

Art A Level

Board: OCR, Specification H600



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Why study art at A Level?

You may be wondering how you can use your artistic abilities to advantage in the Sixth Form. You may not have realised that there is a wide range of employment opportunities associated with art. Below is a simple outline of what this subject can offer you and a range of courses open to students at various levels after leaving education.

The course

The A Level art course allows you the freedom to explore new ideas at the same time as refining your technical skills. The course mixes traditional methods with some highly innovative approaches to making and responding to art. The study of art history and techniques provides many ideas that can be absorbed into your practical work. Each teacher is an expert in the field and you will have the opportunity to develop a personal style by extending your own specific interests in painting, drawing, graphics, computer art and photography. Trips, visits and life drawing all go to make this a very personal A Level choice.

Coursework is designed to provide you with an interview portfolio that meets the expectations of Higher Education. The great majority of students who follow this course are successful in obtaining a place on a foundation course before going on to further success on a wide range of degree courses.



Course content and assessment

Year 12

Coursework – A portfolio of work from a theme set by us incorporating painting/drawing, graphic design, lens based media, computer graphics and 3D model making, with particular focus paid to development of ideas and experimentation.

The emphasis of the coursework is on developing an understanding through practical experience of the ways in which artists and illustrators have responded to subjects in the modern world. This naturally leads to the study of painting, drawing, collage and other fine art skills, together with the use of new media in the graphics workplace, e.g. computer generation and manipulation of imagery.

Year 13

Personal Investigation Coursework (60%) – One project for assessment. The emphasis will be on the personal development of imagery based on the combination of traditional and contemporary fine art processes, with particular attention being paid to recording skills and the presentation of an outcome. This will include an integral Personal Study of between 1000 and 3000 words.

Controlled Assignment (40%) – an externally set practical test of 15 hours duration plus prior preparation time.

Not all art students choose to study art or design subjects at university; however, in the past it has helped students to gain entry to courses in non-art subjects such as economics, software engineering, psychology, sociology, marketing and a wide range of combined degrees where it has been studied with English, languages and theatre studies.

Where next?

Foundation Courses

Art and design foundation courses are usually one year pre-degree courses designed to broaden experience across a range of practical and theoretical areas prior to choosing to specialise at degree level. BA and MA courses are available nationally in a wide variety of art and design related studies. A popular option for some students is to combine art or art history with another subject, eg art can be combined with languages, English, RE, history, computing, dance and drama.

Employment possibilities

- Advertising
- Publicity
- Art Conservation & Restoration
- Art Therapist
- Computer Aided Design
- Exhibition Design
- Internet Graphics
- Interior Design
- Fashion Design & Marketing
- Jewellery Design
- Museums (Education Officer)
- Photography
- Retail Display
- Stage and Costume Design
- Technical Illustration
- Textile Design/Printing
- Visual Effects Design (for Film, Video and Television).