**Preparing for A Level Art or a college based Art course?**

Whether you want to study art at A Level or are interested in studding art at college on a vocational course, here’s some things you can do to develop your understanding of art, craft & design further:

**1. Developing as an Artist** – lookout for virtual exhibitions which are now being streamed online by many artists and galleries. Also look at reading arts based articles in broadsheet newspapers or by watching videos or artists at work on YouTube to discover new techniques and ways of working. Why not listen to cultural / arts based podcasts etc. to develop your general artist and art movement knowledge and understanding.

 [The Art Story – this website focuses on modern and contemporary artists and has a great, clear layout making it easy to use. This is the best example I have found of presenting key information about an artist alongside analysis of their work and context. The writing style and ideas are accessible too, so students can get high quality information on the 319 artists currently featured.](https://www.theartstory.org/artists/)

[art2day – a fantastic resource for finding fine artists and photographers to inspire students or link the their individual projects. There are sections focused on different media which you can browse through, or there is a search function (though you have to donate to the site to gain access to this). The A level exam theme will also be featured on the website from 2nd February.](https://www.art2day.co.uk/)

[Artcyclopedia – Students looking for an online replacement for heavy art history books will find what they need on Artcyclopedia. This online encyclopaedia includes information on everything from great artists to movements.](http://www.artcyclopedia.com/)

[ArtDaily – Art Daily is an online newspaper that covers art events around the world.](https://artdaily.com/index.asp)

[Saatchi – Saatchi is a worldwide online art gallery. The site was created for art students who want to meet others around the globe, display work, and get critiques.](https://www.saatchigallery.com/404error.htm)

**2. Prepare a sketchbook** to take along with you to the start of your new course, fill this with sketches, photographs and images from newspapers and magazines which inspire you. This book will come in handy as a starting point for any future arts project …

[Student Art Guide – brilliant for exemplar sketchbooks to inspire students and help demonstrate teachers’ expectations.](https://www.studentartguide.com/featured)

[PhotoPedagogy – aside from excellent resources for photography, this site also features some great student sketchbooks with accompanying notes.](https://www.photopedagogy.com/student-sketchbooks.html)

 **3. Prepare a portfolio** to show arrange of drawing skills. Include work of different scales and materials to demonstrate your skills. This could be a development of your GCSE work or studies created based on new themes or experiences.

**4. Extending your arts skills further** the web links below all offer ways to develop extra skills, most have online tutorials available:

[Photoshop.com](https://www.photoshop.com/) – Every art student has worked with Adobe Photoshop at one point. This online version is similar, allowing you to edit, get ideas, share, and store—all while working directly on the web.

[DeviantArt](http://www.deviantart.com/) – DeviantArt is an online art community where students can share work, chat with others, get critiques, and sell work. The forums on this site are an excellent place to find jobs and more.

[MyFonts](http://new.myfonts.com/) – This innovative site is for web designers who aren’t sure exactly what font they want to use. My Fonts allows you to search fonts, has font identification, and font experts for guidance.

[Tutorialized](http://www.tutorialized.com/tutorials/Photoshop/1) – Tutorialized is a tutorial website loaded with thousands of free tutorials for Photoshop and Flash. Students can find tutorials that range from the basics to creating web layouts.

[QVectors](http://qvectors.com/) – QVectors has free, quality vector images that will fit any student’s needs.

[MorgueFile](http://www.morguefile.com/) – MorgueFile is a free public image archive. Art students can find loads of high resolution images that can be used for personal or commercial projects.

[Art Tutorials Wiki](http://artwiki.wikidot.com/) – Art Tutorials Wiki is a free tutorial site for technical and digital artists. In addition to tutorials, the site also features free stock images.

[ArtLex](http://www.artlex.com/) – With over 3,600 art terms, ArtLex is an all-inclusive art dictionary. This handy website is a great reference for artists, students, and educators.

[Art Studio Chalkboard](http://studiochalkboard.evansville.edu/) – The Art Studio Chalkboard assists artists with the technical fundamentals of painting and drawing. Created specifically for art students, this online source teaches shading, colour, and perspective.

[FreeStockPhotos](http://www.freestockphotos.com/) – Just as the name implies, FreeStockPhotos is an excellent resource to find photos for digital projects. Photos include a variety of landscapes–from weather and flowers to Athens and Egypt.

Below includes, websites, books, podcasts, documentaries and even films which provide a great way of staying inspired and engaging with geography.

**5. Exploring the Arts Award Qualification** the web link below will take you to the arts award website. Many post 16 providers offer the ‘Gold Level’ of this award in the arts, why not explore their website:

<https://www.artsaward.org.uk/site/?id=64>

**6. Exploring Arts Careers** there are many different careers that an arts qualification can lead onto. Why not explore this site below to see which type of job may suit you best:

<https://www.studentartguide.com/articles/art-careers-list>