

Preparing to Study at A level

Work for Photography

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.

AQA

You can find the course specification here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/as-and-a-level/art-and-design/subject-content/photography>

At Stratford Upon School A Level Photography is taught across Year 12 (skills development) leading into Year 13 Personal Investigation & Externally Set Task.

Throughout Year 12 students are introduced to a variety of traditional and digital techniques encompassing: manual film and DSLR operation, studio and location lighting techniques, darkroom/digital processing/manipulation, & a range of experimental creative mixed media.

Year 13: Personal Investigation; students choose their own genre of specialisation, then plan, develop, research, experiment, refine and produce a detailed body of work. Towards the end of the course students complete an AQA externally set task, choosing their preferred genre from a list of themes, culminating in a 15 hour controlled test.

Research Tasks and Wider Reading:

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

To gain a wider insight into photographic genres you should check out:

<https://www.photoblog.com/learn/types-of-photography/>

<https://thephotographersgallery.org.uk/whats-on/course/genres-of-photography>

<https://www.thephotargus.com/fine-art-photography/>

<http://64.130.23.120/fine-art-photography.htm>

<http://64.130.23.120/photography/documentary.htm>

<http://64.130.23.120/photography/norman-parkinson.htm>

<http://64.130.23.120/photography/irving-penn.htm>

Activities:

Task 1

1 Investigate each of the listed genres, write a brief statement for each, outlining the core fundamentals that define them. Include three relevant photographs for each genre to illustrate, provide name of photographer, location and date.

Documentary Photography

Fine Art Photography

Portrait Photography

2. Use a digital camera, DSLR or similar. If unavailable - use your phone.

Take a series of photographs for each genre. You should aim to have between 10-20 images for each shoot. **Do Not Edit.** Present the images, comment upon your favourites from each shoot. Discuss how the chosen images fit the codes and conventions of the genre. How could you improve? Which photographer has been your main influence?

Task 2

1. Leading on from your initial research into the genres of Documentary, Fine Art and Portraiture photography, choose one to specialise in.

Investigate two photographers from your chosen genre and compare and contrast their style and technique. To do so effectively you will need to comment upon the following:

Equipment used: do they shoot film or digital or a combination of both? Consider why, and comment upon the effect.

Do they shoot colour or black and white or a combination? Why is this?

What editing/post production techniques do they favour?

Compare lighting. Available ambient light or artificial or combination?

2. Use a digital camera, DSLR or similar. If unavailable - use your phone.

Take a series of 20-30 images for your chosen genre.

Create a contact sheet (thumbnail images to show each photograph in sequence)

Save originals, **Do Not Edit.**

Select and copy best 10 images ready for editing.

Use Photoshop or [PiXLR.com](https://www.pixlr.com) to edit.

Remember to use the Print Screen option on PC (screen grab: Mac) to show editing in progress

Task 3

1. Now that you have researched and developed your chosen genre, it's time to refine your theme. To do so you will need to investigate the work of an additional photographer, this must be someone recognised within your genre.

Provide an outline of their career (timeline highlighting notable bodies of work, achievements, awards etc).

Pick the most notable body of work, and analyse it using your own words. Remember to comment upon style and technique, to include: Camera Format, shooting style, edited or natural, ambient or artificial light.

Finally include your own thoughts on their work.

2. Use a digital camera, DSLR or similar. If unavailable - use your phone.

Using the 10 images previously selected for editing, lay them out, now pick your best three - as finals. Comment upon why they have made it into the final selection. Discuss how each image was taken. How could you improve further? Link to influences - from your research, who do you think has had the biggest effect on the way you shoot your own pictures for this genre?

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 [insert nominated department member and e mail address]

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