

A Level

Fine Art - Graphics - Photography

Course overview

Year 12 - September to November

External competition project - Portfolio building

Foundation skills workshops

Year 12 November - Summer

Begin personal investigation (coursework project)

June - Begin 1000 to 3000 word written investigation

Coursework counts as 60% of the total A Level grade

Year 13 - September to 1st February

Continue with personal investigation practical project

Complete written investigation by October.

1st February (for approx 8 school weeks)

Controlled assessment project (Exam, theme set by AQA)

May-June: End of course exhibition to celebrate, assess and AQA to moderate work

Personal investigation - What does it consist of?

Students are expected to create a body of work. This is in response to a self set theme.

The collection of work should consist of the following evidence:

- Sketchbooks
- A1 and A2 Mount boards
- Small experimental outcome
- Larger final response outcomes

Responses can be; 2D, 3D, video format, photography, installation, digital, painterly, print.... And countless more. AQA are looking for students to make informed, ambitious and refined personal responses.

Externally set assignment (EXAM)

Similar to the personal investigation, pupils will be working to a theme and are expected to make a personal response to this. This time, AQA provide students with a list of possible themes, from which they select ONE.

Students explore this theme through sketchbook or mountboard work, evidencing research, experimenting, development and ideas.

Create smaller developmental responses, as they realise final ideas

Finally culminating in a 15 hour exam to complete a final response. These 15 hours will be divided over 3 days and take place in Art rooms.

How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed using AQA's four assessment objectives.

Assessment objectives (AOs) are set by Ofqual and are the same across all A-level Art and Design specifications and all exam boards.

The assessments will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives:

- AO1: **Develop** ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.
- AO2: **Explore** and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops.
- AO3: **Record** ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress.
- AO4: **Present** a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.

Weighting of assessment objectives for A-level Art and Design

The assessment objectives are equally weighted within each component. The table shows the approximate weighting of each of the assessment objectives across all components.

Assessment objectives (AOs)	Component weightings (approx %)		Overall weighting of AOs (approx %)
	Component 1	Component 2	
AO1	15	10	25
AO2	15	10	25
AO3	15	10	25
AO4	15	10	25
Overall weighting of components	60	40	100

TIPS - To support

- Discuss projects students are working on - offer ideas and insights
- Ask what their small work targets are for the week. Similar to a word count essay in another subject, Art students should be completing a set amount of work each week. By discussing their goals, you can help them keep on top of workload.
- Encourage visits (in real life and virtual) to exhibitions and related performances.
- For digital work - Invest in a reliable external hard-drive to store and regularly back up work.
- Ask to see their work each fortnight, so you can celebrate their achievements but also keep note if pace is slow with pieces at home.
- Please do get in contact with any questions you may have - we are always happy to help.