

# Introduction to A-Level Art & Design (Fine Art)

Following on from your visit to the current exhibition of A-level work, you need to begin thinking about possible ideas or interests that you have for your own work on the A-Level course.

The purpose of the Summer Project is to begin considering and exploring a theme of your choice, or alternatively to explore the work / styles of an artist that you like, which will lead into next year's A-Level course. As you may be working on this theme for over a year, it is important to choose a theme that you think will be interesting to explore in a lot of depth and that will allow you to show your skills and strengths.

Remember, the most successful coursework projects are those which develop from a starting point (possibly your chosen theme for this summer project) through a great deal of exploring, reviewing and refining as you work through a range of artists, ideas, styles and techniques before reaching the final outcome/s. Therefore, do not begin by thinking about what your final outcome could be – you won't be creating this until January of Yr13 so it is far too early at this stage and will be likely to hold you back from exploring more ideas. Instead, just think about where you would like to begin and, whilst having an idea about the different areas within your theme you could explore, remain open-minded about where your project might take you.

Possible themes to explore **could** include:

DISCARDED	FOUND	RECYCLED
ABANDONED	COLLECTED	PROJECTED
DECAY	LOSS	PORTRAIT
STRUCTURES	DISMANTLED	HUMAN FORM
CHANGE	LIGHT / DARK	LANDSCAPE
WEATHERED	VIEWPOINT	STILL LIFE
BROKEN	REMAINS	LAYERED
CLOSE-UP	DISTORTION	TEXTURE

## The Summer Project

Your task is to create a mini project of work over the summer break that is based on your chosen theme. As this work will act as the starting point to your A-Level coursework project, you will need to bring your completed work in with you for your first lesson in September, during which you will be expected to present and discuss your ideas with your tutors (in a friendly tutorial).

The following work should be presented over a series of 4 mounted sheets (A2-sized):

- 1. OBSERVATIONAL WORK .....**  
(photography) Series of photographs (minimum of 5) relating to chosen theme.
- 2. OBSERVATIONAL WORK .....**  
(drawings) Series of observational drawings (minimum of 5) relating to your chosen theme. Drawings can be created in any media.
- 3. ARTIST'S WORK .....**  
(images) A presentation of images of works by one artist that relate to your theme. You don't need to include any writing.
- 4. LARGE OUTCOME .....**  
(in chosen artist's style) One large outcome of any shape, size or structure. This should be created using your chosen artist's style and should include elements from your observational work.

You must bring your completed Summer Project for the first week back in September. Good Luck!

# Structure of the A-Level Art & Design (Fine Art) course

**A-Level Art & Design = 60% coursework + 40% exam project**

## Mini-project

September-October – Mini-project of observational work (exploration of media & techniques – including pencil, charcoal, graphite, ink, photography, watercolour, oil painting, etching, mono-printing, lino-printing, digital media and mixed-media layering)

End of October – Decide upon theme for main coursework project (can be a continuation of the Summer Project or a completely new theme)

Beginning of November – Create large mixed-media outcome developed from work produced September-October (resulting in small exhibition of work within the Art department)

## Main Coursework Project (Portfolio)

November-February – Artist 1  
February – large outcome no.1

February-April – Artist 2  
April – large outcome no.2

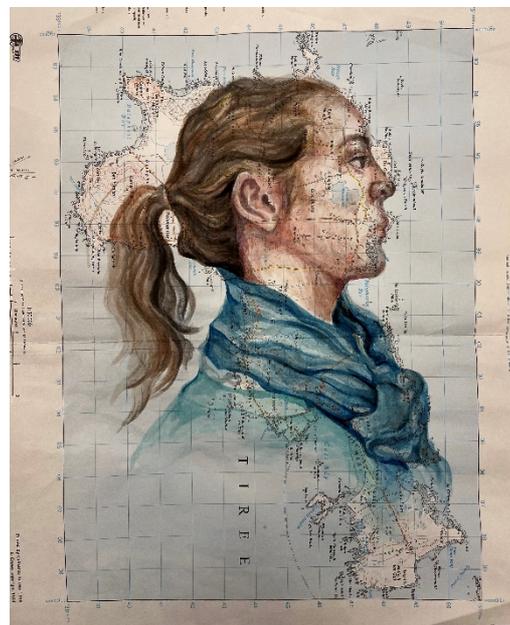
May-July – Artist 3  
June/July – large outcome no.3

August-October – Artist 4  
November – large outcome no.4

November-January – Development and prep work towards final outcome

January – Final Outcome – started in January Mock Exam

January – Written study (1000-3000 words on your coursework project)



**31<sup>st</sup> January – Final submission of coursework project accompanied by Written Study**

## Exam Project (Externally Set Task)

**February-May – Exam project (3 months + 15-hour exam)**



# AQA A-Level Assessment Criteria marking and assessment grid (2015 onwards)

	E	D	C	B	A	A*
2023 Grade boundaries	29-39	40-50	51-61	62-73	74-79	80-96

		AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4
24	Convincingly	An exceptional ability to develop ideas through sustained investigations informed by contextual and other sources.	An exceptional ability to explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.	An exceptional ability to record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions.	An exceptional ability to present a personal and meaningful response.
23	Clearly	Demonstrates exceptional ability and critical understanding.	Reviews and refines ideas in a confident and purposeful manner as work develops.	Demonstrates an exceptional ability to reflect critically on work and progress.	Demonstrates an exceptional ability to successfully realise intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.
22	Adequately				
21	Just	A confident and highly developed ability to develop ideas through sustained investigations, informed by contextual and other sources.	A confident and highly developed ability to explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.	A confident and highly developed ability to record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions.	A confident and highly developed ability to present a personal and meaningful response.
20	Convincingly				
19	Clearly				
18	Adequately	Demonstrates confident and highly developed analytical and critical understanding.	Reviews and refines ideas in a confident manner as work develops.	Demonstrates a confident and highly developed ability to reflect critically on work and progress.	Demonstrates a highly developed ability to successfully realise intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.
17	Just				
16	Convincingly	A consistent ability to develop ideas through sustained investigations, informed by contextual and other sources.	A consistent ability to explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.	A consistent ability to record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions.	A consistent ability to present a personal and meaningful response.
15	Clearly				
14	Adequately				
13	Just	Demonstrates consistent analytical and critical understanding.	Reviews and refines ideas with increasing confidence as work develops.	Demonstrates a consistent ability to reflect critically on work and progress.	Demonstrates a consistent ability to successfully realise intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.
12	Convincingly				
11	Clearly	A reasonably consistent ability to develop ideas through sustained investigations, informed by contextual and other sources.	A reasonably consistent ability to explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.	A reasonably consistent ability to record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions.	A reasonably consistent ability to present a personal and meaningful response.
10	Adequately				
9	Just				
8	Convincingly	Some ability to develop ideas and sustain investigations, informed by contextual and other sources.	Some ability to explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.	Some ability to record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions.	Some ability to present a personal and meaningful response which is uneven.
7	Clearly				
6	Adequately	Demonstrates some analytical and critical understanding.	Reviews and refines ideas with limited success as work develops.	Demonstrates some ability to reflect critically on work and progress.	Demonstrates some ability to successfully realise intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.
5	Just				
4	Convincingly	Minimal ability to develop ideas and sustain investigations, informed by contextual and other sources.	Minimal ability to explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.	Minimal ability to record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions.	Minimal ability to present a personal and meaningful response, limited by a lack of skill and understanding.
3	Clearly				
2	Adequately				
1	Just	Demonstrates minimal analytical and critical understanding.	Minimal evidence of reviewing and refining ideas as work develops.	Demonstrates minimal ability to reflect critically on work and progress.	Demonstrates minimal ability to successfully realise intentions and, where appropriate, make connections between visual and other elements.
0	No work.				

Sir Roger Manwood's School presents

*the GCSE & A-Level*

# Art & Design exhibition

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July  
6-8pm  
in the Sports Hall

background image by Bella Brabazon (A-Level graduate 2025)

Free refreshments (wine, juice & nibbles) will be available