
Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: A level (H201 and H601)

Teacher Contact: Miss Wells and Mr Rutter

Entry Requirements: You need to have a passion for images and it is important that you like recording in a visual way what you think or what you see. This is a demanding and time-consuming course; students need to be prepared to do at least six hours of unsupervised work per week in addition to allocated lessons. If the subject has been studied at GCSE a grade 6 is required for this course, although 7-9 grades at GCSE would be beneficial.

What will I study?

YEAR 1

Terms 1 and 2:

During your first two terms, you will undertake a foundation project. This project will consist of a range of workshops where you will get to experience and learn a wide range of different skills, techniques and media, including:

experimental and large scale drawing practices; painting from direct observation; printmaking techniques; 3D and sculptural work; photography and digital image making. In addition to this you will learn how to research the work of artists and art movements in depth and also how to structure and present an A Level Art project.

Terms 3-6:

You will start your personal investigation. This project is worth 60% of your overall grade. The personal investigation is written by you and is an opportunity for you to create a body of work inspired by your own interests. You will present your work predominantly in a sketchbook and will also develop a series of small supporting pieces (these can be 2D, 3D or digital).

YEAR 2:

Terms 1 and 2 :

You will continue with your personal investigation and in addition to this body of work, you will also be required to write and submit a supporting essay. The personal investigation project will culminate in the production of a large scale final piece which will be reflective of your research, developments and ideas from the project.

Terms 3-6:

You will work on an externally set task which will be the remaining 40% of your overall grade. You will be sent a range of themes to choose from in the form of an exam paper from the exam board. You will produce a body of work in response to your chosen theme. This is usually evidenced through the use of sketchbooks and smaller supporting external pieces. At the end of this project, you will have 15 hours to produce a final outcome under exam conditions. This time will be spread over three consecutive days.

How will I be assessed?

Your teacher marks your work using four assessment objectives. The marks are checked by an Examination Board Moderator who comes to the school to look at an exhibition of the work and check that marking is in line with national standards.

Is there anything else that I need to know?

All materials you need for this course will be provided but you may wish to build your own supply. We will expect you to be resourceful and gather and collect things that may help you with your work.

Am I suited to this course?

You will be well suited to this course if you are:

- interested in looking at images and recording special or unusual things
- keen to learn to develop your practical skills with paint, print, 3D materials and drawing tools
- interested in making statements using images.

What other subjects does it complement?

Art links well with all subjects as it encourages you to look at things in a much more analytical way. It complements subjects such as History, Media and Photography especially well.

Where can it lead?

You may wish to pursue a career in fashion, graphics, illustration, animation, ceramics, theatre design, product design, architecture, interior design, painting or printmaking.