



GCSE Art & Design

Examination Board: AQA
Course Specification: 4201

What is GCSE Art & Design all about?

GCSE Art & Design is a practical course which enables you to develop your knowledge and skills in a range of areas including drawing and painting, construction / making, mixed media, printmaking and photography. You will also learn about artists and designers, using their work to inspire and inform your own. 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 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 the SWANS feedback method. 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 you are in relation to your target grade, and how to progress.

What could I do next with GCSE Art & Design?

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. Art and Design can be the starting point for a diverse range of careers in the creative industries. Very often, studying art and design is not about going on to become a practicing artist, but more about developing your creativity and skills to open up many other creative opportunities.