

Curriculum Overview 2025 - 2026

Photography

Exam Board AQA	Exam Specification 8206	 Link to full details	Qualification Type GCSE
Departmental Staff	• Miss Wright		

Examined by:



x 1



x 1

Portfolio	Externally set assignment
A portfolio that shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during the student's course of study	Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their subject title, evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives.
 No time limit	 Preparatory period, followed by 10 hrs of supervised times
	

Photography

Photography is defined here as the practice of producing images using light-sensitive materials such as photographic film, or digital methods of development and production to create static or moving images. In Component 1 and Component 2 students are required to work in one or more area(s) of photography: portraiture, location photography, studio photography, experimental imagery, installation, documentary photography, photo-journalism, moving image: film, video and animation, fashion photography. They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas.

Assessment Objectives & Weightings

Assessment objectives (AOs) are set by Ofqual and are the same across all GCSE Art and Design specifications and all exam boards.

The exams and non-exam assessment will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives.

• AO1: Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.	25%
• AO2: Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.	25%
• AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.	25%
• AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.	25%

Portfolio

Each student must select and present a portfolio representative of their course of study. The portfolio must include both:

1. **A sustained project** developed in response to a subject, theme, task or brief evidencing the journey from initial engagement with an idea(s) to the realisation of intentions. This will give students the opportunity to demonstrate, through an extended creative response, their ability to draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and/or understanding from across their course of study .
2. **A selection of further work** resulting from activities such as trials and experiments; skills-based workshops; mini and/or foundation projects; responses to gallery, museum or site visits; work placements; independent study and evidence of the student's specific role in any group work undertaken.

Externally set assignment

AQA will provide a separate externally set assignment for each title, each with seven different starting points. Students must select and respond to **one** starting point from their chosen title.

The externally set assignment provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate, through an extended creative response, their ability to draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and/or understanding in response to their selected starting point.

The extended creative response must explicitly evidence students' ability to draw together different areas of knowledge, skill and/or understanding from initial engagement with their selected starting point through to their realisation of intentions in the 10 hours of supervised time.

Students must ensure that the total submission for Component 2 evidences coverage of all four assessment objectives and evidence of drawing activity and written annotation .

Additional Departmental Sessions

We offer drop-in sessions for our GCSE students every Tuesday after school, from 15:15 - 16:15 in G23.