



A LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY EXAM BOARD: AQA

SUBJECT AREA OVERVIEW

This is a two-year course leading to an A-level qualification examined by AQA. Students are expected to create a portfolio of work in a lens-based medium: photography, video, digital media. The course aims to develop students technical skills whilst also ensuring their visual literacy and improving their critical and cultural understanding. Students work in conjunction with the teacher to make sure their coursework reflects their personal talents and interests in photography. During the first year of the course it is all about experimenting, building up skills and techniques in photography in preparation for the Personal Investigation coursework.

Course Content

1. Coursework (teacher/student led):

Practical assignments aimed at developing students' technical and creative understanding of photographic media, techniques, and processes. Students will look at a range of images across different cultures and time periods to develop skills for research and critical analysis. Assignments will be recorded in a coursework book along with a technical book and a personal portfolio. Students will be expected to mount an exhibition of their artwork

2. Personal Investigation: Students will be asked to sustain a line of inquiry on a subject of their choosing relating to an idea, concept, issue, or theme relevant to art/photography. Investigations will be recorded in a coursework book and will lead to a practical outcome supported by a 1000-3000 word written essay.

3. Externally Set Assignment: Candidates respond to questions set by AQA. The assignment will culminate in a final outcome to be completed under exam conditions within a 15 hour supervised time period. Preparatory studies will be recorded in a coursework book and will be assessed along with the final outcome.

Assessment

Component 1: Personal Investigation =60% of A-level grade.

Items assessed: Coursework, practical outcome, 1000-3000 written material. (No time limit)

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment = 40% of A-level grade.

Items assessed: Coursework, practical outcome. (Preparatory period +15 hours supervised)

Career Paths and Related Subject Areas

- Art Foundation
- Photography
- Graphics
- Fine Art

- Fashion Photography
- Advertising

For further information: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/as-and-a-level/art-and-design/subject-content/photography