

Subject: Photography	Awarding Body: Edexcel
Head of Dept: Mrs Stott	Teachers: Mrs Stott

Preferred entry requirements: Grade 6 or above in Art, Craft & Design, Fine Art or Photography at GCSE

Specification Content

A level	
1	Personal Investigation and Personal Study Internally set and assessed. Externally moderated. (60% of the total qualification)
2	Externally Set Assignment (ESA) Externally set, internally assessed and externally moderated. (40% of the total qualification)

Structure of the course:

Students have the opportunity to experiment with a range of photographic processes, digital editing techniques, materials and physical manipulation techniques to broaden their knowledge and make the transition from GCSE to A- Level in the first term of the course. They will then choose a topic for their major project (Component 1) with guidance from their teacher.

Component 1 - Personal Investigation (coursework) and Personal Study (written component): This component allows students opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with appropriate photographic processes and techniques, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s). It incorporates three major elements: practical work, supporting studies and a written study in a minimum of 1,000 words of continuous prose.

Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment (ESA): Students are asked to create supporting studies and personal outcome(s) in response to an externally set theme. The release date of the ESA is in February in year 2 and contains suggested starting points. Students have from then until the commencement of the final concluding 15-hour period of sustained focus to develop preparatory studies. The 15-hour period of sustained focus takes place under examination conditions.

Methodology:

The visual arts provide a rich and varied opportunity for study at A Level and the course aims to reflect this by building on each individual student's areas of interest and strengths. Students are guided via individual tutorials and the coursework tasks facilitate a personal and professional response in a range of media. This course allows students to specialise in photography and digital-editing techniques whilst drawing on a broader range of art and design skills. The course allows for experimentation in a host of photographic-based disciplines with the flexibility to focus in a particular area of interest.

Strengths/Skills developed through studying this subject:

Recording, research, presentation and communication skills are developed through the study of photography at A Level. Students learn to operate independently and creatively. They gain the attributes to allow them to express judgements about their own work and the work of others and apply this knowledge to move their work forward.

What students do with this qualification:

Students completing an A Level in Photography will then have access to Art Foundation courses and degrees or careers in a wide range of Art and Design disciplines, including; Photography, Fine Art, Visual Communication, Graphic Design, Animation, Illustration, Interior Design, Fashion Design, Product Design, or teaching in schools or colleges. Students may also gain entry onto an equally wide range of vocational courses, which include industrial placement.