

POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Name of Subject - A Level Art and Design - Photography

Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course?

AQA

Why should I study this course? - Photography allows A-Level students to expand their creative capabilities through taking and editing photographs. Throughout the course students investigate current artists and analyse their work. They are encouraged to be experimental in their technical and expressive skills. By the end of the course, students will have produced a portfolio of work through the creation of photographs, digital presentations and written work. Photography is an appropriate course for students to study even if they haven't taken the qualification at GCSE level as students will have all of year 12 to develop their skills before deciding on what area to focus their personal investigation, which starts in year 13. The personal investigation allows students the freedom to choose an area or topic that is of personal interest to them and conduct a photographic investigation.

Who is suitable to study this course? - Anybody can study photography, you don't have to have taken a GCSE in the subject or in Art but you should have an interest in the art form, have an understanding of how to create digital images and have an appreciation of creativity. Many students who take photography will take other creative courses like Theatre Studies or Art as they favour arts subjects but other students take the course as they are interested in the use of digital technologies. Studying photography enhances your creative, social and cultural understanding, while developing your specialist technical knowledge around equipment, techniques and style. There are various universities which offer degrees in photography and a range of jobs that are linked to photography, for example; film/video editor, graphic designer, magazine features editor, medical illustrator, press photographer, television camera operator.

What are the Qualification Requirements for this Course? You are required to achieve a minimum of a grade 5 in English GCSE.

How is the Course Delivered? You will have two teachers and spend two hours per week with each, totalling four teaching hours per week for the course. You will be expected to complete homework tasks each week and are encouraged to undertake further independent study to be successful and enhance your photography skills. All resources used in lessons will be uploaded to google classroom for your reference.

Subject Overview

Half Term	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn 1	<p>Introduction to photography: Students will look at the fundamental principles to creating a digital image and work through a range of tasks to underpin their growing knowledge.</p> <p>*Student work will be assessed and reviewed on a weekly 1x1 basis.</p>	<p>Students will begin work on a personalised project that will reflect their creativity, practical skills and understanding as well as reflecting their personal ethos through a series of digital images and written work. This will make up the coursework element of the course and will run until the external exam.</p>
Autumn 2	<p>Areas covered; Rule of thirds, Golden ratio, leading lines, portraiture and landscape photography, technical elements such as ISO, shutter speed, depth of field, compositional techniques.</p>	<p>As above.</p> <p>The expectation is that student work will continue to evolve and develop resulting in a relevant, confident and assured response to their project work.</p>
Spring 1	<p>Students will start a focused project that will build upon their knowledge and reflect their own intentions through a series of independent tasks.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
Spring 2	<p>Students through experimentation and development of ideas and control will continue to demonstrate a growing sense of confidence and depth to their studies.</p>	<p>External exam given out from February 1st.</p>
Summer 1	<p>Students through experimentation and development of ideas and control will continue to demonstrate a growing sense of confidence and depth to their studies.</p>	<p>All coursework and external exam to be completed marked and sent off by 29th May.</p>
Summer 2	<p>Portfolio and independent coursework will be concluded, assessed and be in place as a foundation to build work for year 13.</p>	

How is the Course Assessed?

The assessment objectives for the course are;

- 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.

There is synoptic assessment in both components of the A-level that provide stretch and challenge opportunities for students as follows:

In Component 1, students develop work based on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. Practical elements should make connections with some aspect of contemporary or past practice of artist(s), designer(s), photographers or craftspeople and include written work of no less than 1000 and no more than 3000 words which supports the practical work.

In Component 2, students respond to a stimulus, provided by AQA, to produce work which provides evidence of their ability to work independently within specified time constraints, developing a personal and meaningful response which addresses all the assessment objectives and leads to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

What is our Recommended Subject Reading list to Support your Study?

Handbooks about General Art/Photography Theory

Isms....Understanding Modern Art

Why Your Five Year Old Could Not Have Done That by Susie Hodge

Thinking About Art: A Thematic Guide to Art History Books which will help you structure text when studying Art/Photography

Ways of Looking: How to Experience Contemporary Art - Ossian Ward

How to Write About Contemporary Art - Gilda Williams

150 Photographic Projects for Art Students by John Easterby

Why does it not have to be in focus - Jackie Higgins

100 ideas that changed photography by Mary Marien

We recommend you visit galleries, exhibition spaces, permanent exhibitions, below are some local ones. There is also an art walk in Wakefield City Centre every month that features photography and details are advertised on their instagram page or on their website;

<https://artwalk.org.uk/>

The Hepworth Wakefield, Wakefield

Henry Moore Institute, Leeds

Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton, Wakefield

Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds

Temple Newsam, Leeds

The Civic Centre, Barnsley

The Tetley, Leeds

