

GCSE - ART, CRAFT & DESIGN

The first seven weeks incorporate a wide variety of different media and techniques; including observational drawing, colour theory, diagnostics, artist analysis and how to present work. This allows students to refresh existing knowledge gained at KS3 and to start building practical skills for their coursework.

Topics – Term 1	Duration	Skills	Beyond the classroom
Still life	2 weeks	Observational drawing	Independent learning
Colour diagnostics	2 weeks	Colour mixing	Independent learning
Artists	2 weeks	Written Analysis	Research skills
Presentation	1 week	Presenting sketchbook	Meeting deadlines

Following the EDUQAS specification it offers both breadth and depth, allowing for such skills as independent research and analysing the work of artists, craftspeople and designers. Historical and contemporary fields are covered, with critical evaluations of their own work and others alongside the practical application of a diverse range of art, craft and design processes. <https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/ozv-lit0g/eduqas-gcse-art-and-design-spec-from-2016-27-01-2020.pdf>

Topics – Term 2 to Term 2 Year 11	Duration	Skills	Beyond the classroom
Annual College competition	2 weeks	Working to a brief	Art for purpose - client
Intro to 60% Coursework project	1 week	Expression of ideas	Photo shoot
Primary observations A03	8 weeks	Drawing with dry and wet media	Independent learning
Artist study A01	6 weeks	Written Analysis	Independent learning
Media experiments A02	8 weeks	Mixed media and materials	Independent learning
Design ideas A02	8 weeks	Creativity	Independent learning
Final outcomes	6 weeks	Independence	Realisation

The annual College competition artwork brief wraps up the final topic prior to starting the 60% coursework. Students have the opportunity to gain deeper independent research skills, meet a live brief and present to a client. These are fundamental Art and Design skills that are transferable to the world of work. Successful outcomes are selected by the Principal and artwork is used for College representation in media platforms. After this opportunity students make independent decisions about their coursework theme based on a prior range of broad experiences and begin the process of building a substantial portfolio. The 60% coursework begins in November Year 10 and completes during December Year 11. The portfolio of work is divided up into 4 sections, which match the exact examination criteria. We encourage students to experiment and to take risks using new materials and techniques. Often taking them out of their comfort zone, which can inspire mature and highly independent responses. Frequent deadlines are set, enabling students to balance the demands of other subjects and support their time management in preparation for the examination period during Year 11. Alongside building the portfolio, there is strong support by Art and Design staff for students to attend intervention sessions, alongside trips and visits by practising artists, craft people and designers. These include a Royal Academy drawing day and a trip to Cambridge galleries and the botanical gardens.

Year 11 Term 3 onwards - Examination preparation and terminal exam 40%

Topics – Term 3 - 5	Duration	Skills	Beyond the classroom
Exam launch	1 week	Working to a brief	Photo shoot
Primary observations A03	4 weeks	Media experiments	Independent learning
Artist study A01	4 weeks	Written Analysis	Independent learning
V&A trip A01	1 day	Observation and primary recording	Cultural experience
Design ideas A02	4 weeks	Creativity	Independent learning
Final outcome A04	10 hours	Independence	Realisation

During the 40% examination period from early January to mid-May, students have autonomous choice from 12 different EDUQA themes. We find students are able to make the seamless transition based upon the freedom given during the coursework element. Once again, guidance is given, however, it is critical at this stage that students self-regulate in preparation for the 10-hour examination.