



Careers in...

Art

Advice for Year 10 & Year 11 Pupils



Why study Art?

Art GCSE offers a unique combination of creativity, critical thinking, and practical skills. It allows you to explore visual communication, self-expression, and cultural influences. Beyond just making art, this subject helps you develop transferable skills that are valuable in a wide range of careers and industries.

Art GCSE opens the door to an exciting range of possibilities in the creative world and beyond, equipping you with the skills and confidence to turn your passion into a career.



1. Explore Career Paths in Art

The creative industries are diverse and constantly evolving. Studying Art can lead to careers such as:

- **Fine Artist:** Express your ideas through painting, drawing, sculpture, or installation.
- **Graphic Designer:** Work in branding, advertising, or digital design.
- **Illustrator:** Create artwork for books, magazines, and multimedia.
- **Architect:** Combine creativity with technical skill to design buildings and spaces.
- **Animator:** Bring stories to life through 2D or 3D animation.
- **Fashion Designer:** Innovate in clothing and accessory design.
- **Art Therapist:** Use art to support mental health and well-being.
- **Curator or Art Historian:** Work in galleries or museums, managing collections and exhibitions.

Other opportunities include roles in photography, set design, interior design, teaching, or marketing within the creative industries.



2. Skills You Gain From Studying Art

Art GCSE provides you with a broad skill set that is highly valued across many fields, including:

- **Creative Thinking:** Developing innovative ideas and visual problem-solving.
- **Practical Techniques:** Mastering drawing, painting, sculpting, and digital tools.
- **Observation and Analysis:** Understanding form, colour, texture, and perspective.
- **Resilience:** Learning through experimentation and refining your work.
- **Collaboration:** Working with peers on group projects or exhibitions.
- **Time Management:** Meeting deadlines for coursework and creative projects.



3. Subject Combinations and Education Pathways

Pairing Art GCSE with subjects like Design Technology, English, History, or ICT can complement your artistic journey and broaden your career options. Further education pathways in the UK include:

Colleges:

Courses in Fine Art, Graphic Design, Photography or Fashion.

West Lancashire College

West Lancashire College provides Level 2 and Level 3 Art and Design courses designed to develop skills across various disciplines. These programs serve as a foundation for careers in the industry or further education.

www.westlancs.ac.uk/subject-areas/art-and-design/16-18-college

Blackpool and The Fylde College

This institution offers a Higher National Certificate (HNC) in Art & Design (Illustration & Design), suitable for those aiming to start a journey in illustration or graphic design, with progression to Higher National Diploma (HND) and Bachelor of Arts (BA) (Hons) options.

www.blackpool.ac.uk/course/da1he008

Runshaw College

Runshaw College provides a variety of Art and Design courses, including Graphic Design, Fine Art, Ceramics, and Photography, catering to different artistic interests.

www.runshaw.ac.uk/area-of-study/art-design

Lancaster & Morecambe College

This college offers Art and Design programs that develop transferable skills applicable to existing and emerging job roles, with access to industry-standard facilities and specialist tutors.

www.lmc.ac.uk/art-design

Blackburn College

Blackburn College provides a Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design, awarded by the University of the Arts London (UAL), offering experience in art, design, and media subjects, preparing students for work or higher education.

Universities:

Degrees in Art and Design, Architecture, or Animation at institutions like Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London, and Manchester School of Art to name but a few. Nearer to home, you have:

University of Central Lancashire (UCLan)

UCLan offers a comprehensive range of undergraduate courses in Art, Design, and Fashion, including Animation, Fine Art, Games Design, and Photography. These programs emphasize studio-based learning and provide opportunities to showcase work in dedicated galleries.



www.uclan.ac.uk/subjects/art-design-and-fashion

Apprenticeships:

Opportunities in areas like graphic design, photography, or set production for hands-on experience and apprenticeships can help you identify the pathway that aligns best with your interests and career goals in the creative arts.

<https://findapprenticeshiptraining.apprenticeships.education.gov.uk/courses/542>

Apprenticeships in Art and Design

While specific apprenticeships in Art and Design within Lancashire may vary, opportunities exist in related fields. For instance, the Creative Digital Design Professional (Integrated Degree) Level 6 apprenticeship offers digital design solutions across various sectors.

Additionally, the national apprenticeship website provides information on various creative and design apprenticeships, including roles such as broadcast and communications technical operator, fashion and textiles pattern cutter, storyboard artist, and photographic assistant.

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices/browse-by-interests/creative-design

4. Art in the Real World

Art is everywhere, shaping our culture, environment, and ways of communicating. Whether it's advertising, product packaging, architecture, or entertainment, creative professionals leave a lasting impact. Careers in the arts can promote innovation, foster community engagement, and drive trends in design and media.

5. What Can You Do Now?

Year 10:

- **Explore:** Visit art galleries, exhibitions, and museums to gain inspiration.
- **Practice:** Build your portfolio by experimenting with different media and techniques.
- **Get involved:** Join art clubs, participate in competitions, or volunteer in community art projects.

Year 11:

- **Focus on coursework:** Develop a strong portfolio and refine your practical and analytical skills.
- **Plan for the future:** Research post-GCSE courses or apprenticeships that align with your interests.
- **Network:** Talk to teachers, career advisors, and professionals about career opportunities in the arts.



Useful Resources

- **National Careers Service:** Explore career pathways in the creative industries.
- **Creative Skillset:** Offers insights into careers in film, TV, animation, and gaming.
- **Tate Kids:** Provides inspiration and educational resources for young artists.
- **Local Art Colleges and Universities:** Visit open days to discover courses and pathways.

