

GCSE Art and Design student guide

GCSE Art and Design is the right subject for you if you enjoy:

- developing your visual skills and engaging with the creative process of art, craft and design
- developing and refining ideas
- visits to galleries, museums, workshops and studios
- experimenting and taking risks with your work, and learning from your experiences.



Is this the right subject for me?

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

It's really important that you have a passion for the subject and a desire to know more about historical and contemporary art, and how to use art materials and processes to develop and express your own ideas. This course will give you the skills to enjoy, engage with and produce visual arts throughout your life.

What does the course involve?

You will develop your visual skills and build a portfolio of work by completing a wide range of activities and in-depth assignments. Throughout the course, you will:

- develop and explore ideas
- select and experiment with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes
- record your ideas, observations and insights
- present personal and meaningful responses.

GCSE Art and Design is a broad and flexible course.

Ask your Head of Art and Design for more details of the titles available in your school or college.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Personal Portfolio

This component is worth 60% of your GCSE. You will produce a portfolio of work based on tasks agreed with your teacher.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (ESA)

This component is worth 40% of your GCSE. You will produce preparatory studies and personal outcome(s) based on a theme set by Edexcel.

Each component is assessed out of 72 marks against the four Assessment Objectives. Your teacher will mark your work and it may be moderated by Edexcel.

What can I do after I've completed the course?

Through this course you'll develop transferable skills, such as problem solving, communication and critical thinking skills, which will prepare you for further study or the world of work, regardless of the subjects or career you wish to pursue.

If you wish to study Art and Design beyond GCSE, you could do a Level 3 course, such as AS or A level Art and Design or BTEC Nationals in Art and Design.

Next steps

If you're interested in studying GCSE Art and Design, start finding out more about the subject by:

- visiting the Edexcel website (www.edexcel.com/gcseart2016) – there's a lot of useful information about what you'll be studying and how you'll be assessed
- talking to the Head of Art and Design at your school or college – they'll be able to describe the course in detail and advise you on what you need to do next
- finding out what is happening in the world of art by visiting galleries, museums, exhibitions and art shows, or by visiting gallery websites and the art pages on newspaper websites.