



Holy Trinity School

A Church of England Secondary School



Art & Photography A level Curriculum Guide

Art & Photography

This course is an A Level Course with the choice of Fine Art or Photography

MINIMUM SUBJECT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (in addition to the general 6TH form minimum entry requirements of 5 x grade 4 at GCSE/equivalent or above including maths and English):

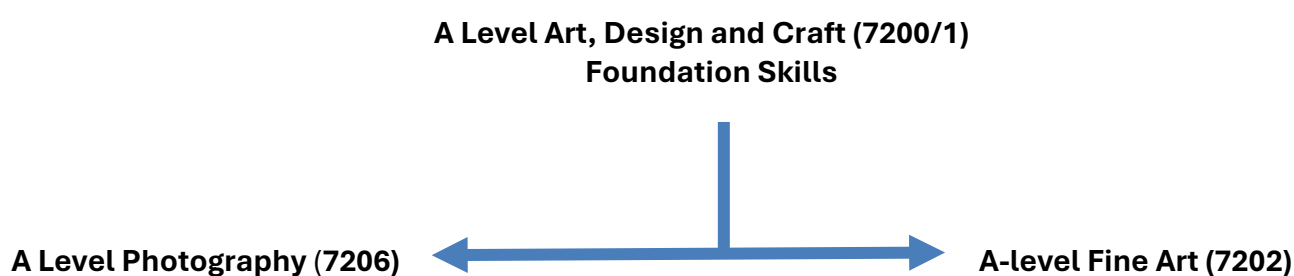
A portfolio of evidence and usually GCSE grade 4 in Art.

In this course you can expect to explore ideas, while furthering skills to experiment with materials and investigate the work of other artists. You will develop personal interests and pursue them with commitment and focus. Part of the coursework includes a Personal Related Study on a chosen area, which builds understanding of the relationship between society and art.

AQA Art and Design 7200 - Specialising in either Fine Art 7202 or Photography 7206 as it is the same specification

AQA A Level Art, Design and Craft

Students can choose between either specialism: Fine Art or Photography



Why choose this subject?

Explore. Create. Express.

A Level Art this course is all about pushing your creativity and imagination while building your skills in art, craft, and design. You'll get hands-on with a wide range of materials and techniques, working on your own projects and discovering what makes your artistic style unique.

A Level Photography develops your creativity, technical skills, and personal vision through practical projects, experimentation, and research. You will explore a range of photographic techniques and processes while building a portfolio that reflects your individual style and creative interests

What you will do in the Art specialism:

- Experimenting with different media — from paint and sculpture to mixed media and digital work
- Investigating ideas and developing your own creative voice
- Learning about artists and movements from across cultures and time periods
- Building your analytical and problem-solving skills through visual thinking

What you will do in the Photography specialism:

- Exploring a range of photographic techniques — from digital imaging and studio photography to darkroom processes and image manipulation
- Developing ideas and creating personal projects that reflect your interests, experiences, and creative vision
- Investigating photographers, artists, and visual culture from different periods, genres, and contexts
- Building analytical and creative problem-solving skills through visual storytelling, experimentation, and critical reflection

Why choose A Level Art/A Level Photography?

Whether you're aiming for a career in the creative industries or just want a space to express yourself, this course gives you the freedom to explore and grow. It's also a great balance to STEM subjects — offering a creative outlet while helping you develop transferable skills like:

- Creative thinking
- Visual analysis
- Practical problem-solving

Why do A Level Art/Photography at HTS?

- Own Studio Space
- IMac room
- Small Class sizes
- Personalised Learning
- Calm environment
- 1:1 Tuition
- Large range of resources

Where can it lead?

A Level Fine Art is a strong foundation for:

- Art foundation courses and Photography Foundation courses
- Degrees in Fine Art, Illustration, Architecture, Design, and more
- Careers in everything from animation and fashion to advertising and gallery curation
- Degrees in Photography, Photojournalism, Media, Visual Communication, Fashion, Film, and Creative Arts
- Careers in photography, digital media, advertising, marketing, publishing, content creation, graphic design, and the creative industries

Course Structure

The Overview of A Level Art and Design Specialism (7202)

Term 1 Foundation skills Building Knowledge and Understanding through Exploration and Experimentation	Theme: Collections Drawing Painting Photography Mixed Media Print making Ceramics/Sculpture			
	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4
Term 2/3 Foundation Skills Building Knowledge and Understanding through Exploration and Experimentation Following the AQA making criteria Developing your understanding of the marking criteria	Theme: Shoes Drawing Painting Photography Mixed Media Print making Critical and Contextual Studies Final Outcome of your findings 2-d or 3-d			
	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4
How is the AQA course assessed?				
Term 4/5/6 Component 1: Personal Investigation (60%)	Theme: Research and develop your own Starting point Critical and Contextual Study Short Essay 1,500 – 3,000 words showing your developing knowledge and understanding and connection Leading into your practical investigation with Final Outcome with supporting Portfolio of work Physical			
	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4
Term 7/8/9 Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)	Theme: AQA multiple choice starting point <i>Approx 10-12 weeks to prepare portfolio</i> Showing your Knowledge and Understanding to the theme Critically and Contextually A Practical Investigation with Final Outcome with a supporting Portfolio of work either Physical or Digital Final Outcome/s: 15 hours of Supervised time			
	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4

The Overview of A Level Photography Specialism (7206)

Term 1 Foundation skills Building Knowledge and Understanding through Exploration and Experimentation	Theme: Light and Shadow Darkroom SLR Camera Critical and Contextual Studies Monochrome			
	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4
Term 2/3 Foundation Skills Building Knowledge and Understanding through Exploration and Experimentation Following the AQA making criteria Developing your understanding of the	Theme: Furniture Digital Camera Photoshop Polychrome Critical and Contextual Studies Final Outcome			

marking criteria	A01	A02	A03	A04
How is the AQA course assessed?				
Term 4/5/6 Component 1: Personal Investigation (60%)	Theme: Research and develop your own Starting point Critical and Contextual Study Short Essay 1,500 – 3,000 words showing your developing knowledge and understanding and connection Leading into your practical investigation with Final Outcome with supporting Portfolio of work either Physical or Digital			
	A01	A02	A03	A04
Term 7/8/9 Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)	Theme: AQA multiple choice starting point <i>Approx 10-12 weeks to prepare portfolio</i> Showing your Knowledge and Understanding to the theme Critically and Contextually A Practical Investigation with Final Outcome with a supporting Portfolio of work either Physical or Digital Final Outcome/s: 15 hours of Supervised time			
	A01	A02	A03	A04

You'll be marked on four key Assessment Objectives (AOs) :		
AO1	Develop ideas	Research artists, explore themes, show your thinking
AO2	Experiment	Try different techniques, materials, and styles
AO3	Record	Take photos, sketch, write notes – show your journey
AO4	Present	Create a final piece that shows your ideas clearly

Learning & Tutorials

These sites offer **free or affordable art education** across various media:

1. [Student Art Guide](#) – Created by teachers, this site is packed with sketchbook examples, artist research pages, and project ideas tailored for A Level, GCSE, and IB students.
2. [Artists Network](#) – Free tutorials in painting, drawing, mixed media, and more. Great for beginners and advanced learners

Inspiration & Sketchbook Ideas

Perfect for developing your **personal investigation** or exam project:

1. [Pinterest – A Level Art Sketchbook Inspiration](#) – Boards full of layout ideas, artist research pages, and presentation styles.
2. [Student Art Guide – Sketchbook Examples](#) – High-scoring sketchbook pages from real students with annotations and media experiments.
3. [Artsydee – 50+ Sketchbook Prompts](#) – Creative prompts grouped by theme (nature, animals, objects, etc.) with free templates.
4. [Fine Art Tutorials – 40+ Sketchbook Ideas](#) – Includes drawing challenges, painting exercises, and layout tips.

PATHWAYS:

UNIVERSITY COURSES	APPRENTICESHIPS	WORLD OF WORK
There are over a hundred Art and Design-related College and University courses. An Art Foundation Course is a popular next step before pursuing a degree course in the Arts.	Creative and Digital Media, Community Arts, Set Crafts, Photo Imaging, etc.	Potential careers may include Fine Art, fashion, textiles, architecture, photography, illustration and advertising, graphic design, games design etc.

For further information or to ask questions, please contact

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