

AQA- Art & Design: Photogrpahy

Entry requirements:

GCSE Grade 5 in : Art & Design: Fine Art, Art & Design: Art, Craft & Design, Art & Design: Photography, Design & Technology. A portfolio of work will need to be seen by the Head of Art before enrolling on the course, if you have not completed any creative subject.

GCSE Grade 5 in : English literature and English Language.

Course content edits:

A Level Photography Course Overview

Students will produce a personal and diverse body of photographic work throughout the course, developing both creative and technical skills to a high standard. Their portfolio will include skill-building exercises, a personal investigation, and an externally set assignment, allowing them to explore a wide range of photographic styles and approaches.

Component 1 (Personal Investigation) and Component 2 (Externally Set Assignment) both require students to research and develop ideas around a chosen theme, issue, or concept. Each component concludes with a final photographic outcome, with the exam piece completed during a 15-hour supervised session. Students must demonstrate independent thinking and creative development throughout.

Alongside practical work, students will complete a 2000–3000 word written study that supports their investigation, showing contextual understanding and critical reflection. They will explore techniques such as DSLR photography, studio lighting, Photoshop editing, and may also experiment with film, animation, and installation-based work. Students are encouraged to use both their own cameras and school equipment, and to push the boundaries of traditional photography through creative exploration.

Key course factors:

Portfolio Development: Students build a personal body of photographic work, exploring techniques, styles, and creative approaches across both coursework and exam components.

Component Structure: Both Component 1 (Personal Investigation) and Component 2 (Externally Set Assignment) require research, development, and a final photographic outcome. The exam includes a 15-hour supervised practical session.

Written Investigation: Students complete a 2000–3000 word written piece alongside their practical work, demonstrating research, idea development, and contextual understanding.

Assessment overview

1. **Component 1** – Coursework (Internal personal investigation) – 96 marks - 60%
2. **Component 2** – Exam (External set assignment) – 96 marks - 40%

Progression

A-Level Art & Design is just the beginning to deepen your knowledge and understanding of the world in which we all live. Art & Design A-Level can lead you into the various different fields of work and life in the future. Students can enter into further Art & Design students at Degree level

and explore the world of Visual artists, Digital artists, Animators, Advertisement, Photographers, Product designers, Architectures, Interior designers and so on. Art & Design is a forever changing and challenging field to develop and dive into and to be a part of the change.