



Art and Design

The Art & Design GCSE is a broad-based course which provides an excellent foundation for a diverse range of design-related and creative careers. It involves a wide variety of activities including drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, digital photography and image manipulation.

What will I learn about?

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How will my work be assessed?

COMPONENT 1: Portfolio of Work (60%) You will complete coursework projects which allow for the development of individual interests and you are encouraged to work in a wide range of media. The collection of visual research through drawing and photography is essential and regularly evidenced in sketchbooks. The course allows for a certain amount of freedom but at the same time seeks to establish a sound knowledge of techniques and processes. The sketchbook is at the heart of the creative process.

COMPONENT 2: Externally set Assignment (40%) This component involves selecting a starting point from an exam paper set by the examination board. The exam paper is handed out in January and you will then prepare for a final piece of practical work which is produced in 10 hours under exam conditions in April. You may choose any medium and are encouraged to work to your strengths.

Commonly Asked Questions:

Do you have to be good at drawing to do GCSE?

No, not necessarily. Some people have skills in other areas such as making in 3D and can still succeed but you must be prepared to work hard in order to improve your skills in all areas.

Can you specialise in one area such as painting, printing or ceramics?

You will have opportunity to do this towards the end of the course; however, to begin with you will work in a range of areas until you discover your strengths.

Is there any written work involved?

Yes, you are expected to research and analyse the work of other artists and designers as part of each project and to show how this influences your own practical work. This can be presented in a creative way either on display boards or in sketchbooks. You will not have to write separate essays or sit any written exams.

Which students are most suitable for GCSE Art & Design?

Anyone who wants to follow a career in a creative or design-related field, wants to study A Level Art & Design, loves the subject and just has to draw, paint, sculpt or would like a practical subject to complement their academic workload.

Who can I speak to for more information?

For further information about Art & Design please speak to Miss Bettey, Curriculum Area Leader: Art or contact options@penistone-gs.uk.