

# Art - Photography

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## Course Aims

Photography is a very popular choice at GCE A-level and students seem to enjoy the creativity and exploration of photographic media most. A range of themes are explored including; Fashion photography, landscapes and still life. We aim to equip students with an understanding and practical knowledge of photography techniques including camera controls and settings, Photoshop techniques and dark room image manipulation. The course will provide students with the opportunity to prepare a sketchbook and a portfolio of final images. Students will look at the work of photographers and will also have the opportunity to work alongside highly experienced teachers. Students are encouraged to visit areas of local beauty such as Ashridge to take photographs and also to galleries in London to develop their knowledge and understanding.



## Qualifications and Qualities Needed

Candidates will be visually creative and imaginative and keen to develop their skills in self-expression through various photographic means. They will also be keen to extend written analytical skills when looking at the work of others. A GCSE in art or photography is beneficial but not essential as long as the candidate can demonstrate visually expressive abilities and skills of analysis.

## Course Structure

Exam board: OCR [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

The A-level is made up of two components:

Component 1 (60% of overall A-level): Personal Investigation. For this unit, students must create a major project that is of personal interest and relevance. Students should work through a range of art and design experiences.

The project must include: evidence of planning and preparation, a related personal study of 3,000 words and final pieces that show considered personal responses.

Component 2 (40% of overall A level): Externally set task (work leading to a 15 hour response). For this unit, students will receive an early release question paper that will enable students to develop a personal response. They will develop a sketchbook of preparatory studies and complete a final piece in exam conditions.

Students are required to purchase photography materials and sketchbooks from the Art shop, and students are required to pay for their own printing. Students are required to purchase a portfolio and materials for window mounting through the year. Students may wish to purchase an entry level Digital SLR.

## Future Pathways

Students are advised on future progression and helped with any college applications in Year 13. Students often progress onto an Art Foundation course to prepare them for university or progress straight onto a photography course at university.