Art A Level

Exam Board: AQA
Entry requirements: Minimum expectation Grade 5/4 in Art or Graphics GCSE

Intent

Structure

Throughout the course, students will explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to a range of art, craft and design from the past and from recent times, including European and non-European examples. Students' will respond to these examples through practical and critical activities that demonstrate their understanding of different styles, genres and traditions.

Students will explore the use of drawing for different purposes, using a variety of methods and media on a range of scales. Sketchbooks are used to record ideas, developments and experiments with materials before creating larger scale final pieces.

During the A level course students will experiment and explore a range of fine art media, processes and techniques, investigating a range of both traditional and new media, such as:

- drawing and painting
- mixed-media, including collage and assemblage
- sculpture
- ceramics
- installation
- printmaking
- moving image and photography

Implementation

Content & Sequencing

Throughout Art A Level we challenge students to think, act and speak as if they were working within the profession. We do this by teaching students to become visually literate, building on the skills that they have learnt during their GCSE Art, Photography and Graphics courses. They are taught to read, interpret and find meaning in images, artefacts and resources; exploring and taking inspiration for use in their own work. We do this by giving students first-hand experience of Art, through opportunities to engage with practitioners and examples of both current and historical art and design from a broad range of cultural contexts. We integrate this within the curriculum through taught lessons, workshops, visits to galleries and residential trips. Recently this has included trips to local and London galleries, workshops with local artists and life drawing classes.

Students are encouraged to become independent practitioners, exploring their own ideas and direction within their work. We support this through one to one tutorials within lessons as well as group feedback sessions, enabling students to learn from and inspire each other. Purposeful exploration of materials and techniques all foster artistic and design awareness, understanding, knowledge and skills. We provide learning contexts that promote the understanding of the creative design industries, their role in the economy and how they can lead to exciting career opportunities.

The A level course is split into 60% coursework and 40% exam. Students will have 4 hours a week of taught lessons and will supplement this through independent study. Students have access to their own art studio specifically for Year 12 and 13 students from 8am to 4pm every day to support this.

The course is split into:
Unit 1: Induction – Learning about possible ways of working, experimenting with materials and techniques, image analysis/contextualising work,, sketchbook recording development
Unit 2: Personal Study – essay based investigation and analysis of artists work.
Unit 3: Personal Coursework – practical work
Unit 4: Externally set exam – responding to exam board set question. Students have a preparatory period to generate ideas, record, experiment, research before coming up with a final idea, which is completed under exam conditions over a period of 15 hours split over 3 school days.

Assessment Methods

All work is assessed by staff and externally moderated by an AQA Examiner. Grades can be awarded from A*- E and are based on both your coursework and externally set exam.

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Both coursework and exam is assessed based on 4 criteria:

- AO1: Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.
- AO2: Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.
- AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.
- AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

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





Impact

Onward Progression

Art 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 Art students have very been successful in gaining places on Art Foundation courses and BA Hons degree courses in a range of 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, hairdresser, illustrator, interior designer, landscape designer, make - up artist, packaging designer, painter and decorator, photographer, costume/set designer, art and design teacher, careers in advertising, model maker, jewellery maker, web author/ designer, nursery school/early years teacher, sign writer, traditional crafts worker, special effects/ visual effects designer, textile designer, cartoonist, cabinet maker, TV/film director and many more.

Further information contact

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