

Photography

A LEVEL - AQA

What are the aims of the course?

Students studying this course will:

- Be introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of photographic media, techniques and processes, both traditional and new
- Explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to a range of art, craft and design, from the past and from recent times, which will be integral to the investigating and making processes
- Create responses which will demonstrate the above, and an understanding of different styles, through practical and critical activities

What does it involve?

Students will gain a knowledge and understanding of:

- 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 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
- A working vocabulary and specialist terminology that is relevant to their chosen area of photography

How is it assessed?

The course has two components both of which are internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 1

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

Component 2 takes the form of an externally set assignment which is given to you in February during your Upper Sixth 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 the examination 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 Photography in the Sixth Form have already gained a GCSE or equivalent in Art and Design or similar subject.

Why is it a useful qualification?

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

- The ability to explore elements of visual language, line, form, colour, pattern and texture in the context of photography
- Awareness of their intended audience or purpose for their chosen area 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 a 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 of photography
- Understanding of techniques related to the production of photographic images and, where appropriate, presentation and layout

All these skills might lead to further training and careers in areas such as advertising, marketing, design, illustration, communication, branding and multimedia.