

PHOTOGRAPHY

Exam board: WJEC/ EDUQAS

Specification no: Photography: A656QS

Link to the Specification: <https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/4b5ff0r0/wjec-gce-art-and-design-spec-from-2015-e.pdf>

Content:

Topic	Assessment	A Level %
Personal Creative Enquiry	Internally assessed, externally moderated	40%
Personal Investigation	Internally assessed, externally moderated	36%
Externally Set Assignment	Internally assessed, externally moderated	24%

Course Delivery:

Photography covers a broad and dynamic area of study that includes photography, film, printmaking and digital media. In addition to this it is taught under the Fine Art umbrella so offers opportunities for students to work in a much more experimental way that may include installation, performance, sculpture, drawing, painting and conceptual art. The course provides learners with opportunities to develop a broad foundation of critical, practical and theoretical skills at which offers learners a holistic understanding of a range of practices and contexts in the visual arts and design fields, culminating in achievements in students chosen specialisms. Interwoven through the course tasks are several residential trips that form the bulk of ideas for student outcomes and act as a building blocks of accessibility for experiential cultural capital.

Course Content: Sept 24 – May 25

Unit 1 Personal Creative Enquiry

- An extended, exploratory project/portfolio and outcome/s based on themes and subject matter which are personal and meaningful to the learner. The Enquiry must integrate critical, practical and theoretical work.

Unit 1, students will have the opportunity to explore and cultivate fundamental skills, knowledge and understanding through a variety of experiences starting with a trip to St Ives. These experiences will include guided use of sources, such as* the local environment or* other resources, to gather visually rich research. The course programme will also provide opportunities for experimentation, collaboration, creative decision-making and innovation, as well as activities to help learners develop curatorial skills, from which personally significant creative enquiries can be generated as the course progresses. Student will curate their work as a week long exhibition at Centre Space Gallery in Bristol to develop knowledge of curation and work experience.

UNIT 2 - Personal Investigation: May 25 – Dec 25

Consists of two integrated constituent parts:

1. a major in-depth critical, practical and theoretical investigative project/portfolio and outcome/s based on themes and subject matter that have personal significance.
2. An extended written element of 1000 words minimum, which may contain images and texts and must clearly relate to practical and theoretical work using an appropriate working vocabulary and specialist terminology.

This unit gives opportunities for learners to hone their skills, extend knowledge and deepen understanding through a range of more challenging experiences. These may include independent selection and use of sources, such as a particular aspect of the local environment, gallery visits, workshops or other resources, to gather visually rich research which supports in-depth investigations. During activities we week we utilise the time to run a residential to Paris allowing for students to collate a series of work-based tasks in galleries and museums to inform their response. During the course, students are encouraged to experiment purposefully, collaborate, make informed creative decisions and be increasingly innovative in their approach. Their studies should be developed to achieve appropriate depth and a suitably high degree of rigour. Curatorial considerations in the presentation of their work will be fostered as a final show in January in a public gallery space.

Externally Set Assignment Feb 26 (Y13) - May 26

Consists of two parts:

This unit represents the culmination of students' level of study and provides a substantial challenge. Students are required to develop independently a personal response to one of a varied range of stimuli within specified time constraints. Students must therefore bring together the best of their understanding, knowledge and skills built up over their course of study and demonstrate their highest achievement through this externally set assignment.

The Externally Set Assignment consists of a series of visual (including moving image) and written stimuli set by WJEC. Students are required to select one of the stimuli and develop it in the form of:

- a personal response or
- an issue to be addressed or
- a problem to be considered or
- a specific design brief or
- another suitable starting point.

Students will develop their response over a preparatory study period (duration determined by the centre). Responses must take the form of critical, practical and theoretical preparatory work and/or supporting studies, which will inform the resolution of these ideas in 15 hour sustained focused exam to realise their response unaided and under supervised conditions.

Entry requirements: Level 6+ in in an Photography / Art related GCSE

Resources: Cameras on phones tend to be good enough, however purchasing Digital SLRs are useful, but not compulsory. We have a small selection of DSLR cameras students can borrow when needed.

Residential:

Y12 September : St Ives

Y12 July : Paris

Y13 February : London

Skills & personal qualities required / developed by course:

Students need to have a confident and proficient knowledge of Artists, art movements and a proficient ability to draw and analyse works of art. We mention personal qualities because studying art is all about the love for learning and being creative. You need to be willing to graft, to take risks and to be committed. It's a subject that takes time, but if you invest in it, you will love it!!

Recommended reading / websites:

Students should read and watch the news to be informed about personal choices that will and may influence their work as an artist.

Ways of Seeing by John Berger

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/student-resource>

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/>

<https://artsandculture.google.com/>

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/>

<https://www.studentartguide.com/>

<http://www.art2day.co.uk/>

<https://art21.org/>

TATE SHOTS: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5uUen04IQNkFECIOL3r-7zGY9RBgIKw8&si=tVgATndK-ySJInrP>

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