



Introduction

The A Level is a linear two year qualification, so that all student work will be submitted and assessed at the end of the course.

A Level incorporates and builds on the aims of GCSE Art and Design but requires something more than a general ability in the subject. It will demand an increased maturity and competence of candidates in practical and theoretical activities and in those relating to critical, historical and contextual aspects of the subject.

The course is intended to meet the needs of the following types of candidates:

- a) those who will undertake further studies in Art and Design;
- b) those who will study subjects or take up careers for which a background in Art and Design is relevant;
- c) those who, while having an interest in and aptitude for the subject are not intending to undertake further studies in Art and Design.

Content

A LEVEL comprises of 2 components:

Edexcel Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Art and Design: Fine Art

Unit 1: Coursework: 60%

Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment: 40%

The course aims to develop the education of the imagination, feeling and sensibility and to provide an opportunity for exploration and understanding of materials whilst developing skills and processes. The course is structured to allow individual freedom to develop ideas, carry out visual research, analyse artistic problems that have confronted other artists and to recognise art as a problem-solving activity – a form of thinking.

Pupils receive 8 periods of Art per week.

Component 1: Personal Investigation (Coursework) which is 60% of the qualification. The Personal Investigation comprises of practical work from personal starting points. Students are expected to generate practical work, ideas and research from sources, explore media and processes, develop and refine ideas and present outcomes responding to the four assessment objectives.

Students also submit a Written Personal Study - a piece of continuous prose, minimum 1000 - 3000 words that relates to their coursework theme.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment, which is 40% of the qualification. The theme is released to teachers and students on the 1st February each year.

Students submit preparatory studies and personal outcome(s) in 15 hours of sustained focus.

Skills

The skills to be assessed during the course are:

Development of ideas

Experiment, reviewing and refining

Recording from primary and secondary sources

Realisation of ideas and making connections with other artists

Homework

Students are expected to supplement their classwork with five hours of homework a week where they develop, explore and consolidate their work.

Assessment

There is continual assessment of all assessment objectives.

Digital usage in this subject

All students have their own laptops. These are used constantly for investigation and for writing their coursework essay.

Average time spent each homework

Students are expected to spend 5 hours per week on homework.

Resources and Materials

Individual equipment:

All students need basic drawing and painting equipment for work at home. A high quality digital camera is today more or less an essential tool.

The Art Department possesses a well-stocked, continually updated library of books and videos which form an integral part of the course and are supplemented by the internet.