

ART GCSE: 2025-2026

Summary of Content:

Paper 1:

Coursework Unit 1 (30% of GCSE approx.) – To be completed in Yr 10.

Coursework Unit 2 (30% of GCSE approx.) – To be completed in Yr 11.

(This will include the work done for your Yr 10 + Yr 11 PP Exams).

Paper 2:

Externally Set Assignment – 8 weeks preparatory work + 10 hrs timed examination.
(40% of GCSE) – Undertaken in Yr 11.

All units must show evidence of the **4 assessment objectives**.

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| A01 | Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources. | DEVELOP IDEAS |
| A02 | Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes. | EXPERIMENT + REFINE |
| A03 | Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses. | DRAWING + PHOTOGRAPHY AND NOTES |
| A04 | Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language. | FINAL PIECE WITH LINKS |

COURSEWORK CLOSE UP

- Your coursework will develop mostly in your sketchbooks after being given a theme, task or general starting point.
- In your Coursework Sketchbooks you should think carefully about how you present each page. You should always explore, develop and experiment with ideas outside of your sketchbook before finally creatively presenting your coursework pages.
- Try to develop your own individually creative style of presentation. (See examples).
- Your ideas should develop finally into one or more outcomes (finished pieces).
- *Homework* will be given every week and students will be expected to spend a minimum of 4hrs per week on it. Students aiming to achieve a Level 7 or above often spend longer!
- Any student failing to meet deadlines or producing poor quality homework will be given extra help and encouragement and asked to attend the GCSE Art Coursework Club after school on a Tuesday until the work is satisfactorily completed.
- GCSE Coursework Club will run every Tuesday after school from 2.55 – 3.45pm. This will remain optional unless you fall behind.

Before handing in a body of work it may be helpful to ask yourself these questions:

- ✓ Have I shown a lot of **ideas**?
- ✓ Have I produced some drawings from both **Primary** and Secondary sources?
- ✓ Have I linked my work to the work of **other artists**?
- ✓ Have I written about those works giving my own **opinions** of them and their **relevance** to what I am doing?
- ✓ Do I also have **quality reproductions of sections** of artists work in my pages rather than a reliance on just printed imagery?
- ✓ Do I also have examples of other interesting objects and images that **link** to my project?
- ✓ Have I written about them and developed further **visual ideas** from them?
- ✓ Have I **experimented** with a variety of **different media** in the development of my ideas?
- ✓ Have I **developed** and **refined** an **idea** using a **variety of media**? Is this obvious?
- ✓ Have I produced at least **1 final piece** of work connected to my sketchbook studies?
- ✓ Is there a definite element of **quality** in my final piece that distinguishes it from the rest of my work?
- ✓ Does the final piece in some way **connect** to the artists' work I have looked at, personal ideas I have developed and has it been informed by **primary source** imagery?
- ✓ Is my final piece **original** or does it look like a copy of another artist's work?
- ✓ **Have I worked hard enough?**
- ✓ **Could some of the work be better? If so, what will I do to improve it?**
- ✓ **Am I proud of the work I have done?**
- ✓ **Does the work look like my work?**
- ✓ **Is the work at least as good as the best work I have done to date? (Hopefully it will be better!)**
- ✓ **Am I aware of my Aspirational Grade? How much do I want it?**

NOTE: Sketchbooks are HUGELY important to final grades – keep the standard high at all times.



Work hard and you will enjoy!

Fail to put in the required effort and you will very quickly get left behind.

- Students will have coursework to complete on a weekly basis, so it might be worth **checking in** with your son/daughter if they say they haven't got any. (All homework is posted on Class Charts).
- If students do not complete homework on time, they can get help and support from their teacher at Art Club on a Wednesday after school from 2.55 – 3.55. It would be great if you could then insist that your child attends on a weekly basis until they have caught up.
- **Art Coursework Club** is available to all students after school on a Wednesdays from 2.55 – 3.55. If students want help with anything, need to use specific equipment or materials, or have an ambitious idea, this is a really useful session to attend. Please encourage your child to do so if you think it would be useful for them.
- We often say that being **resourceful** in art is the key to being successful. This might mean that students need to go to specific places to take photographs or collect certain materials. We would be grateful if you as parents could support this.
- Don't forget that your child's art teacher can be **contacted** via email if you have any questions about work they need to do.
- Unfortunately, one of the negatives about art coursework is that students often **spread out** and make a mess of a corner of their family home. I know that some parents have moaned to me about not being able to use their dining table for two years. If you can accommodate a space at home where your son/daughter can spread out a bit when they are working, then this really helps.
- **Encourage and Enthuse** – Art is a really hard subject to feel confident about as there is never a specific right answer. Any encouragement you can give your son/daughter in the development of their work is much appreciated.
- Be aware of the **important dates** leading up to the finalisation of GCSE Art. It'll all be done by the start of May next year and this will come very quickly. Please see the dates below for this year:

Year 10

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| September: | Intensive Line drawing technique, artist focus and study leading to Etching project. Workshops focussing on new techniques and media: i.e. Ink and Bleach, Gold leaf, Mono printing, Encaustic, Embossing, Lustre, Collagraph, Ink and water, Collage |
| Christmas break: | Any students who still have coursework to finish or improve should use this time to do so. |
| Early January: | PPE Project: producing a body of work, using a chosen workshop technique as a starting point |
| Jan: | London Art Fair Trip. (TBC) |
| March 16th+ 17th: | PPE Exam Days (Two days off timetable spent in their art classroom creating a final piece. Remark of PPE (Students will have 2 weeks to work on improvements to their PPE, this will then be remarked as a piece of coursework.) |
| April: | Project developing and refining individual art and ideas and the making of an ambitious final piece |