



Art & Design (Photography)

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: A Level

Why you should follow this course

This is a course for students who are interested in Photography as an art and media medium. Students will explore and use a variety of methods and techniques, from that of traditional photography to digital image making. Work in Photography should form a means of personal enquiry and expression involving the selection and manipulation of images. Students must employ creative approaches which go beyond mere observation and recording. We encourage students to visit galleries locally and in Newcastle/ London. The Art department organises trips in the spring/summer term. This enables students to experience a rich variety of historical and contemporary work, which will subsequently inform their own creativity.

What qualifications, skills or experience and interests do you need to study this subject at A level?

- Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language.
- A grade 5 or above in GCSE Art or Photography, Graphics, Textiles or Media is advisable.
- *Students who have not taken the subject at GCSE should show an interest in the subject and provide a confident portfolio of Photography work and knowledge of Photographers. Students can discuss this with the Art Department.*

Area of Study

Candidates are required to work in one or more area(s) of photography, such as those listed below. They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas:

- Portraiture
- Landscape photography (working from the urban, rural and/or coastal environment)
- Still life photography (working from objects or from the natural world)
- Documentary photography, photojournalism
- Fashion photography
- Experimental imagery
- Multimedia
- Photographic installation
- Moving image (video, film, animation).

A2 COURSE & ASSESSMENT

Component 1: Personal Investigation

What's assessed?

Personal investigation- this is a practical investigation supported by written material.

Candidates are required to conduct a practical investigation, into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. The focus of the investigation must be identified independently by the student and must lead to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

The written material must be a coherent and logically structured extended response of between 1000 and 3000 words of continuous prose.

Assessed- work is marked as a whole and must cover the 4 Assessment objectives; out of a total of 96 marks. This work provides 60% of the total A-Level marks.

Non-exam assessment (NEA) set and marked by the centre and moderated by AQA during a visit to the centre. (Normally in June.)

Component 2: Externally-Set Assignment

What's assessed?

Response to an externally set assignment- issued to candidates on the 1st of February 2021. The externally set assignment will consist of a choice of eight questions to be used as starting points. Candidates have a preparatory period and fifteen hours supervised time.

Assessed- work is marked as a whole and must cover the 4 Assessment objectives; out of a total of 96 marks. This work provides 40% of the total A-Level marks.

Non-exam assessment (NEA) set and marked by the centre and moderated by AQA during a visit to the centre. (Normally in June.)



How is the course assessed?

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.

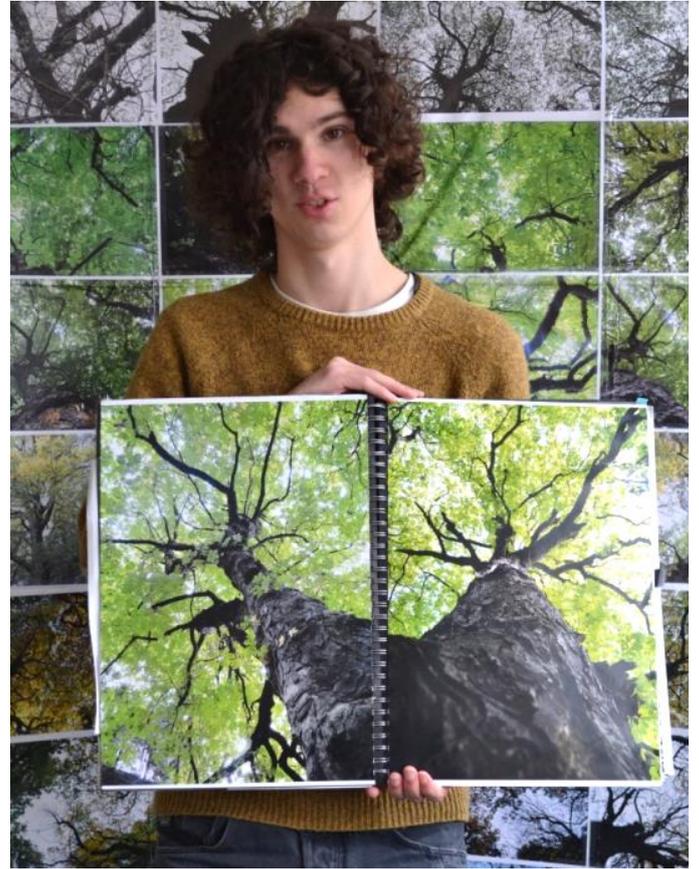
AO2: Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops.

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.

What can you do when you have your qualification?

Art & Design qualifications at this level enable you to apply for Further and Higher Education courses. The work you do provides you with a folder of work for interview for a wide range of design and foundation courses in colleges and universities. If you plan to leave school and go straight into a job related to Art & Design, you have evidence of your skills and talents in your folder.



For further information or advice please contact Mrs Bertram or Mrs McMurdo.

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