

# Three Dimensional Design EXAM PROJECT PLANNER 2026

**Your exam is worth 40% of your final GCSE grade.**

**You will be assessed on four Objectives each equally weighted at 25%.**

**AO1** - Develop ideas through investigations, Demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

**AO2** - Refine work by Exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

**AO3** - Record ideas, Observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.

**AO4** - Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

**You can access 75% of your final grade before the timed test.**

**GCSE ASSESSMENT  
OBJECTIVE**

| Learning  |                        |           |  | Assessment Objective | Deadlines   |
|---|------------------------|-----------|--|----------------------|---|
| PLANNING OVERVIEW   | 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan    | Week 1    | Exam question & Initial research                                   | AO1                  |   |
|   | 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan   | Week 2    | Research pages   |                      |   |
|   | 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan   | Week 3    | Research pages - AO1 completed, and grades submitted               |                      | <b>AO1 Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan (Twilight)</b>  |
|   | 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan   | Week 4    | Recording from primary and secondary sources                       | AO2                  |   |
|   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb    | Week 5    | Experiment & Record 2 - Media exploration                          | AO3                  |   |
|   | 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb    | Week 6    | Experiment & Record 3 - Ideas and development                      |                      | <b>AO3 Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb (Twilight)</b>  |
|   | 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb   | Week 7    | Experimentation – development of ideas                             | AO2                  |   |
|   | 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb   | Half Term | Homework – Personalised to each pupil                              | AO3                  |   |
|   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> March  | Week 8    | Experimentation – development of ideas                             | AO2                  |   |
|   | 9 <sup>th</sup> March  | Week 9    | <b>Fine Art Pre-public</b><br>Final Piece design boards            | AO2                  | <b>AO2 Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March<br/>Proposal documents</b>                                 |
|   | 16 <sup>th</sup> March | Week 10   | Exam prep<br>Presentation boards completed by the end of this week | ALL                  | <b>All evidence presented on<br/>display boards<br/>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March (Twilight)</b> |
| <b>GCSE EXAMS 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH – 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL. THIS IS THE LAST 25% OF YOUR GCSE GRADE</b> |                        |           |  |                      |   |

Note: All deadlines are the last lesson of the week stated.

You have 9 Homework tasks to complete over the 10 weeks, these homework's are to support evidence needed for each assessment objective and add to your final GCSE grade. The department is open break, lunch and afterschool. Friday OPEN STUDIO is an excellent time to develop work independently with specialist materials on hand.

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| <b>WK 1</b><br><b>Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>  | <b>Visual Mood Board.</b> Use Pinterest and internet searches to gather imagery and research on your chosen theme. You can also add text with key descriptive words. Layout and presentation are important for this task.  | <b>AO1</b>                   |
|   | <b>INVESTIGATION TASK – 1<sup>st</sup> Artist investigation Page:</b> Artist relating to question – Independent choice. Your own opinion and analysis are important because it demonstrates why you have made your choices. Comment on – why have you chosen the artist? How is the style going to influence you in your own work? You must identify a movement that this artist/ designer is part of. Make notes on this movement. How does his work connect with your mood board? How can you use the knowledge learnt from your artist to develop your ideas? |                              |
| <b>Homework 1</b>                             | <b>Recordings – photographs based on your research.</b> You need to take a set of photographs in response to your first artist. These will be used to record (draw) from in your lessons. Think carefully about the composition and lighting, photographs need to be uploaded to OneDrive and printed as a contact sheet. Complete 1 <sup>st</sup> investigation page (Artist 1).  | <b>AO3</b><br><br><b>AO1</b> |
| <b>WK 2</b><br><b>Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Jan</b> | <b>INVESTIGATION TASK – 2<sup>nd</sup> Artist investigation Page.</b> Independent choice<br>Same requirements as in the 1 <sup>st</sup> task. This should give you a wider opportunity to gather ideas. Look back at your digital mood board to inspire you. This artist could be somebody you have come across in your first investigation. THERE SHOULD BE SOME CONNECTION OR COMPARRISONS BETWEEN YOUR FIRST AND SECOND ARTIST. You will also need to complete an artist study in a suitable media.   | <b>AO1</b>                   |
| <b>Homework 2</b>                             | <b>Recordings – photographs based on your research.</b> You need to take a second set of photographs in response to your second artist. These will be used to record (draw) from in your lessons, photographs need to be uploaded to OneDrive and printed as a contact sheet. Complete 2 <sup>nd</sup> investigation page (Artist 2).  | <b>AO3</b><br><br><b>AO1</b> |
| <b>WK 3</b><br><b>Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Jan</b> | <b>INVESTIGATION TASK – 3<sup>rd</sup> Artist investigation Page.</b><br>You should ensure that out of the 3 investigation pages one is a historical artist who has lots of written information about their work online/books.<br>Produce a series of artist studies this week to support your AO1 grade. <div data-bbox="1794 1125 1960 1252" style="background-color: yellow; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">           TWILIGHT<br/>23<sup>rd</sup> Jan         </div>   | <b>AO1</b>                   |
| <b>Homework 3</b>                             | <b>Pencil /biro drawing from one of your own photographs.</b> This needs to have a high level of detail<br>You may need to take another set of images to support your development of ideas.  | <b>AO3</b><br><b>AO1</b>     |
| <b>AO1 DEADLINE</b>                           | <b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. The investigation work will be submitted as your final AO1 grade. 25% of overall grade.</b>   |                              |

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| <b>WK 4</b><br><b>Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Jan</b> | <b>TASK – Recording from primary and secondary sources</b><br>You need to produce a series of drawing studies from your own photographs (primary source) and internet images (secondary source). It is important that you produce at least one sustained pencil drawing that shows your skills in creating accurate shape, detailed line and a range of tonal values.                                  |   | <b>AO3</b> |
| <b>Homework 4</b>                             | <b>Second Pencil /biro drawing from one of your own photographs. This needs to have a high level of detail. You may need to take another set of images to support your development of ideas.</b>   |   | <b>AO3</b> |
| <b>WK 5</b><br><b>Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb</b>  | <b>Experiment and Record 1</b><br><b>TASK – Refining ideas</b><br>Begin to develop ideas in response to your theme and artists. You will be starting independent experimentation. You must record all experimentation in the form of write-ups that clearly show your thought process and use of media experimentation. You can begin presenting work on boards this week. Record development of ideas | <b>Workshops</b><br>This is an opportunity to record and explore ideas and materials. This will be based on the processes of your artist with your own concepts and ideas as your work progresses. The workshops will be tailored to your individual project. You will have discussed three media processes that are suitable with your class teacher. This is independent work, and you are responsible for decisions around selection of materials. |            |
| <b>Homework 5</b>                             | Ensure Write-ups are completed from the weeks practical's  |   |            |
| <b>WK 6</b><br><b>Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>  | <b>Experiment and Record 2</b><br><b>TASK – Refining ideas</b><br>At this point you should have a clear idea of how your project is developing. Discuss your ideas with your teacher.  |   |            |
| <b>Homework 6</b>                             | Ensure Write-ups are completed from the weeks practical's  |   |            |
| <b>AO3 DEADLINE</b>                           | <b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb. All recordings (photographs and drawings) to be submitted to form your final AO3 grade. 25% of overall grade.</b>   |   |            |

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| <b>WK 7</b><br><b>Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>                  | <b>Development of ideas</b><br><b>TASK – Produce 3 idea designs for final outcomes.</b><br>Think about linking in all your research and most successful experimentations. Annotate these design ideas to explain your thinking.  | School Pre-Publics. You are likely to miss some of your lessons. You still need to manage your time and liaise with your teacher on your individual progress. | <b>AO2</b> |
| <b>HOMEWORK 7</b>  | <b>Feb ½ term week</b><br><b>Catch-up opportunities – Your teacher will have discussed your AO3 submission with you. You may need an additional pencil drawings or photographs to support your recording grade. Your teacher will advise on personal HW tasks.</b>   |   |            |
| <b>WK 8</b><br><b>Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>                 | <b>Development of ideas</b><br><b>TASK – Final design idea</b><br>Identify your best design, discuss this with your class teacher and finalise your best idea. Discuss materials, time scales and any additional preparation work that is needed. You will be making a small sample of this idea as part of your pre-public exam so you need to be clear on what to do.        |   | <b>AO2</b> |
| <b>Homework 8</b>  | <b>Independent work</b>  |   |            |
| <b>WK 9</b><br><b>Mon 9th March</b><br><b>Pre-Public Exams</b> | <b>PRE-PUBLICS</b><br><b>You will have a 3-hour session to practice and test out your final idea. This needs to be in a mock up form. This is designed to practice your skills and identify areas that need to be developed and refined before the 10-hour timed test. Record and document all of your experimentation for your display boards.</b>                            |   | <b>AO3</b> |
| <b>WK 9</b><br><b>Mon 9th March</b>                            | <b>TASK – Proposal document/planning and organisation of materials</b><br>Develop and refine your chosen idea further by completing an exam <b>proposal document</b> It is important to complete the proposal document by the end of this week. This will help you to plan your 10-hour exam and provide a materials list for the department technician to source and prepare. |   | <b>AO2</b> |
| <b>Homework 9</b>  | <b>Independent work</b>  |   |            |
| <b>WK 10</b><br><b>Mon 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>               | <b>TASK – Presentation Boards</b><br>Throughout the 10 weeks you will have been presenting your work on display boards. This is your last week to ensure that all your work is presented creatively and orderly showing evidence that addresses all the assessment objectives.   | <b>TWILIGHT</b><br><b>20 March</b>  | <b>ALL</b> |

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|  | <b>TASK – Prep</b><br>Any specialist preparation should be done at this point such as priming boards, laser cutting shapes, prepping print making, arranging clay slabs etc. Make the full 10 hours count...what can you do before the exam to make best use of the time in the exam. We recommend that you come and set up your exam table the night before your exam to ensure that you are fully organised and can start the exam promptly and confidently. |                     |
| <b>Homework 10</b>                           | Work must be 100% complete before the exam starts. <b>ANY OUTSTANDING WORK NEEDS TO BE COMPLETE</b> Fill in the gaps from boards/ What is missing. Have you addressed all assessment objectives evenly?  | <b>ALL</b>          |
| <b>PRESENTATION DEADLINE</b>                 | <b>All work must be completed, printed, mounted and presented. For Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March.</b>   | <b>ALL DEADLINE</b> |
| <b>Week 11<br/>Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b> | <b>EXAM SESSIONS</b>   | <b>AO4</b>          |

| <b>Easter Holidays 3rd April to 17th April (2 weeks)</b>   |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>The remainder of the course will be allocated to refining your coursework (Component 1)</b><br><b>Your Component 1 is worth 60% of your final GCSE grade.</b><br><b>You will be assessed on four objectives each equally weighted at 25%.</b><br><b>AO1 - Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.</b><br><b>AO2 - Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.</b><br><b>AO3 - Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.</b><br><b>AO4 - Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.</b> |               |
| <b>Mon 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>   | <b>Week 1</b> |
| <b>Mon 27<sup>th</sup> April</b>   | <b>Week 2</b> |
| <b>ALL COURSEWORK SUBMITTED FRIDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MAY. FINAL EXAM BOARD DEADLINE</b>   |               |
| Marking and Standardisation (5 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> May)<br>Raw marks available 15 <sup>th</sup> May lunchtime in AD4  |               |