

Photography A-level

Exam board: AQA

Where do I start?

You must meet the minimum entry requirements of Wootton Park VI. For this subject you must have obtained at least a **Grade 5 in English**.

Photography – about the subject:

Photography is a visual record of all that we observe in the world around us and how this can be manipulated to create personal reflections and interpretations of what we see. Learners who study Photography A Level are fascinated by the idea of capturing and editing images and want to develop both their technical skills and their creative, social and cultural understanding. Learners will be introduced to a variety of experiences, exploring a range of photographic media, techniques and processes. There are many genres of photography such as landscape photography, still life photography, portrait photography, photographic journalism, documentary photography, experimental photography, photographic installation, film and video.

Why study Photography?

At Wootton Park School, Photography is a practical subject that has a strong skills base. Learners will have the opportunity to explore a number of traditional dark room techniques and digital photography techniques giving them a firm basis in the process and expectations involved at A Level. The study of artists and photographers will aid understanding of the art world and as part of the course, learners will have the opportunity to photograph on location and visit a range of galleries. Learners will have access to Photoshop to develop skills in post editing which is a key area of the photography industry. Research and experimentation will culminate in the creation of a major final piece reflecting the journey they have taken through their assignment. Learners are encouraged to be creative and dynamic in their approach and can explore other art practices such as sculpture, drawing, and painting and installation art to develop and display their ideas.



What type of learner chooses Photography?

A-level photographers generally fall into one of two categories:

- Those who wish to make their career in art or an art-related area;
- Learners who wish to obtain another A-level to broaden their experience and extend their creative abilities.

What are the career/higher education prospects?

In a world where social media marketing and graphic design are corner stones of all business, creative media is a fast growing sector of UK industry. A Photography qualification will allow you access a wide of employment opportunities.

Popular career paths include:

Freelance photographer, Animator, Art Director, Cinematographer, Fashion photographer, Website designer, Marketing executive, Game designer...

Learners wishing to study Photography at a higher level are advised to undertake a foundation in Art and Design after A-levels and before university. This will then open up their opportunities at degree level. Competition is high at degree level and a good portfolio of work is essential.

What aspects of the subject will I be studying?

- 1 Personal Investigation (coursework) – 60%
- 2 Externally set exam – 40%

During the course, three units will make up the coursework component, and one unit will be the controlled externally set component. Learners will explore a number of workshops during the first two terms to give a firm basis in the techniques involved at A Level. The study of artists will aid understanding of the art world and we expect learners to visit various art galleries during the course.

Learners' research and development of ideas will form a strong basis to their portfolio. Research and experimentation will culminate in the creation of a major final piece reflecting the journey they have taken through their assignment.

The examination paper consists of one overall theme with suggested starting points. Again, learners are encouraged to produce work that is personal and insightful, whilst using the work of artists for inspiration.

A breakdown of the assessment structure is as follows:

Component 1 (60% of A Level)	Component 2 (40% of A Level)
Personal Investigation	Externally set exam 15 hours

We will follow the AQA 7201-7206 Specification(s) - <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/specifications/AQA-ART-A-LEVEL-SP-2015.PDF>