



# Photography GCSE

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206/subject-content/photography>

Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Heads of Department
GCSE Photography	AQA	8206	L. Bassant and S. Williams

**Course Information** Photography is a very popular choice at GCSE, with our students being extremely successful in the subject. If you are considering a career in the Creative Industries, or simply enjoy the idea of taking photographs and manipulating them on Photoshop or by hand, this is the option for you.

On the course, you will experience a range of disciplines used in the Creative Industries, and quickly develop your skills to become confident at manipulating a variety of media under the guidance of highly skilled professionals. Students have access to digital SLR cameras, a photographic studio, backdrops and professional lighting. Students also have access to Photoshop which is an editing software used in the Creative Industries.

**Skills/Aptitude Required** Photography is not just about taking photographs. If you are creative and enjoy working on the computer then this is the course for you!

- You will learn skills that you will use in industry!
- Work to a brief like a professional photographer.
- Students will learn to interpret and create images using Adobe Photoshop.
- Over time, you will critically reflect upon your creative journey encouraging you to have independent views and opinions.

**Next Steps** Excellent step for any computer aided course at Level 3 including Photography and Graphic Communication.

**Future Careers** Animation, commercial photography, fashion photographer, filmmaker, fine art photographer, forensic photographer, industrial photographer, medical photographer, nature photographer, photographic illustrator, photographic technician, teacher, photojournalist, picture editor, researcher, social photographer, sports photographer, digital media, fashion photography, film and television, film and visual culture, forensic photography, graphics with photography, medical photography, visual communication, creative and editorial photography.

## The Course in Depth

*Note: These are the projects that we are currently delivering. However, the Photography team likes to keep up with modern trends, and some projects may change to allow the students to have an even broader experience.*

**Year 9 Topics Covered** Year 9 is a very important year as you expand and develop your knowledge in Photography. You will complete an introduction project and you will be learning how to use a digital SLR camera. You will have the opportunity to build your skills using Photoshop, which is an editing software program used in industry.

- The Photography briefs are:
- Alphabet Project: By looking for letters, you'll train your observation skills to seek out unusual subjects; an invaluable skill for any photographer!
  - Abstract Project: We study this genre of photography because it gives us scope to further explore the principle of composition: close-up and cropping. It also encourages us to record elements of visual language including pattern, texture and tone.
  - Travelling Cars Project: Builds upon your knowledge of composition and teaches you to use the more advanced compositional methods of using the 'rule of thirds' and 'leading lines'.
  - Ordinary to Extraordinary Project: Photography is an art of observation. It's about creating something extraordinary out of the ordinary. This project will challenge and further your observation skills.

**Year 10/11 Topics Covered** This is your sustained coursework project. You will be developing your knowledge of digital manipulation using some effective tools in Photoshop considering the concept 'Conceal & Reveal'.

- Photographing and revealing interesting textures around us.
- Developing ideas by investigating Kaleidoscope Photography.
- Developing surreal landscapes.

You will explore more advanced Photoshop tools and techniques including; layers, quick selection tool, rectangular marquee tool, elliptical marquee tool, polygonal lasso tool, transform, brightness and contrast, vibrance, colour balance, blend modes.

You will also have the opportunity to broaden your knowledge by taking photographs using props to conceal a person's identity. Props you will use are mirrors, smashed mirrors, glasses, fluted glass, etc. You will start becoming more independent by selecting processes and techniques that interest you.

**Internal Assessment** Coursework is 60% and the Exam is 40% of the marks for the final grade. The exam and coursework will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives:

- AO1: Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.  
AO2: Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials techniques and processes.  
AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.  
AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

**External Assessment** In Year 11, you complete the coursework or NEA (Non-Exam Assessment) and in January you will receive your exam paper. You will get to choose ONE of the questions and develop your ideas culminating in a 10-hour exam. Don't panic, this is done over several days. The Exam paper is issued to students well in advance of the examination to allow students to prepare their ideas fully and this preparation work is a considerable part of the final examination grade.