



Teddington Sixth Form

A Level Photography

Course Details & Transition Tasks
2020-2022

Photography A Level

Exam Board: Edexcel

How the course is assessed

Component 1: Personal Investigation = 60% of A Level grade.

Items assessed: *Coursework Portfolio* including practical outcomes and supporting coursework
Personal study in a 1000 word essay

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment = 40% of A Level grade.

Items assessed: *Preparatory Studies+ Final Outcome* produced in 15 hours supervised time

How the course is structured

Component 1: Personal Investigation- *Coursework Portfolio*

This component is run over three terms in Year 12 and one term in Year 13. Students will take part in a series of practical workshops aimed at developing technical and creative understanding of photographic and lens-based media, techniques, and processes. They will investigate a range of artworks across different cultures and time periods to develop skills for research and critical analysis. This will culminate in a body of work based on a personal theme chosen and developed by the student. All work produced in lessons and for homework will make up the coursework portfolio which is assessed along with the personal study to form 60% of the A Level Grade. Students will be expected to mount an exhibition of their work at the end of Year 13. The work will be internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 1: Personal Investigation- *Personal Study*

This component is run over the first term of Year 13. Students will be asked to sustain a line of inquiry on a subject of their choosing relating to an idea, concept, issue, or theme relevant to art. Investigations will be recorded in a coursework book and will lead to a 1000 word written essay.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment

This component is run over the last two terms in Year 13. Candidates will be asked to produce an outcome in response to a theme set by Edexcel. They will be given time to develop their ideas and produce preparatory studies. The final outcome will be completed under exam conditions within a 15 hour supervised time period. Preparatory studies along with the outcome will be internally assessed and externally moderated.

Assessment Objectives:

AO1: Develop their ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical

AO2: Experiment with and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining their ideas as their work develops.

AO3 Record in visual and/or other forms ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, demonstrating an ability to reflect on work and progress.

AO4: Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating critical understanding, realising intentions and, where appropriate, making connections between visual, oral or other elements

Course requirements

- This course is ideal for students who have imagination, flair, are hardworking, and have a passion for photography/digital media.
- At present a grade B in Photography GCSE is the requirements for the A Level Photography course.
- Entrants demonstrating strong motivation and providing an acceptable portfolio of work may also be considered.

Teaching staff

- At present Mr Cao and Ms Limna are the principal tutors of A Level Photography with the expectation of lectures and workshops being provided by visiting members of the Art and Design industries.

Homework

- For every hour spent in lesson time, the expectation is that you spend an hour outside of lesson time to develop your work. Final outcomes will be assessed along with supporting coursework and will require time and *sustained* focus to fully develop.
- Independent study and visits to galleries, museums and places of artistic interest will be expected and encouraged.

Where next with this course

- On completion of the course the avenues open to students become quite varied. Students can go on to Foundation courses, further education colleges, Art College and Universities for a Degree in any Art/Photography related subject. Careers can include all aspects of fine art, photography, and digital media including: animation, film, advertising, fashion photography, portrait photography, wedding photography, and teaching. The skills offered on the Photography course are transferable across many disciplines and this course provides great building blocks for Higher Education.

Transition Task

Due: First day of class

Our first workshop in Y12 will centre around the theme “*Storytelling*”. To prepare for this complete the following tasks. Present all your work digitally on one PowerPoint presentation or Google Slides. Work is due on the first day of class.

Task 1

Create an A3 digital mood board on *Storytelling*. Find images that relate to the theme of storytelling and digitally collage it onto one slide/page using PowerPoint or Google Slides. At the centre of your mood board write the title “Storytelling.”

You can use the subthemes below to help you find images for your mood board:

fiction, sci-fi, mystery, romance, adventure, children’s stories, fairy tales, Disney movies, Tv Shows, Documentaries, poetry, comic books, manga, anime, video games, fictional characters, real life actors, villains, superheroes, historical figures, religious figures, paintings etc...

Task 2-6 below involve taking photographs. You can use whatever image capturing device you want. You could use the standard DSLR camera, or your phone camera, or a polaroid, or experiment with film cameras for these tasks. If you use polaroid or film cameras you will need to scan your pictures in order to present them in PowerPoint or Google Slides.

Those of you who have taken GCSE photography, think about lighting and how to manipulate this for emotional effect. Be sure you have enough light and change your setting or the controls on your camera to make a picture that is well exposed (not too dark/light). Think about composition and visual forms and principles of design and how to use this to create dynamic and interesting photographs. As *always* with art/photography, be creative, be imaginative, be experimental, most of all- be sincere and make it your own.

Task 2

Take three pictures that represent your past, present, and future. Present them together on one slide/page and write a paragraph explaining how they represent your past, present, and future.

Task 3

Create a sequence of photographs (5-10 pictures) based on the theme “*A Day in the Life...*” Present them onto one page with only the title “*A Day in the Life*”. No further explanation needed. It need not be about you.

Task 4

In one image, recreate a scene from a movie or tv show. Use as many props and photoshop editing as you see fit. Present it on one page give it a title. No other explanation necessary.

Task 5

Photograph a dream- use as many images as you want (it can be just one or several). Like task 4, use as many props and photoshop editing as you see fit. Present your image on one page/slide and do not label. Leave this page free of any text.

Task 6

Pick a line from your favourite poem, or a lyric from your favourite song. Take a series of photographs illustrating this. Again, use as many images as you deem necessary. Add the lyrics/text on top of your image afterwards- be creative and imaginative about how you incorporate the words.

EXT Task:

Research the work of an artist that connects to the theme of Storytelling.

1. Create a contact sheet (30-35 images) inspired by their work
2. Edit 3-4 of your best images.
3. Present contact sheet and best images on 2-3 slides/page.