

ART AND DESIGN - A LEVEL - WJEC

This is a new and revised course, offered from September 2009. It will follow on from the new AS Level course. This course requires students to show and develop: intellectual skills, imagination, creative and investigative skills and independent work. The first part of the course will involve an introduction to the requirements of the course, the assessment criteria, and workshops exploring different media.

For this course, students will be required to undertake a Personal Investigation (a natural progression from the coursework portfolio), working thematically, and developing from personal starting points. This work will include sketchbooks, and may also include mounted sheets, finished outcomes and work presented using ICT. Work will be selected, evaluated and presented by students, after guidance from staff. This Investigation will also show the student's understanding through integrating text and images, and by including a written element of no less than 1000 words.

Students will also undertake a Controlled Assignment which is externally set - following on from the Controlled Assignment at AS Level. They will be given a number of starting points, and will choose one of these to develop their work from. For the outcome, they will have a 12 hour period of focussed study. All work will be selected, evaluated and presented for assessment by the students.

ART3 - Personal Investigation	ART4 - Controlled Assignment
A unit of coursework, with students producing an in-depth study, developed from personal starting points. This will include sketchbooks, mounted sheets and outcomes as appropriate. The unit should show a broad range of media and techniques, and must also show a written element of at least 1000 words. The images and text will be integrated. Students will look at the work of other artists, designers and craftspeople for inspiration. Work will be selected, evaluated and presented by students for assessment. This forms 60% of the grade for this year.	This is an exam unit, with a focussed examination period of 12 hours. Students will receive the paper with a number of starting points in February. They will then be given preparation time to produce sketchbooks and sheets as appropriate, leading up to their outcome. The outcome or outcomes will be produced during the 12 hour period. Students will look at the work of other artists, designers and craftspeople for inspiration. Work will be selected, evaluated and presented by students for assessment. This forms 40% of the grade for this year.

The AS and A Level marks are added together to form the overall A Level grade. The AS marks are half of the overall marks.

IMPORTANT POINTS

- This course encourages creativity and independent work. It will require hard work in lessons, using some study time and time at home.
- First hand research is vital. This could include observational drawing, own photographs, gallery visits and artist interviews.
- Written work is particularly important for the Personal Investigation - you must explain ideas, development, inspiration and evaluate your work. Consider how to do this in a way that is relevant to your own work, and how to integrate text and images.
- Looking at the work of others is central to the development of your work. You must show inspiration from the work of others. Look at a broad variety of artists, and begin your research at an early stage. Visit exhibitions when you can.
- The use of ICT in Art and Design is continuing to develop and expand. Work with digital photography, scanning and manipulating work, creating work on computer, processing and presenting your work.
- Presentation is vital in this subject. Look after your work, and always consider your presentation of work in sketchbooks, on sheets and on computer. Take advice as required, and consider more original means of presenting your work.
- Storage of work - Store your work carefully in the Art room drawers, storeroom or keep finished work at home.
- Use a variety of media and techniques. Experiment, and develop ideas through a creative use of media and mixed media.
- At A Level, you must continue with the same endorsement which you studied at AS Level, or broaden your study to work on another AS endorsement.
- When researching information, always note down the website, book or publication, in addition to the location. Write this by the research in your sketchbook or on sheets. Always acknowledge your sources, so that there is no danger of plagiarising work.
- **With the new A Level, there is also an A* grade available for very high marks.**

Students will be given the opportunity to work using a variety of disciplines including: drawing, painting, textiles, sculpture, mixed media, fashion, print, photography, graphics and digital image manipulation. Drawing is central to all areas of specialism, and students will complete work in sketchbooks, mounted sheets, by studying the work of other artists and designers, by using ICT to develop work, by annotating their work, and considering presentation. Work completed by students is marked by staff from the school, and is then externally moderated by a visiting moderator.

ASSESSMENT

Your work will be assessed periodically throughout the course, both informally during lessons, and via written feedback. It will be marked using the assessment criteria below:

Contextual Understanding

- Looking at the work of other artists to inspire, inform and influence your own work
- Developing ideas throughly through investigation and experimentation
- Showing good understanding and analytical skills
- Analysing and evaluating your own work and the work of others

Creative Making

- Experimenting with a variety of media, techniques and processes
- Ability to select resources and media appropriately
- Producing personal and independent work
- Showing good artistic skills, and refining and reviewing ideas

Reflective Recording

- Recording relevant ideas successfully and visually
- Reflecting on your work, development and progress
- Using sketchbooks effectively to draw, research, design and collect ideas
- Using a range of different methods to research and gather relevant ideas

Personal Presentation

- Present personal, informed and meaningful responses
- Present work in a logical order, showing development of ideas
- Selecting, evaluating and presenting work successfully
- Presenting work effectively and appropriately

POSSIBLE THEMES AND STARTING POINTS

For the Personal Investigation, it is vital that you choose an area that is personal, interesting and inspiring to you. You should choose your own starting points for this, but included are some suggestions to help you. You can also look at past exam papers for inspiration. You could base your work on one theme, or a series of connected themes. Consider choosing a broad theme, so that you have the opportunity to develop a number of different ideas.

Yourself - your interests, personality, emotions, family, friends, environment, skills.	Music - Art based on music, illustrations, music based on Art. Symbols, images, text. Musical instruments.	Cultures - Work from different cultures, traditions, symbols, languages, fashions, decoration.
People - portraits, environments, bodies, poses, movement, people at work, image, body image, decoration, interests.	Destruction - Decay, ruins, rust, falling apart, destruction of environment, work, buildings, ideas, concepts.	Visual Elements - Work concentrating on pattern, texture, shape, colour, line or form. Choose theme to look at.
Recycling - Using recycled materials, green issues, reuse, mixed media, fashion, create products, packaging, image.	Colour - Strong use of colour, contrasts, delicate colour, tonal work, backgrounds. Colour to show theme, using different media.	Current Issues - Eating disorders, celebrities, news items, substance misuse, body image, self harm, racism, sexism, phobias.
Environment - Landscape, towns and cities, home environment, school, work, features of environment. Designing for environment, or responses from.	Movement - Dance, sports, stages of people moving, animals, weather conditions, movement in towns, cities, metamorphosis.	Opposites - Look at contrasts, town and country, colours, dark and light, emotions, gender, patterns. Op Art, optical illusions, contrasting music, image, fashion.
Artist / designer / craftsman - Use a work of Art, a style or person's work as a starting point. Change, produce work inspired by, use similar theme.	Illustration - A piece of music, lyric, poem, play, film. Using images, themes from piece. Looking at other illustrations for inspiration.	Designing a product - This does not have to be functional. Could be decorative - chair, fashion items, clock, musical instrument, everyday item.

UNITS

PERSONAL INVESTIGATION

- Coursework unit completed in depth, based on theme or connected themes. Use own starting points.
- Choose area of interest and inspiration, broad theme or area to allow several ideas to develop.
- Use sketchbook, and add mounted sheets, ICT work as appropriate. Include at least one outcome.
- Include detailed written notes of at least 1000 words in total, and integrate these with images. You could have an extended written section on your chosen critical links, an evaluation of your work.
- Consider how you will present work very carefully - could use Powerpoint presentation, website, wall hanging, handmade books, posters, blog, photobook to show work.
- Unit to follow usual structure, including introduction, research and ideas, developing and experimenting, using range of media, critical links, ideas towards outcomes, final outcome or outcomes, evaluation of work, notes to explain.
- You could use media or ideas started in AS, and work in greater depth or developing ideas further, or you may choose to use completely different media. Try to experiment and show a broad range of media.
- Remember that this must be an investigation - you must research information and ideas, and then process and develop them, use them.
- Remember to address all of the assessment criteria. These are given equal marks, so it is important that your work covers all of these.
- You will select and present your own work at the end, so consider this as you move through the course, how you will display work.
- Make sure that you set your intentions out clearly with your introduction, explaining theme and intentions for the unit.

CONTROLLED ASSIGNMENT

- This is an examination unit. You will receive the paper in February, with a series of starting points to choose from - visual, video and written pieces to choose from.
- You will have a period of preparatory time, and then a focussed period of 12 hours in order to complete your outcome or outcomes.
- Work will be in sketchbooks, and you can use mounted sheets, ICT and other methods of presentation as appropriate.
- You will select and present your own work at the end, so consider this as you move through the assignment, how you will display work.
- This will be developed like a unit, using the usual structure. Include critical links and written work to explain ideas.
- Remember to address all of the assessment criteria. These are given equal marks, so it is important that your work covers all of these.
- Remember to plan your focussed time thoroughly and prepare all materials in advance. You will bring your preparatory work with you to work from.

SUGGESTED STRUCTURE

Introduction - Explain your chosen theme or ideas, what you aim to do and how you will start your investigation. Make sure that it is really clear what you want to achieve. Include any possible ideas to explore, possible influences

Research - Use a range of methods, observation, photos, internet, books, magazines, visits to galleries. Collect and present research, work from, add notes. Consider how this information is displayed - sheets, sketchbook, ICT. Make sure that you research and show your ideas thoroughly. Use first hand research (observational work, own photos, gallery visits) as much as possible, in addition to second hand - internet, books, magazines. Note down your sources as you go along.

Work from research, and begin to develop ideas. Experiment with a range of media and techniques, and develop a number of individual ideas. Produce a small number of copies from research images, then begin to develop, change, produce your own pieces influenced by your research. Use ICT to process and manipulate as appropriate.

Critical Links - Look at the work of other artists, designers or craftspeople. Research, and include brief background information, your own opinions and analysis of their work, links to your own work, images by them, a small number of copies, and your own work showing some influence from your critical links. Try to look at a range of artists or styles, relevant to your own work and consider how to present these. If possible, include first hand research - visits to galleries, interviews with artists.

Written work - You must include detailed notes in your sketchbook and on sheets to explain ideas, influences, media used, evaluate work and development. Consider how you will present this, and whether you need to include a written section on critical links and an evaluation, or whether to display this using a website, writing a blog, creating a wall hanging, writing a leaflet.

Developing Work - Start to develop your own ideas, showing influences from critical links, and using ideas collected in research. The development should be completed thoroughly at A Level. Try out a range of media, process your work by experimenting with colour, materials, scanning and manipulating, experimenting with scale, surface to work on, 2D, 3D.

Ideas for outcomes - Explore ideas thoroughly. Show sketchy ideas for outcomes, develop ideas fully, try out different layouts and compositions (compositional sketches), try out sections, experiment with media, techniques and colour, process work using ICT, try out smaller versions or sample pieces. Design the pieces thoroughly and explain and evaluate with notes

Outcomes and Evaluation - Show at least one outcome (final piece). There could be a series of outcomes working together, or pieces using different media. Spend time on these and produce quality pieces. Consider scale, layout, media, colour, impact. Evaluate the whole investigation thoroughly, and consider the best method of presenting this.

KEY SKILLS

All of the Key Skills can be developed through Art and Design at A Level. Below are some suggestions of how these can be covered or evidence gathered from your work in Art and Design.

Key Skill	Possible coverage of Key Skill in Art and Design
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Written work completed for your investigation or your assignment could be used as part of communication at Level 2 or 3.- Presentations completed as part of your investigation could be printed or recorded for the presentation section of this key skill. This will require a witness statement.- Group discussion as a class or part of the class can also be used for this key skill, by including notes of the discussion and a witness statement.
ICT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Research work completed for your investigation or assignment could be included as part of this key skill, researching and summarising documents for different purposes. Print copies of internet research, and include notes.
Improving Own Learning and Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- This can be completed through target setting and reviews for the completion of your coursework or assignment. You can set your targets in agreement with staff, and review these. Include evidence of the target being met, such as assessment sheets, planning sheets, reports.
Working with Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- You could complete this key skill in Art if you decided to undertake a group project such as a commission project (e.g. designing a mural for a local building). You could then show evidence for planning, practical work, costing, etc. and the roles of the group members, including your own role and the work you completed.- This could also be completed through organising an Art based event such as arranging an A Level Art exhibition, or a trip to a gallery. Keep evidence of roles, and your own input into this activity.

Key Skill	Possible coverage of Key Skill in Art and Design
Problem Solving	- If you choose to study an Art based course at university, you could use your choice of course and location as one of your problems. Ask yourself: Which Art course? Where should I study? Why? Gather evidence of research and open day visits, looking at location, courses, pros and cons of different courses and locations.
Application of Number	- You could develop this key skill if you decided to produce a commissioned piece of art work for a specific building or company - working out costings - materials, time, etc.

TIMETABLE FOR THIS YEAR

Time Period	Work to complete	By when?
June - October Half Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to course and requirements - Marking exercise using existing A Level work - Begin exploring starting points for investigation - Workshops using different media - Work on introduction and ideas for chosen theme - Research and ideas for theme - First hand research - own photos, observational drawings, any gallery visits - Begin to work from research - Begin written work for study, and sort out how to present this work - notes, separate written document, website, presentation, blog - Begin to research possible critical link artists - several artists, styles, designers 	Complete this work by October Half Term - after Half Term holiday - interim assessment
October Half Term - January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue development of personal investigation using sketchbook and sheets - Continue written element using notes or other chosen method of presentation - keep up to date - Present critical links work, and show influence on your own work - Develop ideas for your practical work - showing influences, experimenting with media, using ICT - Produce possible ideas for final outcome 	Complete this work by beginning of January - interim assessment after Christmas

January - Beginning of February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Produce final designs for outcomes, work on sections, media, compositional work- Produce final outcomes (final pieces)- Evaluate work, and complete written element- Work on presentation - mounting work, etc.	Complete the personal investigation by the beginning of February - exam paper is then out to work on
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