



# AS and A-level Art and Design: Where could it take you?

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Student guide

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# Why choose art and design?

Art and design is about using your creative and analytical skills to explore the world around you, working across a range of media to start developing your practical expertise. Whether you want to pursue a career in the creative industries or complement your other subjects, AS and A-level Art and Design have a lot to offer.

## What will I study?

AQA offers the following titles:

- **Fine art:** develop your understanding of the creative process and learn to communicate visually. Areas of study include everything from painting, drawing to installation and sculpture.
- **Graphic communications:** develop an effective personal visual language. Areas of study include interactive media, advertising and design for film and television.
- **Photography:** take this opportunity to look, learn and communicate ideas in a way that is personal to you. Areas of study include portraiture, documentary photography, fashion photography and experimental imagery.
- **Textile design:** develop skills across a broad range of textiles techniques including fashion textiles, costume design and digital textiles.
- **Three-dimensional design:** learn how to select appropriate materials for three-dimensional projects and experiment with texture and surface design. Areas of study include environmental design, jewellery design and product design.
- **Art, craft and design:** this broad based course allows you to draw from two areas of study from fine art, graphic communications, photography, textile design and three-dimensional design.

Not all titles are available at all schools or colleges – please check with your teacher which titles are available for you to study.

## How will I be assessed?

- At AS you will produce a **portfolio of work** for component 1 which counts for 60% of your total AS marks. In component 2 you will produce **personal work** in response to one of five exciting starting points which will count for 40% of your total AS marks.
- At A-level for component 1 you will develop work for a **personal investigation** into an idea, issue, concept or theme supported by written material. This will count for 60% of your total A-level marks. In component 2 you will produce **personal work** in response to one of eight exciting starting points which will count for 40% of your total A-level marks.

## Where will AS and A-level Art and Design take you?

As well as giving you the chance to creatively engage with the world around you and develop technical skills, the study of art and design equips you with transferable skills that will support you in both further study and a range of careers.

### Possible degree options

A-level Art and Design can prepare you for a range of degree courses including:

- 2D and 3D animation
- fashion and textile design
- film and media studies
- game design
- illustration
- product design
- photography
- set design.

Find out more at [aqa.org.uk/art-options-flyer](http://aqa.org.uk/art-options-flyer)

“I was on a fantastic A-level Art and Design course that encouraged us to keep developing our individual styles. Studying photography was most exciting when I began experimenting in the darkroom.

I recently graduated with a first-class honours BA in photography and am working as a Gallery Assistant while creating my own practice. Working in the creative industry is where ideas can blossom and become reality.”

**Chanté De-Terville, Gallery Assistant**

A photo from the series *Limbo* created by Chanté De-Terville in 2015.

## What skills will I learn?

Alongside the practical expertise you'll develop in your studies, you'll also learn transferable skills valued in both higher education and the world of work:

- analytical thinking
- creative problem solving
- working independently
- research methods
- understanding how context shapes meaning
- how to communicate effectively.

## How will it fit in with my other subjects?

The analytical and creative problem solving elements of the course will support you in a range of subjects from history, English, business or film studies through to biology, chemistry, physics and maths. Art and design also teaches you how to learn from your experiences and work independently – skills valued by employers and higher education institutions alike.

## Can't wait to get started?

Your teacher and career adviser will be the best people to help you decide whether art and design is the right course for you. They'll be as keen as you to find the best subjects to develop your talents.

For more information visit  
[aqa.org.uk/art-and-design](http://aqa.org.uk/art-and-design)