



IB Visual Arts HL and SL

The Visual Arts are an integral part of everyday life, permeating all levels of human creativity, expression, communication and understanding. They range from traditional forms embedded in local and wider communities, societies and cultures, to the varied and divergent practices associated with new, emerging and contemporary forms of visual language. The IB Diploma course encourages students to challenge their own creative and cultural expectations as well as boundaries. It is a thought-provoking course in which students develop analytical skills in problem-solving and divergent thinking, while working towards technical proficiency and confidence as art-makers. In addition to exploring and comparing Visual Arts from different perspectives and in different contexts, students are expected to engage in, experiment with and critically reflect upon a wide range of contemporary practices and media. The course is designed for students who want to go on to study Visual Arts in higher education as well as for those who are seeking lifelong enrichment through Visual Arts.

Content

The IB Visual Arts core syllabus consists of three equal interrelated areas:

- Visual Arts in context
- Visual Arts methods
- Communicating Visual Arts

Students are required to investigate the core areas through the exploration of the following practices:

- Theoretical practice
- Art-making practice
- Curatorial practice

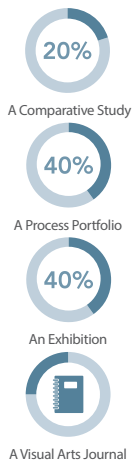
The course content for higher level (HL) and standard level (SL) students is similar. The main difference is that HL students have more time and opportunity to investigate in depth, develop ideas, and refine skills/ outcomes. Furthermore, HL students are expected to submit a larger body of work than SL students.

Assessment

For assessment, students will be expected to combine all they have learnt from the Visual Arts in context, Visual Arts methods, and communicating Visual Arts Core Syllabus areas and produce/ submit:

- Part 1: A Comparative Study (20%, externally marked)
- Part 2: A Process Portfolio (40%, externally marked)
- Part 3: An Exhibition (40%, internally marked)
- A Visual Arts Journal

The Visual Arts Journal is not assessed in its entirety, but it underpins every aspect of the course and contributes directly to the work submitted as part of the Process Portfolio.





A Level Fine Art and/or Photography

Exam Board: Edexcel

The Art Department offers linear A Level courses in both Fine Art and Photography (i.e. no AS qualifications). These continue to build upon GCSE and encourage advanced idea development, sustained investigations, selective experimentation, observational recordings and informed personal responses as well as analysis, critical understanding, review, refinement and reflection. Although a GCSE pass is not a prerequisite of the course, students should be able to demonstrate ability equal to a 6 or above.

Content

Fine Art disciplines	Photography disciplines
■ Painting and drawing	■ Film-based photography
■ Printmaking	■ Digital photography
■ Sculpture	■ Film and video
■ Lens-based image making	

Components	Method of Assessment	Weighting
Component 1 - Personal Investigation:		
■ Supporting studies	■ Internally set	
■ Practical work	■ Assessed by the teacher	
■ A personal study (12% of the total qualification)	■ Externally moderated	
Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment:		
■ Preparatory studies	■ Externally set	
■ 15 hour period of sustained focus (i.e. the exam)	■ Assessed by the teacher	
	■ Externally moderated	

Students who wish to achieve a full A Level must complete Components 1 and 2.

General

The Department has five studios and two darkrooms. Art and Photography Clubs take place several afternoons a week but A Level students can work in the Sixth Form studio any time they like between 9.00 and 17.00.

A Level Fine Art and Photography students lead by example. Hence, they play an essential role in all collaborative events arranged by the Art Department (e.g. the Big Draw). Staff and students also enjoy regular field trips and visits to local/national museums and galleries.

