Ryan, Thomas, 1997, *Technical Graphics and the Theory of Multiple Intelligences: Challenges and Potential*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

This dissertation examines drawing, in particular mechanical drawing, in the context of the history and development of Irish first and second level education from the 1700's to modern times. The numerous recommendations for the inclusion of the subject in a compulsory manner are outlined. The modern development of the subject, now called technical graphics, is examined and its potential for fulfilling the requirements of the Government's *White Paper in Education* (1995).

Further exploration seeks to demonstrate the links between the subject and Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences. Here the various intelligences are outlined and the technical graphics syllabus examined and links suggested. Since there is no research evidence available on the links between the two, this writer explored possible links, by extension of other available research information, especially on spatial cognitive development and spatial problem solving. The necessity for prior learning was further demonstrated as was the need for a more constructive link between first and second level departments in Irish education.

Practical classroom work had been carried-out in a previous school-based project and links were established there between the multiple intelligences theory and aspects of the technical graphics syllabus.

In conclusion, the challenge of working with technical graphics to develop some, if not all, of the intelligences is outlined and recommendations for further expansion of the multiple intelligences theory are made together with a highlighting of the need for further research on both technical graphics and the multiple intelligences theory.