



Subject: ART

Exam Board: AQA

Levels available: AS (1 year) and A2 (Additional 2nd year)

Subject Leader: Ms S Parker

Course Information:

* What do I need to know or be able to do before choosing this subject?

A qualification in GCSE Art (A*-C) is desirable. A genuine interest in the subject is essential together with a high degree of self motivation. You must be able to work independently as a lot of your work will be developed by you outside of lesson time

* What does the course consist of and how will I be assessed?

AS (Advanced Subsidiary) Specification

This is the first half of the full A level course. If you and your teacher agree that it's best for you, you can take the AS level on its own at the end of Year 12. The final grade will count towards entry to Further/Higher Education.

This is a broad-based course in which a variety of media and processes will be explored. The AS level is made up of 2 units of coursework and a 5 hour controlled test. Units 1 and 2 run side by side. In Unit 1 the emphasis is on drawing and painting work. In Unit 2 it is on either Textiles or 3-D work. There may be an opportunity to make a choice between the two crafts in Unit 2, but you must be prepared to work in either area.

Unit 1: Coursework

30% AS or 15% A level

An example of a Unit 1 project (Drawing and Painting). Theme: Everyday Objects and Images

A starting point is research of natural and man-made forms. The aim of the first part of this project is to explore different approaches to observational work. Students experiment with a wide variety of media. Still life work by a range of different artists is considered. Students develop their work through to a final outcome which reflects their own particular interest in Still Life. Work by a wide range of different artists is explored alongside students own developing still life studies.

Assessment: You submit the final piece(s) of work plus preparatory studies and sketch books.

Unit 2: Coursework

30% AS or 15% A level

An example of a Unit 2 project (3D Outcomes). Theme 'natural forms'. Students begin by making tonal and textural drawings from natural forms. The studies form the basis of test pieces in different media in which a range of techniques is explored. The work is linked to research from different artists. Three-dimensional forms are then developed. Design ideas for the 3D pieces are developed from the initial research with reference to artists' work.

Assessment: You submit the final piece(s) of work plus preparatory studies, test pieces and sketchbooks.

Unit 3: Controlled Test

40% AS or 20% A level

The Controlled Test consists of a wide range of questions from which just one starting point must be selected. There is a lead-in period of 4 weeks when students carry out initial research and investigations and identify artist, designers and craftspeople whose work they wish to make connections with. This is followed by a 5 hour practical test when students respond to their initial investigations and plan further developments. Students may choose to respond to this test through work in either Drawing and Painting, Textiles or 3D Design.

An Example Question: Controlled Test TITLE: IDENTITY

Accessories and make-up can reveal a great deal about an individual's identity and interests. Research relevant artists, designers, craftspeople or photographers and produce a personal response based on your own observations.

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Course Information:

The ADVANCED LEVEL (AS + A2) Specification

The full Advanced level qualification is made up of the 3 AS Units plus 3 more Units studied at A2 level. If you decide to continue with the second half of the course in Year 13 you will study the following additional Units.

Unit 4/5: Coursework Module

15% of A level

An example of a Unit 4 project (Drawing and Painting) Theme: Self
Initial studies for this project may be based on self portraits. However, students will consider different ways in which the theme of 'Self' might be explored. Work by different artists is considered. Students develop their work through to a final outcome reflecting their own interpretation of the theme of 'Self'.

Unit 6: Coursework

15% of A level

An example of a Unit 6 project (3D Outcome).

In this Unit students develop a landscape theme in decorative sculptural ways. Initial research connects images from the landscape with Delft and Chinese potters. Methods of decoration such as pressprints, inlay and piercing are explored. The work is then developed into a 3D piece which reflects the landscape theme and the work of relevant artists.

An example of a Unit 6 Project (Textiles Outcome)

Theme: Vintage.

Students will look at textile designers such as Lucienne Day and Rushton Aust or base their work on particular artists whose style might inspire them, such as Pop Art, Andy Warhol. Using these for inspiration they use appropriate printing techniques to produce in depth experimental work in their sketchbooks, culminating in an outcome based on one or more of these skills.

Unit 7: Controlled Test 15 hours

20% of A level

The controlled test consists of a wide range of questions from which just one starting point must be selected. There is a lead-in period of 4 weeks when students carry out initial research and investigations and identify artists, designers and craftspeople whose work with which they wish to make connection. This is followed by a 15 hour practical test when students are required to produce a final piece of work.

Students may choose to respond to this test through work in either Drawing and Painting, Textiles or 3D Design.

An example question: Turkish Art and Culture

The artistic and cultural heritage of Turkey has resulted in a wealth of textiles, calligraphy, woodwork, metalwork and ceramics together with impressive mosques. The work is characterised by intricate decoration, bold lines and elaborate ornamentation. Form your research, develop your own work in any medium.

*** How could I develop Key Skills by doing this course?**

As well as covering the study of **Art**, the AS/A2 courses will enable you to develop key skills. You will be told when a particular piece of work also accounts for Key Skills assessment as well as for **Art** assessment. You will need to keep evidence of this work in a Portfolio for assessment later if you wish to gain Key Skills qualification. During this course examples of key skills could include:

Communication e.g. visual imagery plus written or oral communication to demonstrate your understanding of your own work and that of others.

Information Technology e.g. in research you will use CD ROM, CAD/paint programmes, digital imagery, word processing and the internet.

Working with others e.g. interactions with staff in galleries and museums; interaction with artists; collaboration on group projects; discussions with potential clients.

Improving your own learning and performance e.g. evidence of an ability to review, modify and refine your own work as it progresses.

*** What could I go on to do after the course?**

This 'A' level lays an appropriate foundation for further study of Art in Higher Education.

At University (Art College) specific degree level courses include Fine Art, (Painting, Sculpture or Printmaking), Textile Design, Fashion Design, Ceramics, Jewellery, Interior Design, Product or Industrial Design, Theatre Studies and History of Art. After 'A' levels students will normally take a Foundation Course prior to choosing a degree level course.