



ART AND DESIGN

Course Information

Students can choose from a wide range of Post 16 A level courses within Art. We follow the AQA specification and further details can be obtained from their website.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/as-and-a-level/art-and-design>

All the options are made up from a Personal Investigation which carries 60% of the total marks and the Externally Set Assignment which carries 40% of the total marks. In Year 12 students will experiment with a range of techniques, materials and ideas to bring breadth to their study. In Year 13 students will focus on an area of study in depth. We encourage students to visit galleries to get first-hand experience of art, and trips to galleries are also organised through school. We have very strong links with the University of Gloucestershire, and students will participate in workshops that will extend their knowledge and experience and challenge their thinking beyond A level.

Fine Art

Students will explore different approaches to recording images, such as observation, analysis, expression and imagination. They will examine conventions of figurative/representational and abstract/non-representational imagery or genres. Students will build on their existing skill base through different ways of working, such as using under-painting, glazing, wash and impasto and develop their understanding of pictorial space, composition, rhythm, scale and structure, colour, tone, texture, shape and form. Students will produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas of study, for example, drawing, painting, mixed-media, sculpture, ceramics, installation, printmaking, moving image (video, film, animation) and photography.

Graphic Design

Students will develop their understanding of meaning, function, style, scale, colour and content in relation to the chosen area(s) of Graphic Communication. They will explore intended audiences or purposes and respond to an issue, concept or idea, working to a brief. Students will develop appropriate use of typography, signs and symbols. Students will produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas of study, for example, interactive media (including web, app and game design), advertising, packaging design, design for print, illustration, communication graphics, branding, multimedia, motion graphics, design for film and television.

3D Studies

Students will explore different approaches to constructing 3D artwork, through clay, wood, glass and found objects, they will develop their appreciation of solid, void, form, shape, texture, colour, decoration, surface treatment, scale, proportion, rhythm and movement in their chosen media. They will use of a variety of tools and equipment and experiment with working methods, such as model-making, constructing, assembling and raku fired ceramics. Students will produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas of study, for example, ceramics, sculpture, exhibition design, design for theatre, television and film, interior design, product design, environmental design, architectural design, jewellery/body ornament and 3D digital design.

Photography

Students will explore the use of digital and traditional cameras to develop a creative portfolio of work. Students will produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas of study, for example, portraiture, landscape photography, still life photography, documentary photography, photojournalism, fashion photography, experimental imagery, multimedia, photographic installation and moving image (video, film, animation). Within these areas of study, students will develop their ability to explore elements of visual language in the context of Photography. Students will develop an appreciation of technical skills



such as composition, aperture, shutter speed, ISO and post production through practical, contextual, technical and skills based online learning activities.

Textiles

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of textile media, processes and techniques. They will be made aware of both traditional and new media and will explore the use of drawing for different purposes, using a variety of methods and media on a variety of scales. Students will explore the potential for the use of colour and relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to a range of art, craft and design, from the past and from recent times, including European and non-European examples. Students will produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas of study, for example, fashion design, fashion textiles, costume design, digital textiles, printed and/or dyed fabrics and materials, domestic textiles, wallpaper, interior design, constructed textiles, art textiles and installed textiles.

The AQA Art and Design A Level Specifications comprises 2 components:

Component 1 Personal Investigation

This is a practical investigation supported by written material. Students 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 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. The investigation must show clear development from initial intentions to the final outcome or outcomes. It must include evidence of the student's ability to research and develop ideas and relate their work in meaningful ways to relevant critical/contextual materials. The investigation must be informed by an aspect of contemporary or past practice of artists, photographers, designers or craftspeople.

The written material must confirm understanding of creative decisions, providing evidence of all four assessment objectives by:

- clarifying the focus of the investigation
- demonstrating critical understanding of contextual and other sources
- substantiating decisions leading to the development and refinement of ideas
- recording ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions by reflecting critically on practical work
- making meaningful connections between, visual, written and other elements.

The written material must:

- be a coherent and logically structured extended response of between 1000 and 3000 words of continuous prose.
- include specialist vocabulary appropriate to the subject matter
- include a bibliography that identifies contextual references from sources such as: books, journals, websites, through studies of others' work made during a residency, or on a site, museum or gallery visit
- be legible with accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar so that meaning is clear.

There is no restriction on the scale of practical work produced.



Component 2 Externally set assignment

Each question paper will consist of a choice of eight questions to be used as starting points. Students are required to select one. Students will be provided with examination papers on 1 February, or as soon as possible after that date.

Preparatory period – from 1 February

Following receipt of the paper 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.

Supervised time – 15 hours

Following the preparatory period, students must complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised time. The first 3 hours of the supervised time must be consecutive. In the 15 hours students must produce a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes, informed by their preparatory work. Students must stop work on their preparatory work as soon as the first period of supervised time starts. Students may refer to their preparatory work in the supervised time, but it must not be added to or amended. Preparatory work and the work produced in the supervised time must be kept secure in between sessions of supervised time. The work produced during the supervised time must be clearly identified as such. Students must identify and acknowledge sources which are not their own. Annotation and/or notes should use appropriate specialist vocabulary and be legible with accurate use of language so that meaning is clear. At the end of the 15 hours of supervised time all the work submitted for this component must be kept secure. Preparatory work and the work produced during the 15 hours of supervised time will be assessed together, as a whole, against all four assessment objectives. Students will be assessed on their ability to work independently, working within the specified time constraints, and developing a personal and meaningful response.

There is no restriction on the scale of work produced. Students should carefully select, organise and present work to ensure that they provide evidence which meets the requirements of all four assessment objectives.

Should you like to receive any additional information on this course, please contact Ms Miriam McClay – Head of Department.