



AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Art and Design -

Photography

Why is the study of GCSE Photography important?

In an ever changing creative & digital world, the building of creative & digital skills is essential to access & interpret the information around us. Photography is a valuable subject for all that study it and has important wider benefits in your personal and social development. These include building your resilience, self-esteem, individual creativity, a sense of self expression, problem solving and indeed how you view the world. Photography trains your brain to think critically and to appreciate and see things creatively. Creativity exists in everybody and by studying Photography you learn about your own creative expressions and that of others from our past. It provides an exciting means to explore the cultures of the past and present in our world. It is a vital aspect of recording everyday life and plays an important role in our human experience. It requires you to use both sides of your brain and develops your ability to think academically, emotionally, physically and spiritually.

The photography course is a chance for students to develop their skills further and learn new ones: an opportunity to use their imagination through experiments and investigations into a range of photography skills & ideas.

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of lens & light based media, techniques and processes, both traditional and new technologies. They will experiment with Digital SLR cameras, the formal elements & software such as Photoshop to manipulate their images. They will take influence and analyse from past & present photographers, helping to inform their ideas & work.

What skills will the study of GCSE Photography teach you?

The skills you will learn through Photography include:

- Recording from direct observation with a camera, exploring the formal & technical elements.
- Investigating & researching the work of photographers & artists, linking to their own work and taking influence.
- Experiment with a wide range of ideas, technologies & processes.
- How to critically analyse other's & your own work effectively and understand or develop a personal meaning.

- To develop creative ideas and progress these into a personal outcome.

What will you know and understand from your study of GCSE Photography?

- How to use a camera effectively to capture a desired image.
- How to use editing software in a range of ways on your Photographs.
- How to research other photographers and influences effectively.
- How to critically analyse your own & others work.
- How to respond creatively to other influences to develop your own processes & ideas.
- How to experiment with a range of physical techniques on your own images.
- How to develop a creative, final response.
- How to evaluate your own creative journey.

How can you deepen your understanding of GCSE Photography?

Photography is all around us, and taking an interest in the images that you may see on social media and everyday advertising and imagery will help you develop an understanding of how this has been created or effects the audience. You will also have the opportunity to deepen your understanding of Photography through extracurricular opportunities, where you can continue to develop your creative ideas, or work on specific projects. During enrichment you will have the opportunity to meet other photography enthusiasts from other year groups, where you can share ideas, critique each other's work and continue to develop your technique.

There may also be an opportunity to participate in Art and Photography trips to galleries in London and The Yorkshire Sculpture Park, as well as exhibiting your own work within the Academy. There will be opportunities to enter national or Trust competitions to gain additional audiences and recognition for your work such as The Royal Academy of Arts Competition. You will exhibit your work in a celebration evening, the Summer Arts showcase, where every student's work is exhibited and parents, guardians and the local community are invited. All of which will deepen your understanding of exhibiting your own personal photography practice for others to view & appreciate.



How are you assessed in GCSE Photography?

There are 6 assessment points each year that we term Praising Stars®. We assess how students at their current stage of study are on track to reach their end of stage targets which are formulated on aspirational expectation from their KS2 starting points. We make an informed prediction from our holistic assessments based on our subject mapping of expectation across the Photography curriculum.

Photography is assessed through a range of internal and external assessment. The coursework portfolio element is worth 60% of the final GCSE mark & must contain at least 2 units of work (projects). A final project, set by the Exam Board, is worth the remaining 40%. All work is finally assessed at the end of the course and externally moderated.

Key Assessment Objectives

The 4 key assessment objectives in Photography are

AO1 – Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources

AO2 – Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes

AO3 – Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses

AO4 – Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language

How can Photography support your future?

There are a wide range of creative media, photography & art based courses offered post-GCSE students at colleges and sixth form providers including our own. Within Outwood we offer 2 A Level options in Photography & Fine Art and this is deliberate to ensure progression between stages of study. Due to Photography being a wide ranging curriculum this allows for many avenues to be explored into higher and further education. There are a vast range of courses offered at university that target digital media, photography & creative processes.

Study of Photography can lead to a wide range of careers:

- Secondary School Teacher
- Jeweller
- Fashion designer
- Furniture maker
- Architect
- Web designer
- Graphics design
- Video production
- Illustrator
- Branding designer
- Town planning
- Animator
- Game designer
- Online content creator
- Film maker
- Photographer
- Magazine editor
- Public Relations

GCSE Photography Course Overview

Term	Year 1	Year 2
Autumn 1	The formal elements of Photography & understanding the camera.	Development of light drawing in a personal pathway.
Autumn 2	Introduction of Structures (Project 1) in Photography - Taking images based on this theme and learning how to research and analyse others work.	Producing a Light drawing individual final response.
Spring 1	Photoshop editing skills - applying this to the Structures e theme	External Exam paper.
Spring 2	Physical experimentation & development of individual personal direction.	External Exam paper.
Summer 1	Producing a final response to project 1.	External Exam paper.
Summer 2	Introduction to Portraiture (Project 2) - How to use the camera's slow shutter speed.	Internal assessment & External moderation. Students produce a response to a live brief or competition for personal pleasure & development.