

Art & Design

A LEVEL - AQA

What are the aims of the course?

Students will develop a practical and theoretical knowledge and understanding of:

- Relevant materials, processes, technologies and resources
- How ideas, feelings and meanings can be conveyed and interpreted in images and artefacts
- How images and artefacts relate to the time and place in which they were made and to their social and cultural contexts
- Continuity and change in different genres, styles and traditions
- A working vocabulary and specialist terminology

What does it involve?

Students will be required to develop the skills to:

- Record experiences and observations, in a variety of ways using drawing and other appropriate visual forms, undertake research and gather, select and organise visual and other appropriate information
- Explore relevant resources, analyse, discuss and evaluate images, objects and artefacts and make and record independent judgements
- Use knowledge and understanding of the work of others to develop and extend thinking and inform their own work
- Generate and explore potential lines of enquiry using appropriate media and techniques
- Apply knowledge and understanding in making images and artefacts, review and modify work and plan and develop ideas in the light of their own and others' evaluation
- Organise, select and communicate ideas, solutions and responses and present them in a range of visual, tactile and /or sensory forms

How is it assessed?

The course is addressed over two components both of which are internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 1 takes the form of a Personal Investigation and will contribute 60% towards your total mark. You will complete this component during Year 12 and the first term of Year 13.

Component 2 takes the form of an Externally Set Assignment which is given to you in February during your second year. This component will give you a choice of eight starting points from which you must select one and work on preparatory work leading up to a 15 hour examination during which you must produce, unaided, a finished outcome or series of related finished outcomes. Your preparatory work and the work produced during the 15 hour examination will be assessed together, as a whole. Students will be assessed on their ability to work independently, working within the specified time constraints, and developing a personal and meaningful response.



Are there any specific entry requirements?

It is highly recommended that students who wish to take Art & Design in the Sixth Form have already gained a GCSE or equivalent in this subject.

Why is it a useful qualification?

Studying Art and Design at this level improves skills in the following areas and as a result is useful in a variety of careers:

- Imagination, creativity and resourcefulness
- Critical awareness of self and external factors and the ability to be reflective
- Interpersonal and social skills
- An appreciation of diversity
- Creative problem-solving and decision making
- Team working
- The ability to work independently
- Oral and written communication
- Visual presentation
- Information and research
- Self-motivation and self-management
- Organisation and planning
- IT, particularly using creative software

All these skills can lead to further training and careers in areas such as arts administration, museum and gallery curation, fashion, architecture, design, photography, fine art, marketing and advertising, among many.