



A Level Syllabus and Assessment Structure:

Exam Board: AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/as-and-a-level/art-and-design-7201/specification-at-a-glance>

Greetings to all prospective L6th A-level artists and photographers. This short document outlines several tasks that will prepare you for the start of your A-level course in art or photography. Incidentally, there is much overlap between the A-level art and photography courses (which are timetabled together) and we run a common core of lectures/activities as well as tasks specific to each discipline. Incidentally when the term 'art' is used, it nearly always means 'art and photography' e.g. art history would include a history of photography. Both courses run on similar principles and the following spheres of concern are of key importance:

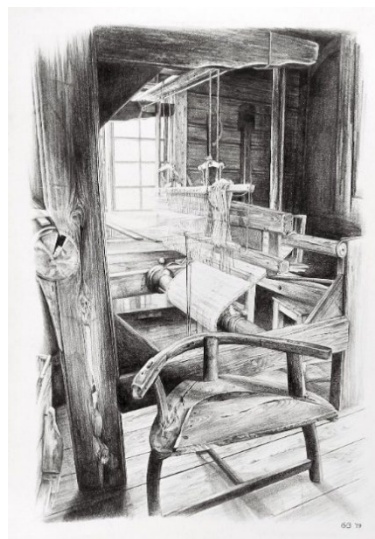
- Art-historical knowledge and cultural context.
- Reasons and reasoning behind the production of art/photography.
- Development/expansion of techniques and technical knowledge.
- The importance of visual observation.

Artists

**Required
(Task Time:4
hours)**

Drawing. It is crucial for artists to 'keep their eye in' with observational drawing. Please produce four pencil (or charcoal pencil) drawings (spending approximately 1-2 hours on each) from any of the following themes:

- Old objects/buildings/faces
- Wooden objects
- Interesting effects of light



Photographers

Required
(Task Time: 4 hours)

Martin Parr is one of the most widely known of contemporary social documentary photographers. Please listen to the interview between Martin Parr and John Wilson on Radio 4's *This Cultural Life*: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001kww6>

You should also visit the Martin Parr Foundation: <https://www.martinparrfoundation.org> and view some of the many photo galleries featuring the work of many photographers.

Practical photography for photographers: Please take approximately **forty photographs**, twenty from each of the themes below. You should then make a final selection of four in each category.

- i. This is England**
- ii. Look Closer**

Here are two of my own examples for each category:

This England	Look Closer
 <p data-bbox="611 1115 751 1137">Swarthmoor, 2003</p>	 <p data-bbox="991 1115 1230 1137">Appleby-in-Westmoreland, 2016</p>
 <p data-bbox="619 1435 740 1458">Harrogate, 2009</p>	 <p data-bbox="1002 1435 1219 1458">Hodge Quarry, Cumbria, 2023</p>

Artists and Photographers

Highly Recommended
(Task Time: 3 hours)

Go to an art/photography gallery/exhibition. If you are in a city such as London, Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh, Paris, Amsterdam, New York, there is really no excuse because there will be opportunities aplenty. More locally, there is the Abbott Hall gallery in Kendal and the Harris Museum, Preston. I would like you to make a few notes about your visit.

- Who were the artists/photographers?
- What were their concerns/special spheres of interest?
- Which were your favourite pieces and why?
- Did the exhibition connect with the spirit of our times, or was it apparently only concerned with the past?
- To what degree were the exhibits 'beautiful'? Does beauty matter in art/photography or is it an irrelevance?
- Was the exhibition mediated (i.e. conceived and displayed) in such a way as to exclude certain things or to emphasize a particular mindset?
- Above all, show that you have thought about the issues, themes, narratives behind the work as well as looking at the exhibits themselves.