

Key Stage 5(12)

Course title: A-Level Photography

Exam board: AQA

Specification code: 7206/C 7206/X

Topic: Key Stage 5 (12) starts with skills building in each discipline, covering the key techniques and processes

Explore skills builder

Students will undertake a number of directed tasks to build their camera knowledge and skills. Students will also start learning in the darkroom, experiencing analogue and alternative processes. This will underpin their future creative and independent projects and provide a platform for creative development. Tasks will include:

- Basic camera operation and terms – Iso, aperture, shutter speed
- Creating a digital sketchbook
- Editing in Photoshop and Lightroom
- Darkroom – photograms and chemigrams
- ‘Lost theme’ and assignments including double exposure
- Capturing movement
- Artist research – contextual and analytical writing
- Printing and presenting photographs as art outcomes.

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	Topic
	Unit 1 personal investigation (60% of overall grade)
	Builds on art skills to teach students how to develop a personal self-directed project covering all assessment objectives.
Autumn 1 – Spring 1 (July start September – February)	<p>The personal investigation is the major component of unit 1 A-Level. Students start with an overall theme of HUMAN CONDITION and then refine this based on personal interest as research continues. First tasks will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spider/mind map, visual moodboard, first photography shoots, manipulation and development, gallery visits <p>In September, students will select 4 artists of their own choice to research, analyse, and respond to. This initial research in sketchbooks will be collated into a formal essay of between 1000 and 3000 words. Students will develop different skill sets and specialisms as the project develops, based on their own interpretation of their theme. Further developments are linked to students’ previous skills and visual research. Student photography will be used to inspire final design ideas. One or more of these will be developed as the final outcome for the unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Photography · Experimental tasks including printing, collage, and mixed media · Darkroom processes · Artist research, image analysis · Student response to individual artists · Formal essay · Theme and experimentation to develop project in depth · Convincing, personal, and meaningful final outcomes.
	<p>The exam preparation unit starts on the first lesson in January as instructed by AQA.</p> <p>Unit 2 exam – externally set (40% of overall grade)</p>

<p>Spring 1 – Spring 2 (February – May)</p>	<p>Students receive an exam paper in February with a set of themes and instructions to create a developed and personal project and final outcome, based on their own creative journey. The final outcomes are dependent on the in-depth research and development culminating in a 15-hour invigilated exam.</p> <p>Students are supported to create a matrix of tasks and a timeline and work independently during the 10-week research period. They need to produce a sketchbook meeting the 3 assessment criteria, building on the project planning skills established in previous units. Final outcomes deliver the fourth assessment objective in 15-hour controlled exam period over 3 days.</p>
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