A Level Photography

Exam board and specification: AQA A-Level Photography (7206)

What you need to study this course: Grade 5 in GCSE Art or GCSE English.

Why you should consider this course: A Level Photography is a great choice because it develops creativity, problem-solving and independent thinking, and builds a strong portfolio for future courses like media, film, visual communication and digital design. This course gives students the freedom to explore personal ideas through lens-based work while gaining valuable, transferable skills. It's a rewarding subject that balances the academic timetable and supports many creative career pathways.

What You Will Study:

Year 12 - Autumn to Spring 1: Skills-based workshops (camera settings, lighting, Photoshop).

Year 12 - Spring 1 Onwards: You will begin Component 1 (Personal Investigation) based on a given theme.

Year 13 - February: AQA releases the Externally Set Assignment (Component 2). You will choose one theme from the exam paper and produce a project that leads to a final outcome created during the timed exam in the summer.

How You Will Be Assessed:

- The course has two components.
- Component One (60%) follows a theme developed by the school.
- Component Two (40%) is an externally set assignment and the theme is decided by AQA.
- All marking is completed in school and is moderated externally.
- All assessments will follow the four assessment objectives.
- You will have to create a large piece of work in a timed 15-hour exam under exam conditions (spread across 3 days)

All Exams Will Assess You On:

The Photography exam will assess you on how well you develop ideas (AO1), experiment with materials and techniques (AO2), record observations and insights (AO3), and produce a personal, meaningful final outcome (AO4).

Where Can It Take You?

The top 5-degree courses taken by students who have the qualification are Photography, Film & Media, Graphic Design, Visual Communication, and Digital Arts.

Studying A-level Photography gives you all sorts of exciting career options, including:

- Photographer (Portrait, Event, Fashion etc).
- Graphic Designer
- Visual Communication Designer
- Digital Content Creator
- Film-Maker / Videographer
- Social Media Manager
- Photojournalist
- Art Director / Creative Director
- Set, Studio / Lighting Technician
- Animation / VFX Artist
- Curator / Gallery Assistant
- Media, Marketing / Advertising Roles
- Web And UX/UI Design

A Level Photography Alumni Destinations:

University of Greenwich – Art and Design

University of the Arts, London – Fashion Design

University of Kingston – Photography and Animation