



PHOTOGRAPHY

Entry Requirement: It is normally expected that students embarking on a GCE Advanced course in Photography will have achieved a relevant qualification at a higher grade GCSE (9-4/5 or A*–C) in Art. Alternatively, the submission of a portfolio of relevant work will be assessed for suitability for study at this level.

Examination Board: EDEXCEL (9PYO) Photography

This qualification aims to encourage an adventurous and enquiring approach to photography. Successful candidates should be able to demonstrate an understanding of past and contemporary photographic practice and be able to produce work that embraces a range of ideas. Candidates should be encouraged to reflect on their own work and on the work of others. Presentation is a key element, candidates are required to present and display their work in a creative and purposeful manner.

Course Content and Assessment

The specification is designed to facilitate increasing opportunities for candidates to determine the nature and direction of their own studies. Candidates will have opportunities to explore the variety of formal elements, processes and practices which underpin photography, as experienced through the four units.

Unit 1: Coursework (including Teacher-led workshops for a term)	60 %
Unit 2: Internally Set Assignment Written Personal study	
Unit 3: Externally Set Assignment	40% (including 15 hours timed examination)

In addition to the above, candidates will be required to submit supporting studies which will contain evidence of a student's visual thinking and conceptual understanding, recording their responses to chosen ideas.

Assessment Objectives

These are equally weighted and form the basis of the course.

A01 1. Development of ideas – Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.

- A02 2. Refine** - Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops. Experiment as much as possible and refine/review often.
- A03 3. Recording** – Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress.
- A04 4. Outcomes** - Bring together investigations in relation to creative intentions to realise final outcome(s).
- Written component**- An essay is written by students alongside their Component 1 project in Year 13. This is marked separately, making up 12% of the final grade.

The Course

Photography includes working in film, video, digital imaging and light-sensitive materials. Sometimes, techniques and processes are used to convey messages and create works related to other disciplines, such as web-based animations, photographic images in printed journals, light projections within theatrical or architectural spaces. Work should form a means of personal enquiry and expression involving the selection and manipulation of images. Students must employ creative approaches which go beyond mere observation and recording.

Teaching and Learning Methods

As a whole cohort, students are guided through a variety of skills and techniques that they then explore independently within their own self led projects. Independent thinking is wholly encouraged at this level of study, whilst regular individual tutorials are conducted to maintain the quality of work and guide students through ideas.

Homework

There is an expectation that students work independently for a suggested time of 5 hours per week. We have an 'Open Studio' ethos so students can undertake independent study within the department with staff support if necessary.

Trips and Visits

Students visit the Print Space in London for a workshop to develop their knowledge on presenting and printing photographs in a professional style to improve the aesthetics and interpretations of their images. Students are encouraged to attend a variety of galleries during the course and to source interesting locations for their own photoshoots.

Materials

A pack of materials is available from the school at cost price. This will include all the main materials required to complete the course.

A camera and a memory stick would be useful equipment for the course. However, it is **not** essential that you purchase a camera, as there are a limited amount of cameras available at school, which can be borrowed for small periods of time when required.