

# Progression - Photography

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## Welcome to A Level Photography

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Now that you've decided to study Photography at A Level, you'll need to do a bit of preparation. This pack contains information regarding the course structure, the summer project, suggested equipment list and websites to prepare you to start your A level in September.

The purpose of studying Photography at A Level is to develop knowledge and understanding of:

- Specialist vocabulary and artist terminology when analysing or explaining your own and others' work*
- *Exploring a variety of media, techniques and processes*
- Development of an idea, concept or issue*
- Recording ideas and observations related to chosen lines of enquiry*
- Communicating a particular meaning, message, idea or feeling*



# What do I have to do in A Level Photography?

There are two components of the course- the personal investigation and the externally set assignment. The table below summarises the evidence you will produce for each component:

A Level Components	What will I need to do?	How will I evidence this?
<b>Personal Investigation</b> <i>(coursework)</i>  <b>60%</b>	-Write a personal study (essay) based on your chosen theme -Create a body of work related to a chosen theme/s -Create a final piece/s	-A 1000-3000 word essay -Research on a range of artists and/or designers -Exploration of a variety of media, techniques and processes -Development of ideas in response to chosen artist/s/theme -Recording of ideas and observations
<b>Externally Set Assignment</b> <i>(Exam)</i>  <b>40%</b>	-Create preparatory studies based on the theme -Create a personal outcome/s in 15 hours of sustained focus	-By creating a body of work based on the theme given. This will include research, ideas, exploration of media, development of ideas and a final piece/s.

The table below summarises tasks you will need to do to meet each objective:

Development of Ideas	Exploration of Media	Recording & Reflecting	Personal Response
-Research a range of artists- collect images, make a visual study, include biographical information and analyse their artwork -Create your own ideas inspired by your chosen artist/s -Show a clear development of ideas- have they been manipulated, transformed and edited throughout the journey	-Explore with a wide variety of media, techniques and processes -Continually review and refine your work- consider the potential and the limitations of the media used	-Record ideas visually with a camera related to chosen theme/idea -Use annotation to explain your idea/s and to reflect on your progress	-A final piece plan to document intentions for final piece and explanation -A final piece/s that realises what you intended to do

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## What areas of Art & Design can I study?

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At Worcester Sixth Form College we offer 3 Art & Design subjects. The table below summarises the different types of design you can study:

<b>Fine Art</b>	<b>Graphic Communication</b>	<b>Photography</b>
<i>This could include painting, drawing, printmaking, mixed media, ceramics, installation, moving image and sculpture.</i>	<i>This could include branding, information graphics, advertising, packaging design, interactive media, multimedia, motion graphics or illustration.</i>	<i>This could include film, video, digital, photojournalism, moving image, documentary photograph, multimedia or film-based photography.</i>

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## Where should I start?

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In photography lessons you will need to be thinking about the following:

- *What subject / theme are you most passionate about?*
- *What is it about this subject that is interesting?*
- *What other avenues could this branch into?*
- *Will you be able to sustain this theme for a long period of time?*
- *Can you think of any particular photographers that could relate to it?*
- *Are there any particular styles or techniques that you can explore with?*
- *Are there any current galleries, exhibitions or events that could be relevant?*
- *What places, objects or things could you collect or photograph?*

*Desirable characteristics for a photography student are:*

- *Curiosity and Open-Mindedness: Being open to new experiences, ideas, and influences.*
- *Perseverance: Continuing to practice and experiment, even when results are not immediately successful.*
- *Acceptance: Being open to constructive criticism from teachers and peers and using it to improve.*
- *Self-Motivation: The drive to independently pursue projects and refine skills.*
- *Time Management: Balancing creative projects with other academic responsibilities.*

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# Summer Project

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Over the holiday, you will need to complete the following task:

Create one successful photograph of each of the following subjects:

1. A red ball
2. A tree and a dog
3. Something ugly
4. A kiss
5. A bar of soap
6. Something random
7. Something unambiguous
8. Grass and concrete
9. Something old-fashioned
10. Something futuristic
11. A blue car and a white car
12. An empty room
13. A woman behaving like a man
14. People dancing
15. Colourful clothing in artificial light
16. Dawn
17. A plate in the air
18. A car park at night
19. Things in a pile
20. A smile

This task is designed to get you to think creatively about making photographs. Some seem easy, how can you make these interesting? Some are abstract, how will you interpret the instruction? Some involve other people, how will you persuade them to take part?

- Create these photographs with a digital camera or with your phone, either is fine.
- Make sure that the aspect ratio is around 4 x 6 (ie. not square or widescreen) and that you take the photograph in landscape orientation, not portrait.
- Do not manipulate the images in any way apart from altering the brightness and contrast or making them black and white (if you want to).
- Have them ready to display on your phone, laptop or tablet. Organise them in a single album / folder so they are easy to find.
- Bring them with you to your first lesson in September.
- Have fun with this, we are excited to see what you create!

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## Equipment List

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Please find below a suggested list of materials for A Level Photography:

- DSLR camera, entry level is fine, something equivalent to the Nikon D3000 range. You will need this for the second week of lessons, we have some in college that can be booked out if you are unable to acquire one.
- SD Card at least 8GB
- SD Card reader

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## Suggested Reading

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### Websites:

<https://thephotographersgallery.org.uk/>

<https://www.tate.org.uk/>

<https://www.bjp-online.com/>

### TED Talks:

[https://www.ted.com/talks/david\\_griffin\\_how\\_photography\\_connects\\_us](https://www.ted.com/talks/david_griffin_how_photography_connects_us)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/sebastiao\\_salgado\\_the\\_silent\\_drama\\_of\\_photography](https://www.ted.com/talks/sebastiao_salgado_the_silent_drama_of_photography)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/taryn\\_simon\\_photographs\\_of\\_secret\\_sites](https://www.ted.com/talks/taryn_simon_photographs_of_secret_sites)

### Books:

The Photographers' Playbook. Edited by Jason Fulford and Gregory Halpern

Read This If You Want To Take Great Photographs. Henry Carroll

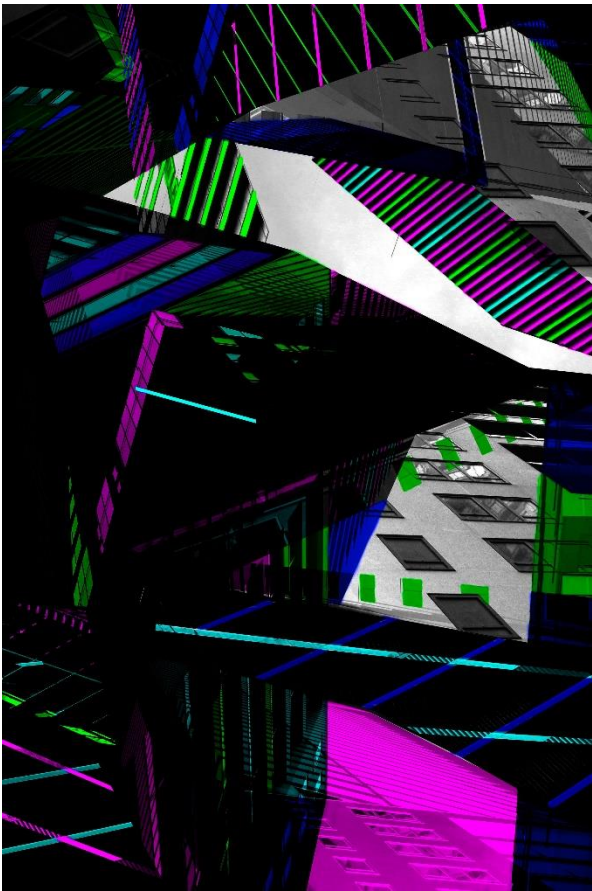
Read This If You Want To Take Great Photographs Of Places. Henry Carroll

Read This If You Want To Take Great Photographs Of People. Henry Carroll

Photography. David Bate

### Reading List Tasks:

- Collate notes about key subject matter, record quotes and any other relevant information.
- Create a visual mind map of key ideas. Use drawings, images and photographs to illustrate this.
- List key terms and vocabulary- research meanings and/or context.
- Write a list of key questions and/or discussions points that are raised.





All photographs by WSFC A Level Photography Students

