



Art and Design (Photography)



Overview

This course requires students to develop practical and theoretical knowledge and understanding of:

- the ability to explore elements of visual language, line, form, colour, pattern and texture in the context of photography
- awareness of intended audience or purpose for their chosen area(s) of photography
- the ability to respond to an issue, theme, concept or idea, or work to a brief or answer a need in photography
- appreciation of viewpoint, composition, aperture, depth of field, shutter speed and movement
- appropriate use of the camera, film, lenses, filters and lighting for work in their chosen area(s) of photography
- understanding of techniques related to the production of photographic images and, where appropriate, presentation and layout.
- relevant materials, processes, technologies and resources
- how ideas, feelings and meanings can be conveyed and interpreted in images and artefacts created in their chosen area(s) of photography
- historical and contemporary developments and different styles and genres
- how images and artefacts relate to social, environmental, cultural and/or ethical contexts, and to the time and place in which they were created
- continuity and change in different styles, genres and traditions relevant to photography

Assessment

In A level, both components 1 and 2 are non-exam assessments (NEA) set by the centre for component 1 and by AQA for component 2. Both will be marked by the centre and moderated by AQA during a visit to the centre. Visits will normally take place in June. Students will be provided with exam papers for Component 2 on 1st Feb 2020 or as soon as possible after that date.

Exam Board



Specification

A level: 7204

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/as-and-a-level/artand-design/spec-at-a-glance>

Subject Specific Entry Requirements

A strong work ethic must already be proven. It is needed for independent learning, as much of the work will be done outside structured lesson time. The course builds on GCSE skills at minimum grade 6.

“Art allows me to focus on exploring my favourite genres in depth, allowing a greater understanding and appreciation for the subject.”

Ellie

A Level – Two year course

Component 1 – Personal investigation This is a practical investigation supported by written material. The investigation should be a coherent, in-depth study that demonstrates the student's ability to construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning from an initial starting point to a final realisation.	No time limit 96 marks 60% of A level
Component 2 – Externally set assignment Students should consider the starting points and select one. Preparatory work should be presented in any suitable format, such as mounted sheets, design sheets, sketchbooks, workbooks, journals, models and maquettes. In the 15 hours, students must produce a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes, informed by their preparatory work.	Preparatory period + 15 hours supervised time. 96 marks 40% of A level

Progression and Career Opportunities

Taking **Photography at A level** offers a strong foundation for further study and a wide range of creative career paths. It develops both technical and conceptual skills, encouraging students to explore visual storytelling, composition, lighting, editing, and digital manipulation. These skills are highly transferable and valued in many creative industries.

Students often progress to higher education courses such as **Photography, Fine Art, Visual Communication, Film and Media Studies, Fashion Photography**, or **Photojournalism**. Many universities and art schools look for a strong portfolio, which A level Photography helps to build through independent projects and critical analysis.

In terms of careers, Photography can lead to roles such as **freelance photographer, commercial photographer, photo editor, art director, visual content creator, social media manager**, or **gallery curator**. It also opens doors to specialist areas like **documentary photography, fashion, advertising, sports, events, and editorial work**.

Beyond creative roles, the subject also fosters **critical thinking, research, and communication skills**, making it a valuable asset in marketing, publishing, and education.