



Sixth Form Preparation for Success

Welcome to Photography

OCR Photography H603



Introduction

The work in this bridging unit will help to prepare you for the creative, observational, and analytical demands of A Level Photography. You will develop skills in research, contextual understanding, visual communication and problem solving. The Creative Industries are considered fundamental to the British economy. The subject of Photography will help you develop the skills for a broad range of careers in the creative industries. These could be within the realms of fine art, commercial, editorial, fashion,

social documentary, architecture, and performance photography, through to associated career areas such as curating, publishing, and education.

Part I – Y11 into 12 Photography Specific Bridging Work To be completed May – Sept

Remember that prizes will be awarded for 'exceptional' work that demonstrates effort above expected!

a) Investigate places of interest

Given the circumstances, you will not be able to physically visit the places suggested below so try the websites and email their customer services with any questions – people love to hear from young people who show an interest in their line of work! During Lockdown, many have excellent daily releases of 'slow looks' , tours and explanations about exhibits.

Visit at least one museum or gallery website to experience a range of artworks. Take a virtual tour of the gallery. A list of suggested galleries is included, but this is not exhaustive and you may find others too. A little research will help you to find more detail about a particular show. Make a record of some of your virtual visits in a small sketchbook (or on paper) with photos, sketches and find images of the art work and information about the artwork you have seen.

In response to the virtual visits, you must produce at least one piece of art that has been influenced or shaped by your visit. This can be in any media (but must incorporate photography) and is your chance to show us what you can do independently.



Suggested galleries (Yorkshire and further afield):

- **The Hepworth, Wakefield**- an exciting gallery of national importance, it has both permanent and regularly changing exhibitions. It's also revolutionary from an architectural viewpoint
- **The Yorkshire Sculpture Park**- an outstanding outdoor gallery specialising in sculpture, it has both permanent and changing exhibitions.
- **The Harley Gallery, Welbeck, Worksop**- a small contemporary gallery, with an excellent website and back collections
- **Usher Gallery Lincoln**
- **York Art Gallery** (small entrance fee)- A beautiful place with a permanent collection of paintings, a national ceramics collection and regularly changing contemporary exhibitions.
- **Hull Ferrens Gallery**- a newly revamped gallery with changing exhibitions
- **Hull Humber Street Gallery**- an urban contemporary gallery with challenging artworks
- **Leeds City Art Gallery**- an exciting gallery of national importance, it has both permanent and regularly changing exhibitions
- **Bradford Media Museum** (Photography exhibitions)- an excellent resource for both Art and Photography students
- **Nottingham Contemporary**- a new gallery with challenging modern artworks and incredible architecture
- **Nottingham Castle Museum and Gallery**- A traditional gallery with both permanent and regularly changing exhibitions
- **Manchester Whitworth**- permanent and regularly changing exhibitions, very exciting work

London: We recommended that you visit the websites for all of these galleries which are of high national importance, they all have both permanent and changing exhibitions, excellent websites and excellent online education programmes which are useful during periods of lockdown.

- **Tate Britain**
- **Tate Modern**
- **National Gallery**

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- **National Portrait Gallery**
 - **Saatchi**
 - **Barbican**
 - **British Museum**
 - **Hayward Gallery**
 - **Serpentine Gallery**
 - **White Cube**
 - **Royal Academy of Arts**
 - **V&A**

b) Wider reading

You are encouraged to read widely around the subject. Some suggestions include:

John Berger:

“Ways of Seeing” Also available on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pDE4VX_9Kk

“Understanding a Photograph (2013)”

W. Baart

Photography – A Concise History

Pub: Laurence King, London

20th Century Photography book

British Journal of Photography <https://www.bjp-online.com/>

Michael Freeman books about technique:

“Timeless art of Monochrome”

“Perfect Exposure”

c) Compulsory task

Observational photography is an integral component of the course. It is often the core method of investigating, recording, developing and communicating ideas.

You must produce a minimum of three photo shoots (more than three would be advantageous) from the themes below.

Themes:

1. Portraiture: Self-portraits or of friends and family
2. Interiors: A view of your own room or others within the house
3. Still life: Set up an interesting collection of objects at home and create a single light source (such as shining a lamp on it, or using the direction of the sun). Pay attention to light and shade and texture effects
4. Landscape: This can include parks, gardens, wooded views, countryside etc (anywhere you can do a short walk or drive to)
5. Cityscapes/ architecture: Near where you live

d) Stretch

Learning about other Photographers, artists and designers is an important part of the course and will help you to develop your project work in response to their ideas and techniques. As part of your assignment you need to choose one of the Photographers from the table below and produce a research page on them. This will help to you to analyse influential Photographers of the twentieth century.



Topic	<p>When researching a photographer and their work you must start by considering the context of the individual and the context that surrounds the work they produced.</p> <p>What factors have contributed to this person’s life resulting in them becoming a Photographer? And how does the work reflect the practitioner or the time / culture it was produced in?</p>
Photographers	<p>Choose one of the photographers below to base your research on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorothea Lange • Man Ray • Fay Godwin • Helen Levitt • Gregory Crewdson • Henri Cartier-Bresson • Eadweard Muybridge • Don McCullin • Hiroshi Sugimoto
Task	<p>Research the life and work of one photographer from the list above. Read about their approach and what influenced their decision to become a photographer.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Then select one image from any of their work and analyse it, this should be a minimum of 350 words. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form: Aim to discuss the formal elements that the Photographer has used and how these enhance the quality of the image. Consider aspects like composition, viewpoint, angle, colour etc • Process: This is an analytical piece not a simple description, so just how do the factors you have researched influence the way the photograph has been taken? • Content: Try to consider what has motivated the photographer to make this image, along with the content of the photograph. • Mood – How does the work make you feel and why? 2. Reflecting on the images you have looked at you must now produce a series of images that have been influenced by your chosen Photographer.
Presentation	<p>You can present the work in any way you see appropriate; a simple printout is fine. Try to be as creative as you can.</p>

Part II - Year 12 Head Start! for completion June – September

The following link will take you to the OCR A-Level Photography Specification, please read the information eg Page 20, carefully:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/170210-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-art-and-design-h600-h606.pdf>

To start the A level Photography course you will embark on a skills based project within which you will be developing skills in using the DSLR camera in a creative way. You will learn skills in exploring the use of ISO settings, shutter speeds and aperture. To support this learning, you will look at the artist Cornelia Parker with particular focus on her installation piece Cold, Dark Matter please visit the Tate Gallery link below to learn more about her work:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/parker-cold-dark-matter-an-exploded-view-t06949/story-cold-dark-matter>

To prepare for the skills-based unit it would be useful for you to do some background reading on ISO, Aperture and Shutter speeds there are a number of great websites which explain what they are and why we use them. Please visit the following websites:

<https://expertphotography.com/photography-basics-manual-mode/>

<https://artofvisuals.com/the-basics-of-photography-introduction-to-photography-tutorials/>

<http://www.photographyrevision.com/how-to-analyse-a-photograph/>

There are also Kindle versions of books on Digital Photography for beginners which you can either download for free or purchase on Amazon.co.uk, but they are not essential for the course:

DSLR Photography for Beginners: Take 10 Times Better Pictures in 48 Hours or Less! Best Way to Learn Digital Photography, Master Your DSLR Camera & Improve Your Digital SLR

*Photography Skills by Brian Black. Kindle Edition £0.00 Free with Kindle Unlimited membership
Or £3.99 to buy.*

***The Beginner's Photography Guide: The Ultimate Step-by-Step Manual for Getting the Most
from your Digital Camera (Dk) Kindle Edition £8.49***

We look forward to working with you in September!