



PHOTOGRAPHY

QUALIFICATION A Level

Examination Board AQA

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

The best foundation for success in A Level Photography is a good grade in GCSE Art or Media. It is essential that students are avid photographers and have a real interest in the medium.

The A level courses build on the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired by students who have taken appropriate courses at GCSE or who demonstrate an appropriate level of ability through a personal portfolio. Certification at B grade or above at GCSE is the ideal prerequisite for acceptance onto A level, as it is expected that students will have developed sufficient understanding and skills before embarking on the course. A minimum grade of a 5 or above in English at GCSE is also essential.

A Level in Photography requires high levels of self motivation and students must be prepared to work hard at developing abilities and commit time outside of taught lessons in order to succeed on the course.

What will I learn on the A Level course?

Have you ever wondered why so many creative people are successful in many different walks of life?

Creativity isn't only about pursuing artistic interests, it can also open the door to exciting career opportunities for students and is a highly employable attribute in all walks of life.

Through A-level Photography, you will develop and stimulate your creativity through a broad and exciting course. Students explore a range of different media, processes or techniques under the disciplines of lens based media, ensuring that there is something suitable for all interests. You will develop your ability to appreciate the visual world and to respond in a creative and personal way, expanding your imaginative and creative powers, your experimental, analytical and documenting skills. You will also develop a specialist vocabulary, knowledge and an understanding of the place of photography in history and in contemporary society.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who wish to undertake further studies in Art, Photography and Film, usually at College or University.

Students who are looking to take up careers for which a photography background is relevant; these might include animation, archaeology, architecture, advertising, fashion, film, graphic design, museums, theatre, gallery work and web design to name but a few.

Students who have an interest in photography and good aptitude for the subject, but who do not intend to take the subject beyond A Level are also welcome.

To make the most of the course students must be hardworking, self-motivated and committed.

What is covered on A level courses?

The A Level specification has 2 units:

Unit 3: Personal Investigation

A personal investigation in which candidates develop work in response to an idea, issue, concept or theme of their choosing. This includes 3000 word written element with practical outcomes.

Assessment Weighting: 60% of total A Level marks

Unit 4: Externally-Set Assignment

Externally set examination project from AQA. Students choose one title from a selection of given starting points.

Externally set Assessment Weighting: 40% of total A Level marks.

In Y12 students undertake a 'foundation level' style of course, in which they return to skills and media possibly first taught through GCSE, and are introduced to new skills and methods of working in preparation for the standards expected in Y13.

Types of Activities

The AQA Specification encourages a broad approach, which allows candidates to develop a sound grounding in a number of lens based media areas while still exploring the subject in depth.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

There are many careers in Photography. Most of these require further study at a Further Education College or University. There are employment routes where photography is a discreet or related skill. It is an excellent skill with which to start a personal business or work for all sorts of employers.