

GCSE Option: Photography

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Course Structure & Overview

Exam Board: AQA

Syllabus: 8206/C

Component 1: Portfolio (8206/C) 60%

Component 2: Externally set assignment (8206/X) 40%

Photography is the practice of producing images using light-sensitive materials such as photographic film, or digital methods of development and production to create static or moving images.

Students will develop knowledge and understanding through a variety of learning experiences and approaches whilst developing the skills to explore, create and communicate their own ideas.

Students are assessed on their achievement towards the following four assessment objectives:

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.

Course Content

The GCSE is made up of two components.

Component 1: Portfolio – 60% of GCSE

A portfolio that consists of a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during the student's course of study.

Component 2: Externally set assignment – 40% of GCSE

Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper evidencing coverage of all four-assessment objectives.

Skills Developed

Photography involves:

Demonstrating the ability to use photographic **techniques and processes**, appropriate to students' personal intentions, for example: lighting, viewpoint, aperture, depth of field, shutter speed and movement, use of enlarger, chemical and/or digital processes.

Demonstrating the ability use **media and materials**, as appropriate to students' personal intentions, for example: film, photographic papers, chemicals appropriate to darkroom practices, digital media, programs and related technologies, graphic media for purposes such as storyboarding, planning and constructing shoots.

Progression Routes

Photography provides a strong foundation for further study at AS and A-level as well as vocational pathways including BTEC Art and apprenticeships.

Future Careers

Careers directly related photography include: Graphic designer, Magazine features editor, Medical illustrator, Photographer, Press photographer, Television camera operator.

Careers where photography would be useful include: Advertising art director, Film/video editor, Media planner, Working within education, Visual merchandiser, Web designer.