

A Level Art and Design FAQs



Do I need to buy any art equipment?

All the resources you will need to complete your Art A Level will be provided for you. You will also be able to use the specialist equipment such as the pottery wheels and printing press on an independent basis, once you have taken the induction. You may wish to buy a small amount of your own art resources, such as good quality drawing pencils and a small set of watercolour paints and acrylic paints to enable you to work independently on tasks at home.

What projects and topics will I study?

The A Level course starts with a skills building project 'Order and Chaos', you will study painting and drawing, ceramics, textiles, sculpture, photography and a variety of printing techniques. You will then develop your own project on the theme of 'Order and Chaos' for the rest of year 12. In Year 13 you will create your own theme and topic to study, with the guidance and support of the art teachers. For your exam, you will be given a choice of several different topics set by the exam board; you will choose one of these to study.

What materials will I be working with?

You will be encouraged to work with as many different materials and learn many different art techniques and processes as possible. We have the facilities to work with clay and ceramic glazes, printing techniques such as lino and intaglio printing, using the printing press, and textiles processes using art textile techniques such as felt making, fused fibres and using a sewing machine.

Can I choose to do my own style of artwork?

You will be encouraged to develop your own creative styles within the topics and subjects chosen to study by your teachers.

Are there any trips?

Yes, we have a trip to London in Year 12 and another in Year 13. You will visit The National Gallery, Tate Britain, The Victoria and Albert Museum and Tate Modern. The Box, in Plymouth has also recently opened and a visit to see the artwork and artefacts there will also be planned.

How is the course structured?

OCR Art and Design A Level is compiled of 60% coursework and 40% exam. Your coursework and your exam will be assessed on four Assessment Objectives. Each Assessment Objective is 25% of the final grade. You will also need to write a Related Study essay, which will compliment your independent work in Year 13.

The coursework begins in September of Year 12 and completed in January of Year 13. The exam is unlike normal exams – you are given the exam questions approximately 10 weeks before the exam, you choose which one to work on with teacher support, and then you spend the time before the exam preparing, working on your observations and recordings, artist studies and developing your own ideas for a final outcome – this prep work counts for 75% of your exam mark. The exam itself takes three school days, during which you will create a final piece of artwork.

Useful websites and resources

- OCR Exam Board - <https://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/art-and-design-h200-h600-from-2015/>
- The Box - <https://www.theboxplymouth.com/>
- The National Gallery - <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/>
- Tate Modern - <https://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern>
- Tate Britain - <https://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-britain>
- Tate St Ives - <https://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-st-ives>
- Barbara Hepworth Gallery - <https://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-st-ives/barbara-hepworth-museum-and-sculpture-garden>
- Royal Albert Memorial Museum - <https://rammuseum.org.uk/>
- The V & A - <https://www.vam.ac.uk/>

Art Department Contacts

- **Mr O Hurd – Thomas** Head of Art ohurd-thomas@plymstockschool.org.uk
- **Miss S Graves** sgraves@plymstockschool.org.uk
- **Miss N Clarke** ncclarke@plymstockschool.org.uk
- **Mr A Barnes** abarnes@plymstockschool.org.uk
- **Mr P Muncaster** pmuncaster@plymstockschool.org.uk
- **Miss G Buck (Technician)** gbuck@plymstockschool.org.uk