

Art and Design
Examination Board: Eduqas (WJEC)

What is the course like?

Studying Art is exciting, rewarding and truly contemporary. The GCSE course is incredibly broad allowing pupils fantastic opportunities to engage with a wide range of techniques, processes and subject matter. Pupils are encouraged to experiment with new materials and to generate ideas that will lead to original and exciting work.

What is studied during the course?

In Year 10, the course begins with a mini project to give pupils an understanding of how their work is assessed and how they might generate their own ideas. The rest of the year is designed to afford pupils the chance to take creative risks and engage with a huge range of media including drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, collage, textiles, ceramics, and mixed media, 2D and 3D work. Topics covered in previous years have included portraiture, still life, texture and landscape and provide pupils with an excellent foundation to build their more independent projects on. In Year 11, pupils can continue to employ a wide range of skills or begin to specialise in one area whilst working independently on a mock exam project that finishes in December. In January, pupils begin work on their externally set assignment as detailed below.

How is the course assessed?

Portfolio: A selection of the pupils' best work from Years 10 and 11 forms a portfolio which is worth 60% of the final mark. Their work is awarded marks for each of the four assessment objectives – contextual understanding, creative making, reflective recording, and personal response.

Externally set assignment: an examination paper (where pupils select one theme from a wide range) is given out at the start of January and pupils have approximately three months to develop their ideas in a sketchbook. Pupils then prepare for their 10-hour controlled assessment where they complete a final piece that develops from their preparation studies. This component is worth 40% of the final mark and uses the same four assessment objectives as the portfolio.

In both the portfolio and the externally set task, pupils need to show that they can:

- Research a theme, taking photos and producing studies from them.
- Study artists who share the same theme as their own and investigate the broader context of their ideas.
- Explore ideas by experimenting with different media and techniques, modifying their work as it progresses.
- Bring all their ideas to a conclusion in a piece of work.

Additional information

Pupils will go on trips to university degree show exhibitions and London galleries as part of their studies. Pupils are also encouraged to curate exhibitions of their work and will have opportunities to work with A-level pupils to develop their ideas and skills. Whilst there is no written exam pupils are expected to demonstrate their literacy skills when analysing the work of others and reflecting on their own progress.

Art and Design can lead to a significant number of exciting careers and can facilitate and enhance pupils' learning in other subject areas also. After studying GCSE Art and Design several art options are possible:

- at Hardenhuish, A-level Art and A-level Photography are available.
- at local colleges, BTEC courses in Art and Design.

For further information, please contact Miss Bigwood.