



## Sixth Form Subject Guide

# VISUAL ART

### ★★★ CAREERS RELATED TO STUDYING THIS SUBJECT

If you choose to study the Visual Art, you will develop comprehensive visual communication skills, become adept at in-depth analysis of visual culture, and develop a diverse range of technical artistic skills. Visual art students can be found in a variety of industries – from film and photography to urban planning and architecture. From fashion and industrial design to event management. From academia and advertising to art therapy. You could consider careers such as traditional independent artist and designer, illustrator and animator, curator, graphic designer, or creative director in wide-ranging types of companies.

### ★★★ A LEVEL COURSE CONTENT

The Cambridge International A Level Art and Design syllabus considers expression and communication. Learners gain an understanding of visual perception and aesthetic experience and how art and design create a language of their own.

Most of the work for this syllabus is practical or studio-based so that learners can develop their ability to observe and analyse the visual world, sensitivity, skill, personal expression, and imagination. They also learn how to relate their skills to an enhanced knowledge of their own cultures, past and present, and an appreciation of practical design problems.

### ★★★ A LEVEL METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

Overall, there are three components:

- 1. Coursework = 25% A Level (100 marks)**
  - Candidates research, develop and realise a project from one area of study in the syllabus content.
  - **2 parts to the coursework A: Portfolio B: Final Outcome**
  - Externally assessed.
- 2. Externally Set Assignment = 25% A Level (100 marks)**
  - 15-hour exam
  - Candidates choose one starting point to develop into a personal response. There are **two parts to the assignment**: – **Supporting Studies**, created during the preparation period and – **Final Outcome**, produced during a supervised test of 15 hours total duration.
  - Externally assessed.
- 3. Personal Investigation = 50% A Level (100 marks)**
  - Candidates investigate a theme, idea, concept, or process that is personal to them. There are **two parts to the investigation**: – **Practical Work** and – **Written Analysis** (1000-1500 words). The practical work and written analysis must form an integrated submission.
  - Externally assessed.

### ★★★ METHODS OF STUDY FOR A LEVEL

The courses require students to complete practical work and have written elements. The A Level method of study tends to lean toward visual observations of the world, exploring media and techniques.

The skills all candidates must develop are:

- The ability to collect, record and respond to visual information using a range of techniques and media;
- The skill to select, give context to and organise the information they collect coherently;
- The ability to effectively use a wide range of resources and use the information to develop their practice;
- The ability to make personal investigations;
- The application of a range of skills to produce art and design work;
- A critical awareness of their work in a contextual framework; and
- The ability to reflect, refine and adapt.

### ★★★ ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR A LEVEL

Whilst it is not a requirement, it is recommended that students have taken IGCSE Art. It is also advisable, that students have been consistent in their efforts in Art at KS3 receiving a Grade of B or above.

- Students are required to have a passion for Visual Art.
- Students need to be independent learners.
- Students should be actively engaging in artistic pursuits of their own volition.
- Students should be open to experimentation with a variety of media.
- During the summer weeks from years 11-12. Students will be asked to conduct a small visual research project.
- Students need to be aware that to be successful in A Level they will be required to work outside of class time to complete projects.