

A Level Photography



Why this subject?

Photography students have the opportunity to study some of the most important aspects of our society - events in our history, our cultural traditions, ethics and morality, and nature. There is an obvious value in studying these subjects, because they can help us better understand our human experience. But studying Photography also develops several marketable professional skills, including: Critical and creative thinking, research, and problem solving, organisation and communication skills.

Course Outline

Year 12

Practical Workshops - Students will explore a range of photographic media, techniques and processes through a workshop based project. The workshops will focus on developing students understanding around beyond GCSE through experimental artists, functions of a camera, exposure techniques, digital edits and manipulations in Photoshop. Students select an independent theme for a mini project which allows them to engage with the work of contemporary artists and develop their own personal response supported by written annotations and analysis of photography.

Year 13

Personal Portfolio- Students will develop their main coursework unit building a portfolio around theme of their choice through photoshoots and physical or digital experiments presented in a sketchbook.

Written Component - The aim of the related study is to enable learners to develop their ability to communicate their knowledge and understanding of art historical movements, genres, practitioners and artworks. It also builds their understanding of the relationship between society and art. The investigation includes a related personal study that must be 3000 words.



Key Information

Exam Board	OCR
Qualification Type	A Level
Entry Requirements	Applied A Level Pathway. Level 6 in Art or Photography GCSE.
Head of Department	Miss Smart

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Assessment Outline

A level Portfolio 60%:

The practical portfolio is assessed holistically through all the AOs, with each AO worth 20% of their coursework grade. They are assessed on their recording of observation through photography and written form; study Photographers and genres, develop personal ideas and experiment with Photography techniques and produce a final outcome that is appropriate to their intentions.

Related study (worth 20% of coursework mark):

Students are required to produce a 3000 word written study that is related to the context in which their portfolio sits. The aim of the related study is to enable students to develop their ability to communicate their knowledge and understanding of art historical movements, genres, practitioners and artworks.

Externally set Task 40%:

Candidates select one starting point from the question paper. Candidates are given time to plan and prepare. Candidates are then given 15 hours of controlled time to create a personal response.



Careers and next steps

Creativity can take many forms and is highly prized in many different industries and professions, as it leads to innovation and new ways of solving problems. There are many varied careers paths within the creative industries which can lead on from your Photography A level these range from Photojournalism and Media, Commercial photography or education. With the development of advertising and social media, our world is now visual place and so jobs to make and share imagery is needed.

Photography Students leaving in last two years have gone studied a wide range of subjects at university or set up their own freelance photography business. University courses our students have followed include Teaching, Design, Photography, Film-making and Photojournalism.

