

GCSE

Art & Design

Course Handbook

NAME.....



Welcome!

Welcome to GCSE Art and Design!

The GCSE covers a range of activities and in-depth projects. You will have the opportunity to experiment with different media in order to explore your strengths and preferences.

The main aim of the course is to develop your visual language skills and for you to build a comprehensive portfolio of work to progress to further courses or employment. Some of you may have a lot of experience in Art and Design, others may not, but do not worry, you will all work out a way to succeed and achieve excellent results!

What can I do after I've completed the course?

On completion of your GCSE Art and Design course, you could progress to further education, such as:

GCE A Level Fine Art
GCE A Level Fine Art Textiles

If you choose to look for a job, you will have a portfolio of work that will evidence your ability to pursue a two-year GCSE course in art and design, covering different assignments and producing a range of work.

There may be opportunities to work, for example in local design offices, graphic companies and retail, or you may choose to be self-employed.

Are there any classroom rules to know about?

- ◆ No food or drink – including chewing gum
- ◆ Show respect for the studio and equipment
- ◆ Meet deadlines – complete all homework
- ◆ All criticism must be constructive
- ◆ Allow others to contribute
- ◆ Treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself
- ◆ Keep personal issues outside the classroom

Course Structure

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/specifications/AQA-ART-GCSE-SP-2016.PDF>

This qualification is linear. Linear means that you will sit all of your exams and submit all of your non-exam assessment at the end of the course.

There are two main units in the GCSE:

COMPONENT 1: Portfolio (60%)

- Non exam assessment (NEA) set and marked by your teachers and moderated by the exam board.
- Includes evidence of meeting all Assessment Objectives from at least two projects over the course
- Marked out of 96 marks in total.
- 60% of your total mark.

COMPONENT 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)

- Exam questions set by the exam board.
- Students respond to their chosen starting point to produce a personal response, covering all four assessment objectives.
- Preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time, in exam conditions.
- Marked out of 96.
- 40% of total marks.

Assessment Objectives:

These must be learned and understood. Make sure you are able to show evidence of them all in your sketchbook.

A01 - Develop

Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

E.G: Studying the work of artists, research into art movements and visiting galleries. Documenting ideas and their development as they progress.

A02 - Experiment

Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

E.G: Enlarging or distorting a viewpoint, changing the angle, material or media of artwork. Experiment with and using processes such as collage, printing, painting, 3D sculpture work, photography, drawings.

A03 - Record

Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.

E.G: Take photographs, collect items, mind maps, observational drawings, annotations and written notes

A04 – Personal Response

Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

E.G: From looking at a topic, you will produce an individual response(s) to the topic, making it your own, and finishing with development work towards a final piece(s).

What do we expect from you?

- Attend all classes
- Show your commitment to the course and respect for your group by being punctual.
- Participate enthusiastically in lessons – Be prepared to share your ideas and bring independent research and work to the lesson.
- Keep notes in your feedback book and place all work in your sketchbook or art folder. It is your responsibility and you must ensure it is up to date and includes evidence to show your development and progress.
- Be sure to read feedback on assignments carefully – This will help you improve the standard of your work.
- Keep record of your grades on your tracking sheets that we will provide for you.
- Do not be afraid to ask us questions if you do not understand or you need things clarified.
- Make sure that you are prepared for the lesson with correct equipment.
- Attend all arranged workshops, trips and visits. Attending gallery visits and exhibitions is a really important part of the course, as it will give you a wealth of knowledge and enable you to apply what you are learning to something you have seen first-hand.

What can you expect from Teachers?

In order to help you achieve your potential the teachers will:

- Ensure that you are aware of the requirements of the course, and know how to achieve your potential.
- Provide you with the opportunities you will need to complete the course.
- Return all assignments promptly with helpful feedback.
- Give you frequent individual feedback on how your work is progressing.
- Be available to meet with on 1:1 basis for extra support.

Subject Teacher information:

- **Miss E Pickles – Head of Creative Arts**
emma.pickles@dcea.org.uk
- **Miss P Attwell – Teacher of Art**
poppy.attwell@DCEA.org.uk

TOP TIPS AND HELPFUL GUIDELINES!

What makes a good drawing?

Learn to look for details. These include the following;

TONES – Amount of dark and light

CONTRAST – Different areas of light and dark

SHAPES – Accuracy

PROPORTIONS – relationship of one object to another

ARRANGEMENTS – how the picture or objects are composed

TEXTURES – depicting the surface of objects

PATTERNS – how the pattern changes

SHADOW & HIGHLIGHTS – this varies with different objects

REFLECTIONS & DISTORTIONS – especially in glass

GOOD BLENDING, GRADUATED TONES, RICH COLOURS CAN IMPROVE PRESENTATION

AVOID

Scribble shading and colouring in; hard outlines; over smudging and a generally messy appearance

How to analyse artwork

There are 5 key elements to talk about;

FORM

Looking at the **formal elements**. What is the **medium** of the work? What **colours** does the artist use? What kind of **shapes or forms** can you find? What kind of **marks or techniques** does the artist use? What kinds of **textures** can you see?

CONTEXT

This refers to how the work relates to a particular **time, place, culture and society** in which it was produced.

CONTENT

What is it? What is it about? What is happening? Is it a **portrait**, a **landscape**, a **still life** or an **abstract** piece? Is it **realistic** or **abstract**? What is the **title**? Have any parts been **exaggerated** or **distorted**? What is the **theme** of the work?

PROCESS

What **materials** and **tools** were used to make the piece?

MOOD

How does the work make you **feel**? Does the **colour, texture, form or theme** of the work affect your mood? Does the work create an **atmosphere**?

Researching...

The key to good research is select and organise!

Simply collecting images doesn't count as evidence. To get the highest grades you must show how your research fits into your project and thought process.

Show the examiner how your research is leading you towards your final outcome by organising the work in a logical way.

Primary and secondary images...

Copying from photographs is not first-hand observation, *taking* photographs is.

Primary images include; photos you have taken yourself, sketches made from first-hand observation. Practicing observational drawing is useful, and trains your eyes to observe.

Secondary source material is anything you find and use in your work that was made by somebody else.

Useful websites...

Pinterest – a social network where people can find inspiration and ideas for interest and hobbies.

www.tate.org.uk – Tate galleries across the UK

www.artcyclopedia.com – fine art search engine

www.artlex.com – dictionary of art terms

www.sculpture.org.uk – twentieth century British sculpture

www.vam.ac.uk – Victoria and Albert Museum

www.artnet.com – website about artists and their work

www.nationalgallery.org – National Gallery

www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk – Saatchi Gallery

www.britishmuseum.org – British Museum

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/art - useful tips on GCSE revision for Art

Subject Glossary

Elements

Line - a mark or stroke on the surface of something

Tone - the light or darkness of a colour or shade

Shape - the quality of a distinct object or body

Form - the shape of a thing or person

Texture - the feel of an object or subject to the touch

Pattern - a decorative design

Scale - the size of an object or subject

Perspective - a technique of depicting volumes and special relationships on a flat surface

Materials

Acrylic - a paint in which an acrylic resin serves as a vehicle for pigment

Water colour - a water soluble pigment

Indian ink - black drawing ink

Charcoal - a drawing tool which is the result of burnt wood

Soft pastels - a chalk like crayon made from paste

Oil pastels - a drawing tool made from oil and pigment

Processes

Print making - the art or technique of making prints

- **Monoprint** - a one off method of creating a print

- **Lino print** - technique where lino is carved and printed to create an image

- **Silk screen printing** - technique where ink is pushed thorough prepared mesh to obtain an image

Batik - a technique of dying fabrics/paper using wax as a dye repellent to cover parts of the design

Sculpture - the art of producing work in three-dimensions

Ceramics - the art of producing work using clay

Good luck with the course