange or transfer signals, facts, ideas, and symbols • It requires a sender, a message and an intended receiver • Communication involves the activity of conveying information or meaning • Effective communication requires a common “language” (which may be written, spoken or non-verbal) •
Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups that exist in proximity defined by space, time or relationship • Communities include groups of people sharing particular characteristics, beliefs, values as well as groups of interdependent organisms living together in a specific habitat
Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links, bonds and relationships among people, objects, organisms or ideas
Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process of generating novel ideas and considering existing ideas from new perspectives • Includes the ability to recognize the value of ideas when developing innovative responses to problems – may be evident in process as well as outcomes, products or solutions
Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encompasses a range of learned and shared beliefs, values, interests, attitudes, products, ways of knowing and patterns of behaviour created by human communities • Concept is dynamic and organic

Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The act or process of growth, progress or evolution, sometimes through iterative improvements
Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shape and underlying structure of an entity or piece of work, including its organization, essential nature and external appreciation
Global Interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on the connections among individuals and communities, as well as their relationships with built and natural environments, from the perspective of the world as a whole
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state or fact of being the same. • Refers to the particular features that define individuals, groups, things, eras, places, symbols and styles • It can be observed, or constructed, asserted and shaped by external and internal features
Logic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A method of reasoning and a system of principles used to build arguments and reach conclusions
Perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The position from which we observe situations, objects, facts, ideas and opinions • May be associated with individuals, groups, cultures or disciplines • Different perspectives often lead to multiple representations and interpretations
Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The connections and associations between properties, objects, people and ideas – including the human community’s connections with the world in which we live • Any change in relationship brings consequences – some of which may occur on a small scale, while others may be far-reaching, affecting large networks and systems such as human societies and the planetary ecosystem
Time, space and place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refers to the absolute or relative position of people, objects and ideas • Focuses on how we construct and use our understanding of location (“where” and “when”)
Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets of interacting and interdependent components • Provide structure and order in human, natural and built environments • Can be static or dynamic, simple or complex

