



The Thomas Hardy School

Summer Preparation Task

Photography A Level

Purpose of task:

The purpose of the task is to develop the students understanding of a visual response to a theme, issue or idea. This piece will contribute towards your first Photography project and mark. Details of the task for all students to complete is in the box below.

In addition, for students wishing to take photography but **who have not taken GCSE Art** there is a requirement to produce a portfolio of work. **This portfolio is part of the entry requirement and should be brought with you to Enrolment Day. This is in addition to the summer task.**

Portfolio guidelines for students who have not taken GCSE Art.

- Either digital or print form
- Approximately 12-15 images that demonstrate: -
 - The student's ability to sustain a line of enquiry (a topic, theme, issue of interest to them could be explored, resulting in at least 6 connected images)
 - An ability to work through a project in unexpected and imaginative ways.
 - An ability to draw inspiration from respected artists/photographers.
 - The portfolio should reflect an experimental, risk taking approach.

Recommended resources:

www.lensculture.com

<http://thephotographersgallery.org.uk>

www.tate.org.uk

www.saatchigallery.com

www.royalacademy.org.uk

www.creativeboom.com

www.aestheticamagazine.com

Additional Information:

Required Stationery and Equipment for A Level Photography

Students will need to buy a photography starter kit at the beginning of the course. Photography kit and all other materials are available to buy on parent-pay

Photography student starter kit contains:

A2 folder

A3 hardback sketchbook

A3 semi gloss paper (x10 sheets)

1x Pritt sticks

Total cost: £16.00p (prices may vary)

- Owning your own digital camera is essential with SD card (The department has a small number of cameras that can be used on short loan if needed).

Essential/ other equipment

- A film camera (35mm SLR) would be an advantage later in the course.
- Memory card reader (to download photographs from digital cameras that fits the card of your camera)
- Scissors
- Memory stick or hard drive to back up and store work 16GB or above

Things to Consider Throughout the Year

Students will need to pay for digital paper, darkroom paper, film and some other essentials (like sketchbooks) throughout the course and are the main drain on finances. Costs will vary weekly throughout the course.

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Photography Summer Task:

Students are expected to make a series of visual responses to the words below and should interpret and explore these words in imaginative and creative ways. Complete the whole task on power point with maximum of 20 slides. **Choose 3 words** from the list below, and research the meaning. Write down your initial ideas/ approaches to each word. Evidence this on the power point.

Research photographers/ artists' work. Using websites (see recommended resources at top of page) find 2-3 different photographers and/or artists' work that you find inspiring (and has some link to your chosen word). Complete this for each of your chosen words. **Add images of work with name of artist/ date of piece and title to PPT slide. Then write a paragraph to explain...**

- Why you have chosen these photographers/ artists work?
- What you find inspiring and why?
- What ideas will you extract from your research that you will use in your own work?

For each of your chosen words, **make a slide showing 10 images you have shot exploring a range of different approaches to that word.** (This is your contact sheet).

Your images should show a range of approaches and should be inspired by your research in some way. Try to think conceptually about what you are trying to express. Is there a political, emotional, cultural or historical point you are trying to make? There needs to be some kind of philosophical depth or reflective process evident.

Next, ensure a selecting down process is made clear to demonstrate your decision-making skills. Do this by putting a clear mark next to your choices. **Select 4-6 images** (from your initial 10) and present alongside brief comments explaining your reasons for each selection. (2 images per slide).

These comments could discuss the composition/ colour/ line/ lighting/ concept/ aesthetic. You may add comments about one or more of the formal elements of art- line, tone, texture, shape, form, space.

Finally, select a final series** of 3-4 images showing your best images in response to ONE word.

Present one image per slide and write a short paragraph explaining: *** a series of images= 3 or more photographs that link visually and conceptually with the intention of being displayed together.*

- Why you have chosen each image:
- What is it you are particularly drawn to?
- What were you trying to capture?
- Why is the image successful?

Can you comment on the formal elements of your work? (line, tone, texture, shape, form, space, colour).

Can you comment on the concept or aesthetic?

Choose 3 words from the list below:

AUSTERITY	BELIEF
CONTROL	CONSUME
ISOLATE	TASTE
TEMPORARY	CHARACTER
SPECULATE	REFLECTION
REPAIR	JUNCTION

[Type

Deadline for Task: First lesson of the week commencing 14th September 2026