

Photography (digital)

A - Level AQA

Digital Photography is a new creative course which introduces students to a variety of experiences exploring a range of photographic media, techniques and processes. The course explores how messages and meaning have been conveyed through photography through different historical and cultural contexts. Students' work will form a means of personal enquiry and expression, and they must employ imaginative approaches which go beyond mere observation and recording.

How is the course assessed?

Component 1 – Portfolio workbook & Technical Folder (60% of A Level)

Students complete a workbook comprising of three sections (portraiture, abstract & documentary). Each section is made up of self-directed mini projects covering; research and in-depth analysis of other photographers' work, the design, construction and execution of photo-shoots, media experimentation and final outcomes.

Alongside this students also complete a supporting Technical Folder. Students will learn how to use a wide variety of processes, techniques and equipment associated with digital photography to help develop their project ideas through to final outcomes. Tasks include; Photoshop tutorials, use of lenses, lighting and backdrops, as well as the use of a digital SLR camera.

Final outcomes created can be quality prints, photo-books, 3D installations or even products, depending on the skills and interest of the individual.

Component 2 Externally Set Assignment (40% of A Level)

Towards the end of your course you will choose one assignment from a range of externally set assignments. Over 3 months, your time will be spent researching, planning, shooting photographs, experimenting and developing ideas.

A further 15 hours of supervised time (under exam conditions) will be used to complete the production of their photographic outcome(s).

Who's it for?

The photography course has a large and extensive workload and therefore it is suited to independent, well organised and motivated individuals with a passion for creativity.

It is ideal for students studying other creative subjects such as Graphics or Art.

Students should be able to demonstrate the following;

- Creative imagination.
- Appreciation of viewpoint, composition, movement and presentation layout.
- Be able to convey and interpret ideas, feelings and meanings in images and artefacts.
- Interest in history of art and culture.
- Capability to learn the correct use of technical equipment (i.e. digital single lens reflex camera).
- Ability to work with the vocabulary and specialist terminology relevant to photography.

Progression

The course provides an excellent progression route into higher education and careers in Visual Arts related professions such as Photography, Design for Film & Television, Theatre Design, Media, Fashion and Fine Art.

Accepted widely by universities as an academic subject, the UCAS points gained from studying the subject will enable you to progress to the course of your choice.

