

Post-16

A-Level Art and Design – AQA

A-Level Art students at Shelley College are expected to complete the full A-Level rather than sit the AS in year 12 and A-Level in year 13. We feel that completing the two qualifications could disadvantage students and instead have given them the time to develop their skills and knowledge in year 12 before quality assessing the work they would like to take forward into year 13.

If students start the course and know that they do not wish to continue study into year 13, there is the opportunity to sit the AS Level to ensure that are recognised for the time they have spent in year 12. This would be discussed as and when appropriate for each student.

The study of A-Level Art and Design follows the same assessment criteria and aims as the GCSE. It is expected that students develop their skill levels by using the sixth form art studio in 'free time' and a developing a deeper understanding of their own and others art practice via gallery visits.

The course is a mixture of coursework (60% of the awarded grade) and exam (40% of the awarded grade), but the majority of the study including the exam is practically based. Students are required to select their own area of study for their personal investigation (coursework project) and must explore a number of key factors to ensure that they are successful against the assessment criteria:

AO1 – artist research and how the student uses that research to inform their own work.

AO2 – idea development and media experimentation in response to their research.

AO3 – practical and written observations, e.g. drawings, annotations, photographs appropriate to their chosen theme.

AO4 – project journey and appropriate final outcome.

Each of these assessment objectives is equally weighted at 25% of the total mark. When students complete the exam project, they follow the exact same process and assessment. The only exception to that process is that the exam board gives students 8 starting points to select from to base their project around and the final outcome is created (without teacher support) within three 5hour sessions sat in exam conditions.

There is a written requirement, which forms part of the personal investigation (coursework project) in the form of 1000-3000 words. This is primarily image analysis, process analysis, explanations and justifications of students' selection of artists and own development of their work.

2016 results:

A*- B – 69%

A*- C – 93%

A*- E – 100%

Average grade - B

You can find more resources by following the links:

[AQA A-Level Art and Design](#)

Departmental staff and roles:

Mrs C Cheesbrough – Head of Art

Mrs C Johnson – Teacher of Art

Mrs J Holdsworth – Teacher of Art (part-time)

Mrs R Hesmondhalgh – Teacher of Art (member of the SLT)

Mrs G Reynolds – Art technician