



Art Curriculum Information - GCSE

As students embark on their Art GCSE, we thought it would be useful to share an overview of the course.

In Key Stage 4 Art:

The examination board for GCSE Fine Art is Edexcel. You can find further information relating to the specification [Edexcel GCSE Art & Design](#)

- Component 1 Personal portfolio 60%
- Component 2 Externally set assignment 40%

We start the course with a foundation project building on skills from Year 9, working on three areas: Natural Forms, Objects and Portraits. Students will explore and make images, experiment with ideas and processes, media, materials and techniques, develop critical understanding through investigations then select the best of these areas to focus on for their NEA project which is continued into Year 11. This is usually started towards the end of the Spring term and the Year 10 end of year test is an opportunity to develop more independently led work and use five hours to create a sustained focus piece of art, usually linked to a drawing or media task. The test is aimed to help manage time effectively in preparation for the mock and Externally Set Assignment in Year 11. The Externally Set Assignment is not an exam as such but the culmination of the GCSE course making up 40%. Students will not sit in the exam hall and answer questions related to art. They will be given a paper released in January of Year 11 with a set theme similar to how they have approached the NEA. Lesson and homework time will then be spent developing their art work, referred to as the preparatory period, this is similar to revising for another subject. They will then make a piece of art linking to this prep work over two consecutive days.

Required resources:

- A range of drawing pencils
- Black fine liner
- White gel pen
- White colouring pencil
- Acrylic and watercolour paint
- A range of brushes
- Copic pens or soft brush pens
- Good quality colouring pencils (our current students recommend 'Castle' as a brand)
- Access to a good quality camera

Useful websites:

- [BBC Bitesize](#)
- [Student Art Guide](#)
- [Student Blog on how to get a grade 9](#)
- [Tate Modern](#)
- [National Portrait Gallery](#)

Career Links:

- [Tate Modern Why Study Art](#)
- [Tate Modern Student resource](#)

Homework and assessment:

Homework of 40 minutes duration will be set in Art to give the students time to consolidate their understanding of work covered at school and further develop their ideas. We usually set a two or three week homework assignment as we do appreciate that art may take longer than 40 minutes. Homework may take the form of a written or practical piece and is marked in class where feedback is given in line with the school marking policy and exam board assessment criteria. Assessment marks are subject to change and are based on the last exam season grade boundaries.

Please find access to the exam board standards booklets (which are used by teaching staff and external moderators when assessing the work) here: [Edexcel standards booklets](#). If your child is struggling with their homework then they should talk to their teacher about it so that support can be provided.

Revision:

Revision takes the form of continued development of the creative process across the assessment objectives as NEA work.

Top tips to help keep on top of the work:

- The Art clinics are a good way of using time to develop this work especially if there are family events or clubs that may eat into homework time
- Using the transfer technique to do some quick drawing will save lots of time especially when using media
- Zooming in on sections rather than trying to complete a whole study

Co-curricular Art:

Throughout the year the Art department runs a number of opportunities for students to further enhance their creative skills. All these activities will help to develop and build up skills as well as produce exemplar materials that could be used to support a portfolio for next steps.

- Visiting artist workshops
- House Art
- Show Racism the Red Card Competition
- Royal Academy Summer Exhibition Competition
- In house competitions changeable during the year

More information can be found on the [Art & Design Subject Content page](#) of the school's website.

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Suzanne Hartwell Head of Art, at Shartwell@ahs.bucks.sch.uk