A LEVEL ART
Exam Board: AQA

Sixth Form

Where do I start from?

For this subject you will need to have studied Art at GCSE and have gained a minimum Grade 7. A minimum of Grade 4 is required in Maths AND Grade 5 in either English Language or Literature. If you have an aptitude for Art or if you are creative, you should have the basic skills to succeed. A Level Art is not an easy option, and you must work hard to develop your abilities.

What will I study?

The course will explore the development and significance of Art as a means of visual expression and communication. Practical coursework will cover a wide range of skills, techniques and processes through thematic exploration and will include painting, printmaking, drawing, mixed media, 3D and ceramics. You will produce work across several projects throughout the duration of the course, designed to enable the development of your creative skills and knowledge.

How will I be assessed?

There are termly assessments and internal examinations throughout the course.

Component 1 is worth 60% of the A Level: Portfolio or Personal Investigation: Students are required to conduct a practical investigation, into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. The focus of the investigation must be identified independently by the student and must lead to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. It must include evidence of the student's ability to research and develop ideas and relate their work in meaningful ways to relevant critical/contextual materials.

The written material must confirm understanding of creative decisions, providing evidence of all four assessment objectives. It must be a coherent and logically structured extended response of between 1500 and 3000 words of continuous prose.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment exam, based on a theme supplied by the exam board which will be completed in 15 hours over a number of days.

How will I study?

The skills you will develop will be varied. You will develop knowledge of materials and practices in Art and learn how to interpret your ideas and feelings to show a creative journey throughout your work. You will develop your creativity, and your experimental, analytical and documenting skills. You will be required to keep a sketchbook for each unit of work, supported by external outcomes.

Home Learning will be used to enhance your knowledge and progress outside of the designated lesson time. There is a dedicated Sixth Form Art room, which can be utilised during study periods as well as a ceramics room for 3D work. It is expected that you will work on your project outside of the lesson to fully utilise a broad range of materials, techniques and processes.

Great importance is placed on preparation and experimentation. Direct observational drawing and personal experience of visiting exhibitions and galleries are strongly emphasised. Your progress will be monitored by individual and group tutorials and critiques.

What does the subject combine well with?

Not only other personal study-based subjects, such as Design, Drama, English, History, Music and Psychology, but also many students study Art with Mathematics, Modern Languages and the Sciences.