

Photography

AS/A Level

AQA

Structure & Specification

Year 1- AS GCE Photography 1201F

Year 2- A2 GCE Photography 2201F

Syllabus details

The new AQA syllabus will be followed.

What does the course include?

This is an art subject in which the medium is photography. This course will enable you to make personal responses to your own experiences, your environment and culture in the form of digital photographs. The course includes both theory and practical work and you will be taking photographs with a digital camera, altering them using computer software and presenting them in interesting ways. You will also learn about the work of other photographers.

How will I learn?

The lessons will include theory presentations as well as practical demonstrations supported by visual examples of others' work. There will also be organised gallery visits and practical field trips which you are expected to attend. In addition to this you must be prepared to go independently to various locations to take photographs. You will have five hours of lesson contact time a week and will be required to do a minimum of a further three hours of independent study. During your lessons you will be introduced to a variety of experiences in which you will explore a range of photographic techniques. You will be taught about the creative effects that can be produced using camera controls, how to use view points and studio lighting so that you can create quality images and interesting effects. You will also be expected to expand your knowledge and your use of Adobe PhotoShop software to manipulate images in a sophisticated way. You will study the work of other photographers. Through lesson activities and discussions you will develop your ability to give personal judgements about your own photographs and those of others. You will use sketchbooks to record your research and exploratory work and you will be expected to draw experiences from other photographers' work and to relate it to your own.

How will my work be assessed?

Each year there are two assessment units: One is coursework and another is a controlled test and each one counts for 50% of your total mark. Final outcomes will be assessed together with your preliminary studies and sketchbooks which will contain personal ideas, notes, references to the work of other artists and photographers, and any other supporting research which has been done as part of the overall coursework submission.

For a controlled test the examining board will set a range of themes as starting points, from which you will choose one. You will also carry out investigation into photographers with whose work you wish to make connections. You will use all these findings as inspiration to develop ideas for a final outcome. Your work will be marked by your teacher and moderated by the examining board.

A2 level differs from AS in that the controlled test is carried out over fifteen hours rather than five. Also, your A2 coursework should be supported by a written element of up to

What skills will I need to be successful in this subject?

Your commitment and enthusiasm are essential, as photography is a time-consuming activity. AS work goes beyond basic photography and implies prior knowledge in art, photography and the use of Adobe PhotoShop software. It is a challenging subject where creative and technical ability in both art and ICT will be important.

What are the entry requirements?

This course is offered to students who have a background in Photography or Art and Design and have demonstrated a basic knowledge and a genuine interest in digital photography. You will also need 5 GCSEs at grades A-C.

What are the opportunities after this course for further/higher education and employment?

This qualification and the portfolio of work you build will enable you to apply to study photography at university.