



YOUR
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JOURNEY

Year 10

GCSE Fine Art

Focus: Visual Language, Material Exploration, Contextual Analysis, and Personal Realisation **Objective:** To equip students with the rigorous practical, critical, and theoretical skills required to develop a personal, meaningful Fine Art portfolio, culminating in the successful execution of both the coursework and the Externally Set Assignment.

Year 10: Foundation of Visual Language & Material Mastery

Autumn Term: Core Skills & The Formal Elements – Natural Form Project

- **Introduction to Component 1 (Portfolio):** Commence the first major coursework component. Establish rigorous expectations for sketchbook presentation, annotation, and evaluation.
- **Drawing Mastery (AO3):** Develop a robust foundation in fundamental drawing skills. Students explore drawing for different purposes and needs, experimenting with scale, proportion, and perspective using a variety of dry and wet media.
- **The Formal Elements:** Rigorously investigate and apply the core formal elements of Fine Art—line, shape, form, tone, texture, space, proportion, and colour—translating 3D observations into 2D representations.

Spring Term: Material Exploration & Contextual Analysis

- **Discipline Workshops (AO2):** Expand practical repertoire beyond fundamental drawing. Students undertake targeted workshops in diverse Fine Art disciplines, such as painting, printmaking, mixed media, sculpture, or lens-based media.
- **Critical & Contextual Investigation (AO1):** Analyse the work of historical and contemporary Fine Artists, galleries, and art movements. Students must critically deconstruct the techniques, meanings, and contexts of these practitioners to directly inspire and inform their own developing concepts.
- **Iterative Experimentation:** Rigorously test and refine materials and processes. Students learn to evaluate their material choices, understanding how different media communicate different visual messages.

Summer Term: Sustained Project Development & Mock Assessments

- **Developing a Personal Response (AO4):** Synthesise earlier workshops and research to begin a sustained, focused project. Students move from initial starting points to developing highly personal, meaningful visual outcomes.
- **Mock Practical Assessment:** Undertake a formal, timed practical assessment to gauge stamina, time management, and the ability to work independently under examination conditions.
- **Reflective Practice:** Rigorously review sketchbooks against the four AQA Assessment Objectives, ensuring all preparatory work is cohesive, clearly annotated, and demonstrates a clear journey of progression.

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Year 11

GCSE Fine Art

Year 11: Portfolio Finalisation & The Externally Set Assignment

Autumn Term: Component 1 (Portfolio) Completion

- **Sustained Project Realisation (60% of GCSE):** Focus entirely on refining and finalising the Component 1 Portfolio. Ensure the personal design journey is comprehensively documented and culminates in a high-quality, finalised Fine Art outcome (e.g., a final canvas, sculpture, or installation).
- **Rigorous Curation:** Edit, refine, and curate sketchbooks and larger developmental pieces to ensure maximum marks are secured across AO1, AO2, AO3, and AO4.
- **Component 1 Mock Examination:** A formal mock exam period dedicated to manufacturing the final practical outcome for the coursework portfolio, simulating the pressure and duration of the final exam.

Spring Term: Component 2 – The Externally Set Assignment (ESA)

- **ESA Introduction (40% of GCSE):** Receive and analytically deconstruct the AQA Externally Set Assignment exam paper. Students select one starting point (theme) to investigate.
- **Preparatory Period (AO1, AO2, AO3):** Undertake a highly focused period of independent preparatory study. Students research relevant artists, record primary observations, and rigorously experiment with selected media to plan their final exam piece.
- **Project Planning:** Develop a clear, sequential plan for the 10-hour supervised exam, ensuring all technical and material requirements are prepared in advance.

Summer Term: Final Examination & Exhibition

- **The 10-Hour Supervised Exam (AO4):** Execute the final practical examination over 10 hours of supervised, formal conditions. Students bring together their Spring term preparatory studies to realise a finalised, highly skilled Fine Art outcome.
- **Final Submission & Exhibition:** Submit the completed Component 1 Portfolio and Component 2 ESA. Celebrate student achievement through the curation and installation of a professional end-of-year Fine Art exhibition.

Programme Support & Independent Learning (Years 10 & 11)

- **Open Studio Access:** Students have extensive access to lunchtime and after-school "Open Studio" sessions, allowing for the extended use of specialist materials, printing presses, and painting facilities necessary for high-level coursework.
- **Sketchbook Clinics:** Regular, highly targeted 1-to-1 tutorials focusing specifically on the robust development of Assessment Objectives, ensuring students can independently articulate their critical thinking and artistic intent.
- **Gallery Visits & Primary Source Gathering:** Encouraged participation in external gallery visits and independent photography trips to ensure all AO3 recording is driven by high-quality, authentic primary sources.

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