

A-LEVEL ART & DESIGN



WHY STUDY ART AND DESIGN AT A-LEVEL?

Studying A-Level Art and Design offers several significant benefits. Firstly, it provides a platform for creative development, enabling students to hone their artistic skills and explore a wide range of mediums, techniques, and styles. This fosters the cultivation of a unique artistic voice. Secondly, A-Level Art and Design plays a pivotal role in portfolio building, which is essential for those aiming to pursue further education in art or embark on creative careers. A well-crafted portfolio showcases a student's artistic prowess and demonstrates their growth over time. Lastly, the subject promotes critical thinking by encouraging students to delve into the cultural and historical context of art, enhancing their ability to interpret and effectively communicate through the visual language of art. These benefits collectively empower individuals to excel in the field of art and design and beyond.

TOPICS STUDIED

The OCR Art and Design course comprises several key components. It commences with a foundational period, during which you'll acquire essential artistic skills and experiment with different approaches. Subsequently, you'll delve into a personal investigation project, allowing for an in-depth exploration of a chosen theme or concept, along with a written component that elucidates your artistic choices. Later in the course, you'll confront an externally set assignment, demonstrating your ability to creatively respond to external prompts. Throughout the journey, independent studio practice sessions empower you to continuously hone your practical and conceptual abilities.

In essence, this course extends beyond the realm of artistic proficiency. It nurtures critical thinking, cultural awareness, and the capacity to communicate ideas visually - skills that are invaluable in diverse career paths and essential for personal growth. Whether you aspire to become a professional artist, graphic designer, or simply seek to nurture your artistic talents, Art and Design with OCR provides an enriching and adaptable foundation for your creative journey.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Personal Investigation 60% and External Task 40%

COMPONENT 01

Personal investigation – worth 60% of grade, marked out of 120

There are two distinct elements:

- A practical portfolio with supporting contextual research in response to a set theme – artist investigation. The portfolio may be presented in a format appropriate to the specialism and area of study chosen.
- A related study using words and illustrations demonstrating the context in which their portfolio exists, exploring the relevant genre, subject matter, movement or historical framework of the selected theme.

COMPONENT 02

Externally set task – worth 40% of grade, marked out of 80

Students can choose a starting point from any of the seven given themes for which they will generate an appropriate personal response for assessment. They will carry out preparatory work to research, plan and develop their ideas, before engaging in 15 hours of supervised time to complete their work.

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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in GCSE Art, Photography or other subject related course

CAREER PATHWAYS

Obtaining a Fine Art qualification can provide access to various career opportunities, including roles like Concept artist – animation, Community Arts Worker, Interior designer, Graphics designer, Illustrator, Fine Artist, Textiles Designer/Maker, Higher Education Lecturer, teacher in Primary or secondary setting, Printmaker, Web page designer, and Exhibition Design, Theatre design.

IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

Studying Fine Art at the A-level with OCR is a profoundly enriching experience that offers students the opportunity to explore, create, and express themselves through various artistic mediums and concepts. This course encourages the development of a strong foundation in artistic skills, from drawing and painting to sculpture and digital art, empowering students to refine their craft and discover their unique artistic voice.

Beyond technical proficiency, Fine Art A-Level fosters critical thinking, cultural awareness, and the ability to communicate complex ideas visually, all of which are vital not only for pursuing a career in the arts but also for personal growth and success in a wide range of fields. It provides a platform for self-discovery and creative exploration, making it an invaluable educational journey for anyone passionate about the arts.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Please contact Ms Bailey, Head of Art & Design, gbailey@lighthall.co.uk

READING LIST:

- Drawing Projects, An Exploration of the Language of Drawing (Mick Maslen and Jack Southern)
- Raw + Material = Art (Tristan Manco)
- The Andy Warhol Diaries Edited by Pat Hackett pub by Warner Books
- The American Leonardo: A Tale of 20th Century Obsession, Art and Money by John Brewer
- I Was Vermeer: The Forger Who Swindled the Nazis by Frank Wynne

