

**The Controlled Test/ Exam = 40% of your overall GCSE grade.  
The preparation you do over the next 12 weeks will make up  $\frac{3}{4}$   
of the total Controlled Test/ Exam grade.**

**A good exam can improve your final result by one whole grade  
i.e. a 4 grade can become a 5 grade.**

**A poor Exam could take you from a 4 grade to a 3 grade.**

**PREPARING FOR YOUR  
GCSE ART EXAM  
12 WEEKS TO GO!  
2026**

**HWK**  
**GET YOUR  
PHOTOS  
TAKEN  
STRAIGHT  
AWAY SO YOU  
CAN GET  
DRAWING**

**Start by mind mapping the themes on the test paper, select the  
most interesting and the easiest one to take your own photos  
for.**

# Art GCSE questions...

## 1. Nature

Artists, craftspeople and designers have found the natural world to be a rich source of inspiration. Kurt Jackson is an environmentalist who aims to capture the atmosphere and fragility of the natural landscape in his paintings. Printmaker Jenny McCabe uses collagraph techniques to create images of birds commonly seen in fields and hedgerows. Entangled roots, leaves and branches feature in the huge lino prints by Aga Kubish. Abstract sculptures by Richard Hunt combine natural and geometric forms and Claire Benn works with earth pigments and organic dyes to emphasise her connection to nature. Explore relevant sources and develop your own response to Nature.





## 2. Lost and found

Practitioners often change or combine found objects to create new works. Painter Juliette Belmonte incorporates paper and fabric scraps in her decorative portraits. Bwom (helmet masks) by the Kuba people of Democratic Republic of the Congo are embellished with cowrie shells and other found materials. Lisa Kokin assembles salvaged objects and old photographs within discarded books to give them new meaning. Lauren Downton considers the history of the objects she finds and rearranges in her *Chronicles* and *Otherworld* series. Joana Vasconcelos makes large-scale installations using craft processes such as crochet, to cover found and mass-produced items. Study appropriate sources and create your own response to *Lost and found*.







### 3.Time

A fascination with the concept of time has informed the work of many artists.

Janet Echelman connects ancient and contemporary technologies in her fibre sculptures, inspired by traditional Indian fishing nets. Filmmaker Rhiana Bonterre considers the similarities and differences between the past and present in her time-based artworks.

In his Rain Shadows series, Andy Goldsworthy has used his body as a stencil to make images that only last for a short period of time. Julie Kraulis combines precise realism with distortions of scale in her watch drawings, *Making Time*. Imagined rituals from ancient times are depicted in *The Druids: Bringing in the Mistletoe* by George Henry and Edward Atkinson.

Hornell Investigate suitable examples and produce your own response to Time.





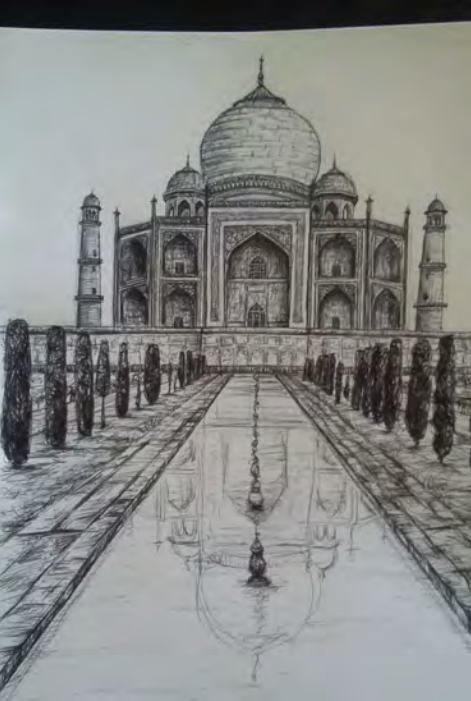


- **4. Interiors**

Many artists have produced work for or about interior spaces. Olafur Eliasson created the illusion of a huge sun in his site-specific work for the Turbine Hall at Tate Modern.

The interiors of plastic bags are transformed into cave-like landscapes in photographs by Vilde Rolfsen. Tonal contrasts create atmosphere in the prints of staircases, hallways and libraries by Finnish artist Elina Luukanen. In his Barbershop series Hurvin Anderson explores themes of memory, identity and social experience. Emma Prempeh considers Ideas about identity and the home in her paintings of domestic interiors. Research relevant examples and create your own response to Interiors.





## • 5.Magnificent

Impressive people, places or objects can be described as magnificent. Afruz Amighi considers light and shadow in her work *My House, My Tomb*, inspired by the beauty of the Taj Mahal. The imposing Chandelier series by Dale Chihuly is **comprised** of ornate and richly coloured blown-glass pieces. Dramatic British landscapes feature in etchings by printmaker Norman Ackroyd. In the *Lion King* theatre production, costume designs by Julie Taymor suggest rich cultural influences and strong character traits. Sumptuous garments worn by Queen Elizabeth I in the *Armada Portrait* symbolise wealth, power and majesty.



- **6.Isolation**

Ideas about separation and connection have been explored by artists in response to the theme of isolation. To make connections with other creative practitioners during the COVID-19 pandemic, Tracey Meek developed a collaborative chain letter project called [Isolation] Art Mail. Jason Wilsher-Mills makes huge sculptures inspired by the comics and television programmes he enjoyed whilst ill and isolated in hospital as a child. Photographs in The Polar Silk Road exhibition by Gregor Sailer feature functional buildings in the remote Arctic landscape. Francis Bacon suggested isolation by separating figures from their surroundings in his paintings. In Nighthawks by Edward Hopper, the arrangement of figures suggests loneliness.

- Consider relevant examples and make your own work in response to Isolation.







- **7.Movement**

The theme of Movement can be interpreted in many ways. Refer to appropriate sources and develop your own interpretation of Movement, or respond to one of the following:

- (a) figures moving within a crowded space
- (b) the use of colour in paintings associated with the Fauvist art movement
- (c) 'Movement': a performing arts company requires work to be displayed in their studio space to express the movement of dance. END OF QUESTIONS





# BE PREPARED FOR YOUR Controlled Test

## Week of the 27<sup>TH</sup> April

- YOU WILL NEED TO HAND IN ON THE LAST DAY OF YOUR Controlled Test :
- ALL 5 INITIAL DRAWINGS
- YOUR ARTIST'S PAGES
- ALL 5 MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS
- ALL 3 COMPOSITIONAL LAYOUT IDEAS FOR THE FINAL PIECE
- YOUR FINAL PIECE CREATED IN THE 10HOURS OF CONTROLLED TEST TIME.

REMEMBER  
YOUR FINAL PIECE  
DOES NOT NEED TO  
BE FULLY FINISHED  
BUT YOU SHOULD  
MAKE SURE A  
GOOD AMOUNT IS  
FINISHED TO YOUR  
BEST LEVEL.

### WHERE DO I GET MY MARKS?

AO3 – INITIAL RECORDINGS/ DRAWINGS/ OWN PHOTOS = **24 MARKS**

AO1 – LINKS TO MY ARTIST IN MY DEVELOPMENTS AND FINAL PIECE, MY ARTISTS PAGE = **24 MARKS**

AO2 – MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS IN THE STYLE OF MY ARTIST, FINAL COMPOSITION IDEAS LINKINF WITH MY ARTIST = **24 MARKS**

AO4 – FINAL PIECE = **24 MARKS**

# WEEK ONE –Jan 12th

- **CLASS – INITIAL DRAWING 1** - this can be in any media (choose your best), tonal pencil, pencil crayon, biro, mono print. Ideally work from your own photographs.
- Remember to make it as accurate and detailed as possible. Use a grid method or light box to help with accuracy. You must include tonal shading.

**HWK – Complete 2<sup>nd</sup> Initial Drawing.**



# WEEK TWO – Jan 19th

- **CLASS – INITIAL DRAWING 3** - this can be in any media (choose your best), tonal pencil, pencil crayon, biro, mono print. Ideally work from your own photographs.
- Remember to make it as accurate and detailed as possible. Use a grid method or light box to help with accuracy. You must include tonal shading.

**HWK –Complete Initial Drawing 4.**

# WEEK THREE – Jan 26th

- CLASS – INITIAL DRAWING 5 - this can be in any media (choose your best), tonal pencil, pencil crayon, biro, mono print. Ideally work from your own photographs.
- Remember to make it as accurate and detailed as possible. Use a grid method or light box to help with accuracy. You must include tonal shading.
- HWK -Make your artists research page - for use in your future developments.

**HWK – (Improve Initial Drawings as directed in feedback) and make your 1<sup>st</sup> artists research page**



# WEEK FOUR – Feb 2nd

- CLASS – INITIAL DRAWINGS 1,2,3,4 - these can now be finished off and improved this week after feedback from your teacher. Remember to make them as accurate and detailed as possible. Use a grid method or light box to help with accuracy. You must include tonal shading.
- Alternatively – if your teacher agrees you can start your second artists page.
- Remember to make it as accurate and detailed as possible. Use a grid method or light box to help with accuracy. You must include tonal shading.

**HWK – complete any improvements based on feedback from Unit 1 Main CWK Project.**

# WEEK FIVE – FEB 9<sup>th</sup>

CLASS –MEDIA DEVELOPMENT ONE- this can be in any media (choose your best) and must reflect the style of your chosen artist.

Remember to use your initial drawings and original photos as inspiration for your work.

8 weeks to your exam

**HWK –Continue to complete improvements for your Main CWK for Unit 1.**



# WEEK SIX – FEB 16<sup>TH</sup>

- **HALF TERM = FINISH / COMPLETE ALL IMPROVEMENTS FOR MAIN CWK UNIT 1.**
- **ENSURE YOUR SECOND ARTISTS PAGE IS COMPLETED.**

**HWK – ALL CWK SHOULD NOW BE COMPLETED.**

# WEEK SEVEN – FEB 23rd

- **CLASS –MEDIA DEVELOPMENT TWO-** this can be in any media (choose your best) and must reflect the style of your chosen artist.
- Remember to use your initial drawings and original photos as inspiration for your work.

**HWK –Finish off media developments 1 or 2 not completed in class.**



# WEEK EIGHT –MARCH 2nd

- **CLASS –MEDIA DEVELOPMENT THREE-** this can be in any media (choose your best) and must reflect the style of your chosen artist.
- Remember to use your initial drawings and original photos as inspiration for your work.

**HWK –Create Media Development four.**

# WEEK NINE – MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>

- **CLASS –MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FIVE-** this can be in any media (choose your best) and must reflect the style of your chosen artist.
- Remember to use your initial drawings and original photos as inspiration for your work.

**HWK – Create composition layout 1 & 2 for your final piece. Make this using photo shop, collage or by drawing. It must reflect your initial drawings, your photos, your developments and the style of your artist.**

# WEEK TEN – MARCH 16th

- **CLASS –MEDIA DEVELOPMENT SIX-** this should be in the media you have chosen for the final piece and must reflect the style of your chosen artist. It should be on the scale you will use in the final Controlled Test piece.

**HWK – Create 3<sup>rd</sup> composition layout for your final piece. Make this using photo shop, collage or by drawing. It must reflect your initial drawings, your photos, your developments and the style of your artist.**



# WEEK ELEVEN –March 23rd

- **CLASS –MEDIA DEVELOPMENT SEVEN** - this should be in the media your have chosen for the final piece and must reflect the style of your chosen artist. It should be on the scale you will use in the final Controlled Test piece. for the Controlled Test.

**HWK – Finish Creating 3<sup>rd</sup> composition layout for your final piece. Make this using photo shop, collage or by drawing. It must reflect your initial drawings, your photos, your developments and the style of your artist.**

# WEEK TWELVE –March 30th

- Catch up week = Acting on feed back from your teacher improve and finish any of your preparation pieces for the Controlled Test.

# WEEK –April 6<sup>th</sup> to April 18th

- EASTER HOLIDAY'S –Friday 27th March 2026 -Monday 13th April 2026
- **Finish off any incomplete work in preparation for the Controlled Test.**
- **You must come back having an agree composition you are going to use, all 5 initial drawings complete , 2 artists pages complete and 6-7 developments finished, along with 3 compositions of ideas you could produce in the exam.**



# WEEK Thirteen – APRIL 20th

- Finalise your composition – and transfer onto your card / paper for the Controlled Test (or other final piece media/ paper). You must time your self doing this.
- YOU ONLY HAVE THIS WEEK YOUR EXAM IS NEXT - TUESDAY/ WEDNESDAY/ THURSDAY.

**HWK – Ensure that you have completed all your preparation prior to starting the Controlled Test. Polish and finish any pieces in response to your teachers feedback to ensure you gain the maximum marks.**

# WEEK THIRTEEN – APRIL 27<sup>th</sup>

## EXAM WEEK!

- Ensure you have completed your final development & finalised your composition – be sure to transfer it onto your card for the Controlled Test by projecting it or mono printing it.

REMEMBER  
We only have two projectors - negotiate when you can project your final piece and don't leave it to the night before .

**HWK – Ensure that you have completed all your preparation prior to starting the Controlled Test. Polish and finish any pieces in response to your teachers feedback to ensure you gain the maximum marks.**

- GOOD LUCK!
- If you have prepared thoroughly you will produce a successful examination!

