



DEPARTMENT CRAFT & DESIGN

A-level **ART**

YEAR 12 TRANSITION WORK

Preparing for A-level Art at NWA

Hoping to study Art at A-level?

There are a number of things you can do:

1. **Developing as an Artist**– Build up a portfolio of work experimenting with different media and techniques from primary sources
2. **Preparing for the A-level course** – starting to explore different artistic movements and Artists that have inspired and shaped the artistic community

To be a successful artist you need to be willing to work independently and demonstrate perseverance through experimentation with new ideas. You also need to become resourceful with various ranges of media and techniques whilst linking contextual reasoning behind your investigation. As part of this you also need to aim to continuously master your skills throughout your journey by taking time through rigorous refinement of outcomes, accepting no less than perfection.

The Art world is not just about communicating through visual media but sharing contextual ideas and the celebration of how Artists have changed the world through history. As such we expect you also to continuously read up on the History of Art and how it has evolved from the expressive marks from cave paintings from the past to abstract contemporary sculptures and paintings of today.

At GCSE you covered a range of experimental techniques and made links to artists work with some refinement, Whereas in A-level will now focus on refinement of sustained practical skills to a higher ability and a strong foundation of the contextual reasoning and history behind your Art work.

This project has been designed to help prepare you for the transition between GCSE and A-level Art insuring you maintain your high level of artistic skills as well as develop your contextual understanding of what Art is and how we use it to communicate ideas, thoughts and feelings

Developing as an Artist

Starting Points

The Open University has a range of over 1000 free online learning courses that anyone can complete.

The Art department would like you to complete the following free course so that it will develop your understanding of the contextual foundations of art and hopefully give you an example of what we expect by artistic links.

Art and visual culture: Medieval to modern

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/art-and-visual-culture-medieval-modern/content-section-0?active-tab=content-tab>

Note: In order to complete the courses fully, you will need to sign-up for an account and complete the reading and the quizzes. Once the course is complete, you will be awarded a Certificate of Participation; you will need to print this out (or take a picture of it) and bring it to your first Art lesson of Year 12.

Many other courses are available which may be of interest to you. This is a great resource for you to continue your learning; and will be an excellent practise for future learning, especially for university.

Your assignment to Prepare for A-level Art

We would like you to make structured notes and evidence your knowledge of Vanitas Art from all three websites provided below, which you will use for the start of your coursework. You will use these notes to help you with the research at the end of this document where you will need to show your findings

Reading Material relevant to project

What is Vanitas Art?

<https://www.britannica.com/art/vanitas-art>

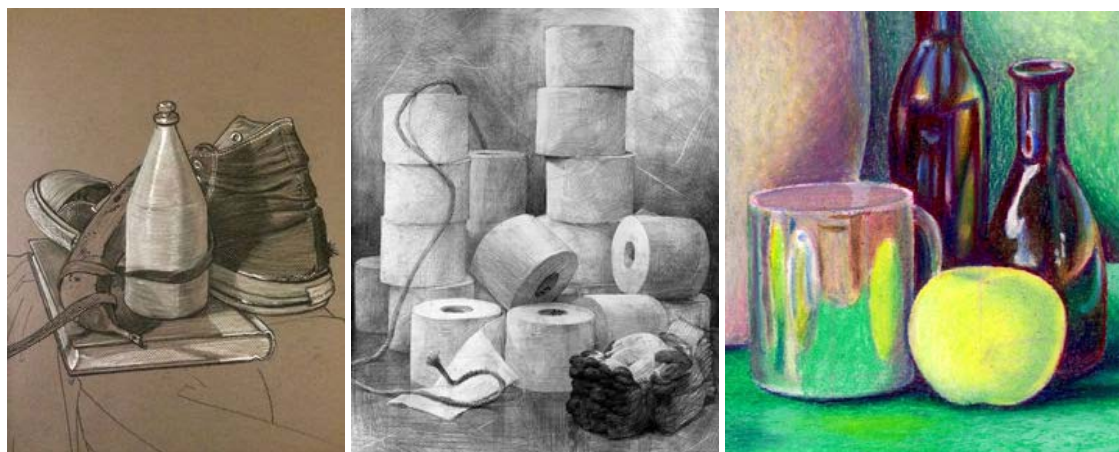
<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/v/vanitas>.

An Exploration of Vanitas: The 17th Century and the Present

<https://artsandculture.google.com/usergallery/oAKis1oFVGZ1KA>

Task 1. Produce several still life object observational drawings of objects from a primary source of your choice using a wide range of different media
Remember to use different viewpoints and think about scale /enlargement. Please also remember that lighting of your object and tone of your drawing is particularly important when drawing a sustained image.

For help there are plenty of step by step tutorials focussing on the formal elements of illustration techniques when drawing from a still life.



Task 2: Using the research notes on Vanitas from the links we gave you, prepare at least three sides of A3 to show your findings. This can include your own drawings, photos, written personal responses to the research etc. Make sure you clearly comment on how contemporary artists have responded to Vanitas and comment on which key features allow us to identify the work as Vanitas.

Task 3: Investigate a Vanitas Artist of your choice and discuss their work and produce a range of artists responses including pastiches where you have combined your own image with the artists style and versions of the artist's work using a different media of your choice.

Task 5: Create a new still life installation using different methods of recording light through photography. Good hint is to use household lamps in a dark room and position them in different corners to help with light reflection and tone. Also placing white sheets are helpful to avoid any distraction around the object and reflect light back into the camera.

Task 6: Begin to explore how you could produce a response to Vanitas using a still life composition of your choice using a combination of your photography work, your artist research and early drawings experimenting with different media.

Task 7: Produce a large-scale final outcome based on your developmental work using your choice of media. (We recommend A1 or larger on MDF board) This will be completed once we are back in school.



A-level Art at NWA

At NWA we follow the Educass A-level. You will have two examined components...

Component 1 Personal investigation

This is a practical investigation supported by written material worth 60% of your overall mark. You are required to conduct a practical investigation, into an idea, issue, concept, or theme supported by written material and must be identified independently to lead to a finished/ series of related finished outcomes.

In A-level art your investigation should be a coherent, in-depth study that demonstrates your ability to construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning from an initial starting point to a final realisation. It must also show clear development from initial intentions to your final outcome/ outcomes and your ability to research and develop ideas related to relevant critical/contextual materials. The investigation must be informed by an aspect of contemporary or past practice of artists, photographers, designers, or craftspeople as well as ensuring all written material demonstrates understanding of creative decisions.

Your investigation will be assessed following the same format as GCSE Art using 4 key Attainment objectives

AO1: Develop

AO2: Refine

AO3: Record

AO4: Present

Component 2 Externally set assignment

This is a separate question papers will be provided for each title. Each question paper will consist of a choice of eight questions to be used as starting points. You will be required to select **one**. You will be provided with an examination paper just like in GCSE, where you will have to independently plan for a final piece which you will complete in exam conditions.

Preparatory period - Following receipt of the paper you will select a starting point and start to prepare a working portfolio that will be presented in any suitable format, such as mounted sheets, design sheets, sketchbooks, workbooks, journals, models and maquettes.

Supervised time (15 hours) -Following the preparatory period, students must complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised time to conclude your project.