



Specification: AQA Art and Design: Fine Art

For specification and further information visit the AQA website at <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/as-and-a-level/art-and-design>.

Books

The following books would be very useful preparation for the course, and are also a great read. The first two, by Gombrich and Berger are key reading.

- **E. H. Gombrich, *The Story of Art*** –
The Story of Art, one of the most famous and popular books on art ever written, has been a world bestseller for over four decades. Attracted by the simplicity and clarity of his writing, readers of all ages and backgrounds have found in Professor Gombrich a true master, and one who combines knowledge and wisdom with a unique gift for communicating his deep love of the subject.
- **John Berger, *Ways of Seeing*** –
John Berger's *Ways of Seeing* is one of the most stimulating and influential books on art in any language. First published in 1972, it was based on the BBC television series about which the Sunday Times critic commented: 'This is an eye-opener in more ways than one: by concentrating on how we look at paintings . . . he will almost certainly change the way you look at pictures.' By now he has.
- ***Art Now!* By Taschen-**
There are multiple versions of this book which gives a visual insight into what is going on in contemporary Art. Well worth owning to reference throughout the course and also highlight which artists and types of work most appeal to you.
- ***Movements in Modern Art*, By Tate-**
Tate has a huge series of books in modern art looking at all the significant movements over the last 120 years. If you are interested in a specific movement they are a great introduction.
- Charity shops are also great places to pick up Art books at very reasonable prices and begin to build your own collection.

Gallery Visits

One of the best ways to learn about artists, discover new artists and explore different media used in art is to visit galleries and see the work first hand. With London being located so close it is well worth a trip up town with a note book. List the artists you like and you may be able to study them down the line, and as you can see below they all have great free exhibitions on offer. ALL OF THE GALLERIES BELOW ALSO HAVE VERY GOOD WEBSITES WHERE YOU CAN LOOK AT, & READ ABOUT A RANGE OF DIFFERENT WORKS.

- TATE Britain – FREE
- TATE Modern – FREE
- National Gallery – FREE
- National Portrait Gallery – FREE
- Saatchi Gallery – FREE
- The White Cube Gallery – FREE
- The Serpentine Gallery – FREE



Practical Activities

One of the best ways to develop your ability in all aspects of the subject is to practise. To improve your drawing, painting and photography you need to practise. Try some of the following and they will also help build your portfolio of work. I would expect to see at least 1 piece created over the summer using the media below. Produce work based on the theme ***Personal Histories***.

- **Practice with acrylics & watercolours** – Create painted copies of your favourite artworks; by doing this you will learn about the process used by artists. Alternatively, you could paint a still life or landscape or just create your own paintings.
- **Practise drawing** – Complete tonal drawings of still life, facial features, natural forms or drawn copies of artworks. Focus on developing accurate tones and strong contrasts between light and dark areas. Practice makes you better!
- **Photography** – Visit <http://www.photographymad.com/pages/view/10-top-photography-composition-rules> which highlights the 10 key rules of photography and then go out and practise. Play with different ways of taking photographs and if you have Photoshop or access to similar manipulation software use this to alter your photos.
- **Practise with other media** – If you want to develop your knowledge, understanding and skill with different media and techniques you need to practise. This might involve working with clay, print-making techniques, digital media or anything else you might want to specialise in.

Other suggestions

- Read articles about art in the news, in magazines and on the internet.
- Look out for art related film releases and TV shows.
- Visit gallery websites, art college websites or use the internet to look for courses to join such as life drawing or sculpture workshops. There are courses available for pretty much anything; however, they require a bit of research before joining. They can be free or involve a cost, but well worth the money as they are fun and developmental.