

Photography A Level



Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry requirements: Grade 4 in GCSE Art/Graphics/Photography is desirable

Intent

Structure

The course is split into one coursework and one examination unit. The examination is a practical one, and students have weeks to prepare with staff guidance.

For both units, the following is required:

- Sketchbooks- written notes on ideas and pictures seen and collected, and students' own images.
- Supporting work- practice and experimentation leading to final outcomes.
- Final work- final images for projects set.

The units are split into more manageable projects lasting approximately four to eight weeks, and each cover a different aspect of photography. Students are encouraged to pursue their own individual ideas, which are recorded in their sketchbooks along with observations, research, and notes relevant to their studies. The sketchbook provides evidence of students' meeting many of the assessment criteria.

Implementation

Content & Sequencing

The course follows a two year linear structure. Students will learn how to use a darkroom with traditional wet paper processing techniques, digital image manipulation software (Adobe Photoshop) and camera techniques alongside contextual knowledge about photography as an art form.

Lessons focus on a creative journey where students can discover their own route through photography informed by lesson content where they are provided with the necessary skills and creative techniques in order to make a personal response. It is expected that students complete class based tasks in addition to undertaking photoshoots outside of college time. All work is documented in a sketchbook format and final works are compiled on a portfolio format.

Photography is an exciting subject where students can learn skills such as how to use a darkroom 'from scratch', and no traditional manual creative skills (such as drawing ability) are necessary for success- making it accessible to all.

Assessment Methods

The work is informally assessed throughout the course, and students are given feedback to help them provide the best possible work, and modify it before it is formally marked at the end of the year by the Shoreham Academy Art and Photography staff, and an external moderator.

The work is assessed using four 'assessment objectives':

AO1: Develop their ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.

AO2: Experiment with and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining their ideas as their work develops.

AO3: Record in visual and/or other forms ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions, demonstrating an ability to reflect on their work and progress.

AO4: Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating critical understanding, realising intentions and,

where appropriate, making connections between visual, oral or other elements.

Students will demonstrate these criteria through their sketchbook work, final pieces and personal study.

Impact

Onward Progression

Photography A Level provides opportunities to develop skills demanded by employers. Students can opt for further education pathways such a Foundation course or BA Hons degree. Support is provided for students with compiling portfolios, UCAS applications and interview practice.

Shoreham Academy Photography students have very been successful in gaining places on Foundation courses and BA Hons degree courses in a range of visual art related subjects such as Fine Art, Graphics, Textiles, Surface design, Illustration, Interior design, Architecture and Photography at universities across the UK.

Future careers include; animator, architect, careers in galleries/museums, art therapist, display/window dresser, exhibition designer, fashion designer, fine artist, florist, furniture designer, graphic designer, illustrator, interior designer, landscape designer, make - up artist, packaging designer, photographer, costume/set designer, art and design teacher, careers in advertising, web author/ designer, special effects/ visual effects designer, TV/film director and many more.



Further information contact

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