



GCSE Art & Design: Graphic Communication

Examination Board: AQA
Course Specification: 4203

What is GCSE Graphic Communication all about?

GCSE Graphic Communication is a practical course which enables you to develop your knowledge and skills in a range of areas including digital design using Adobe CS Photoshop and Illustrator, drawing, painting and photography. You will also learn about graphic design using practitioners' work to inspire and inform your own. Lessons are mostly taught in a computer suite, but you will also make work using traditional media. Research and independent learning skills are at the heart of the course; you will learn to structure a project, and over the first year, move towards choosing your own starting points and working more independently in Year 11. As part of the course, you will visit galleries and work with artists / designers in residence to further develop your experience and understanding.

Course Structure:

Year 10 Unit 1: Portfolio of Work

Controlled Assessment – set and marked by your teachers and moderated by AQA. It is worth up to 80 marks – 60%. The portfolio can include a range of work, and must include at least 2 projects.

Year 11 Final part of Unit 1, followed by Unit 2: Externally Set Task

Question papers issued from 1 January. Marked by your teachers and moderated by AQA. 80 marks – 40% Unlimited preparation time. 10 hours of independent study over 2 separate days in examination conditions. You respond to your chosen starting point, with guidance and advice from your teacher to help you achieve.

How will I be assessed?

Your work is assessed regularly by your teacher using SWANS. You will also be involved in the assessment of your work so that you have a clear understanding of the assessment criteria. Work will be marked using A*-F grades, so you will always have a good awareness of where your are in relation to your target grade, and how to progress.

What could I do next with GCSE Graphic Communication?

The broad experience the course offers will enable you to go on to a range of level 3 courses. At Sandbach School, you could progress to A Level, or to the Cambridge Technical in Creative Media. Graphic Communication can be the starting point for a diverse range of careers in the creative industries, such as web, 3D graphics, app development, gaming, typography, design for print, animation, illustration and advertising. Studying graphics at GCSE can lead to a huge range of opportunities in a large and growing creative digital sector.