

Preparing to Study at A level

Work for Art

Below you will find 5 weeks preparation work (around 10 hrs) for your A level course and an Enrolment Task (2 hrs). You will need to do the same for your other two subjects. The final enrolment task must be submitted to Enrolment@StratfordSchool.co.uk by Monday 12th July.

We use **Edexcel A-Level Art- Fine Art** - which means working with media using painting & drawing, printmaking and sculpture.

You can find the course specification here:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/art-and-design-2015.html#tab-1>

Research Tasks and Wider Reading:

As optional extra areas of study, you might like to:

1. Before you start the task, research what the **VISUAL ELEMENTS** are in Art. Making sure you understand them in an Art context could help you develop your drawing further. Frequently used VE's in school are... **LINE, SHAPE, TONE, COLOUR, PATTERN, TEXTURE**
2. One of the tasks involves researching an Artist of your choice. Who is your favourite Artist? Why? If you don't have one, then start exploring the web to find an Artist whose work you like. Try these websites as starting points...
www.royalacademy.org.uk/
www.nationalgallery.org.uk
www.pinterest.co.uk

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Activities:

Task 1

Your first task is to practice your observation drawing skills.

Artists work in lots of different ways often expressing a personal response to the world around them, being able to draw what you see realistically is the foundation for what happens next as part of the creative journey...

Activities:

*Please spend at least 30mins on each drawing. Your choice what size but would suggest no smaller than A4 and no larger than A2.

* Try and use different media on each drawing e.g. pencil, fineliner, crayons, paint

Drawing 1: From around your home choose a **manmade form with hard edges**. Focus on drawing it's **shape and form (+ any surface patterns)** as accurately as possible. Use only **line** to achieve this.

Drawing 2: Choose a **natural form with hard edges or surface texture** in your home. Focus on drawing it's **shape & form** as accurately as possible. Use **line** to achieve this.

Drawing 3: Choose a **manmade object with soft edges** in your home. Focus on drawing it's **shape and form (+ any surface patterns)** as accurately as possible. Use only **line & tone** to achieve this.

Drawing 4: Choose a **natural form/object with soft edges or surface texture** in your home. Focus on drawing it's **shape and form** as accurately as possible. Use only **line & tone** to achieve this.

Drawing 5: Draw a **person** in your home. Focus on drawing them doing an activity e.g. walking up the stairs or doing exercise. Try to capture their **shape and form** as accurately as possible. Use a combination of media to do this.

Task 2

*Spend some time selecting the two Artists and the subject matter you will write about.

The Artists you choose could work in 2D or 3D- your choice.

Commonly used subject matter is landscapes, human form, portraits, architecture, manmade forms, natural forms.

If you aren't sure which Artist to look at then use www.pinterest.co.uk type in the subject matter and add art on the end- this should provide you with lots of choices, click on images to discover who the Artist is.

* Use the following pointers to help you find the words and artistic vocabulary required to write 700 words. Remember you are **comparing two Artists work**- you are an Art critic and allowed to express **personal opinion**. Also include pictures of the two pieces of Artwork you have chosen.

General points to make...

Very brief introduction, naming both Artists, styles, best known for etc then-

Describe the scale and content/subject of the work

Is there any focal point in the composition? Describe it.

Does it evoke any particular feelings or atmosphere?

Is there any apparent space suggested in the work? Is it a closed space (interior)? Is it flat (abstract)?

What materials or processes have been used by the Artist?

Why was the work made...what is its purpose?

VISUAL ELEMENTS: At least one of the V.E.s will be evident in any piece of Artwork, in some cases more than one...

LINE

Does the Artist use line? Are they thick or thin?

Are the lines horizontal, vertical, straight, curved etc.?

Do the lines give the feeling of movement, rhythm or space?

tone

Where are the light and dark areas?

Are there gradients of tone?

Has tone been used to make the picture look solid?

Is tone used to create special illusion?

COLOUR

Which colours has the Artist used?

Are the colours realistic

Is the colour linked to expression?

TEXTURE

What type of textures has the Artist made?

How was it made?

What does it add to the piece?

Is it naturalistic or does it appear decorative?

SHAPE & PATTERN

Which shapes had the Artist used?

Are there repeat patterns or decorative patterns?

Where does the inspiration for the pattern come from?

Are shapes linked to emotion or symbols?

FORM

Does the work describe 3D space?

Is the space created an illusion or actual?

Conclude your writing with a summary of why you chose both pieces and whether your opinions about the work has changed at all?

Task 3

Your third task is to develop an artistic, personal, response to the question:

What do our possessions reveal about us?

Artists often create work in response to the world around them. It's important to develop an understanding as to how social issues and the news can influence creators. In this task you will develop a response in the form of a mini project and a final outcome.

Activities:

*Please spend at least 1hr on each task.

* Try and use a variety of media in this mini project your final outcome can be in any media.

* Consider how your work can be interpreted by the viewer.

For this 'mini-project' you will be working through the following steps to generate a small project on the theme of 'what do our possessions reveal about us?'. There are many paths you could take for this theme – this is a short project so please try to select only one.

Task 1: In the 'wider reading' box there are several articles, select one or two to read and create a visual diagram to generate your ideas, this could take the form of a combination of words, drawings and images. Limit yourself to an hour on this part of the project and select the path you wish to take.

Task 2: Generate a series of images using photography to explore your ideas. You could set up your own still life, capture a moment or execute a mini photo-shoot.

Task 3: Create studies from your photography using a media of your choice. Consider your choice of media and how it reflects your chosen theme. For example, if you were looking into 'plastic waste' you may wish to include plastic into your drawings.

Task 4: Experiment with ideas for your final outcome. How will the viewer understand your response? How can you link your use of media to your theme? Generate 2-3 different ideas and start to test a variety of media.

Task 5: Select your most successful idea and create a small final outcome. This could be a painting, drawing, print, sculpture – it's up to you.

Wider Reading:

Please read one or more of the following articles to help you generate ideas. Feel free to create work linked to any other article you read on the theme of "What do our possessions reveal about us".

- **Do our possessions Define us?** <https://www.ft.com/content/647181a6-50fc-11e5-b029-b9d50a74fd14>
 - **Do we possess our possessions or do they possess us?** <https://aeon.co/ideas/do-we-possess-our-possession-or-do-they-possess-us>
 - **The world's plastic pollution crisis explained** <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/habitats/plastic-pollution/>
 - **The high cost of our throwaway culture** <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20121129-the-cost-of-our-throwaway-culture>
 - **What is fast fashion, anyway?** <https://www.thegoodtrade.com/features/what-is-fast-fashion>
 - **Sophie Calle, 'The Hotel, Room 47', 1981** <https://nairacastro.wordpress.com/2018/04/23/sophie-calle-the-hotel-room-47-198/>
 - **Your brain evolved to hoard supplies and shame others for doing the same** <https://theconversation.com/your-brain-evolved-to-hoard-supplies-and-shame-others-for-doing-the-same-134634>
 - **The impulse of collecting – Why do people collect things?** <https://www.ligo.co.uk/blog/the-impulse-of-collecting-why-do-people-collect-things/>
 - **The history of minimalism and what minimalism means as a lifestyle** <https://miadanielle.com/what-is-minimalism/>
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Enrolment Task (This task must be sent to Enrolment@StratfordSchool.co.uk):

Present your completed work in an A3 sketchbook

If you have any questions, please contact

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or

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