



A Level Photography

Key contacts: Miss H Leyman (Assistant Head of Creative Arts)

Exam Board: AQA.

Overview of the course:

The power of photography is to witness, to prove, to relate, to reveal, to celebrate, to protect and to explore. At Ivybridge College we teach you to develop your photographic skills using traditional 35mm and digital cameras. You will learn how to process, print and manipulate imagery in the darkroom in addition to developing your skills using Photoshop. You will also explore and experiment with manual manipulation using drawing, printmaking and photomontage. Researching and analysing photographers work is an integral part of the course and underpins the development of your ideas. The A Level Photography course allows you to explore a wide range of themes and concepts through your practical body of work.

What will you study?

At A Level, students will be introduced to a variety of experiences, employing a range of media, processes and techniques. These include: black and white film based photography and darkroom processes, digital photography, image manipulation and contextual studies. Students are required to develop a broad range of skills and then build upon their abilities, knowledge and understanding to a much greater depth of study. As the course progresses, staff will support you in becoming more independent as you develop your own creative direction.

Component 1: Personal Investigation (60%)

The A Level course commences with the study of core skills and developing confidence in the dark room. Students produce an extended collection of work that exemplifies aspects of their developing knowledge, skills and understanding. It should provide evidence of research, the development of ideas, making skills and critical/contextual understanding. It should demonstrate the student's ability to sustain work from an initial starting point to a realisation. Students develop work based on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. Practical elements should make connections with some aspect of contemporary or past practice of artist(s), designer(s), photographers or craftspeople and include written work of no less than 1000 and no more than 3000 words which supports the practical work.

Component 2: Examination Project (40%)

Students respond to a stimulus, provided by AQA, to produce work which provides evidence of their ability to work independently within specified time constraints, developing a personal and meaningful response which addresses all the assessment objectives and leads to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

Assessment:

The course is assessed in four areas, as follows:

- A01 – Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.
- A02 – Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops.
- A03 – Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress.
- A04 – Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.

Possible career path?

The opportunities for careers in digital media, TV, media based journalism and web design (all of which have their roots in Photography) have never been greater. Photography A Level makes a sound complementary study to A Level Art, and is aimed at a student's intent on further education in the Art sphere, for instance Foundation Art, Light-based or Lens-based Media courses, and also those who simply wish to maintain a creative element within their Tertiary education. With such a breadth of opportunity and experience on the course, and with your increased knowledge and self-reliance, you may decide to take your experience further. We have an excellent reputation for placing students into Art colleges and universities.

Entry requirements

Five GCSEs grades 5-9 including Mathematics and English. GCSEs in Art, Photography and/or Textiles at Grade 6 or above.