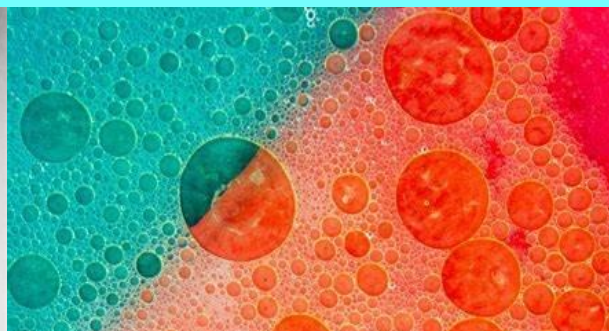
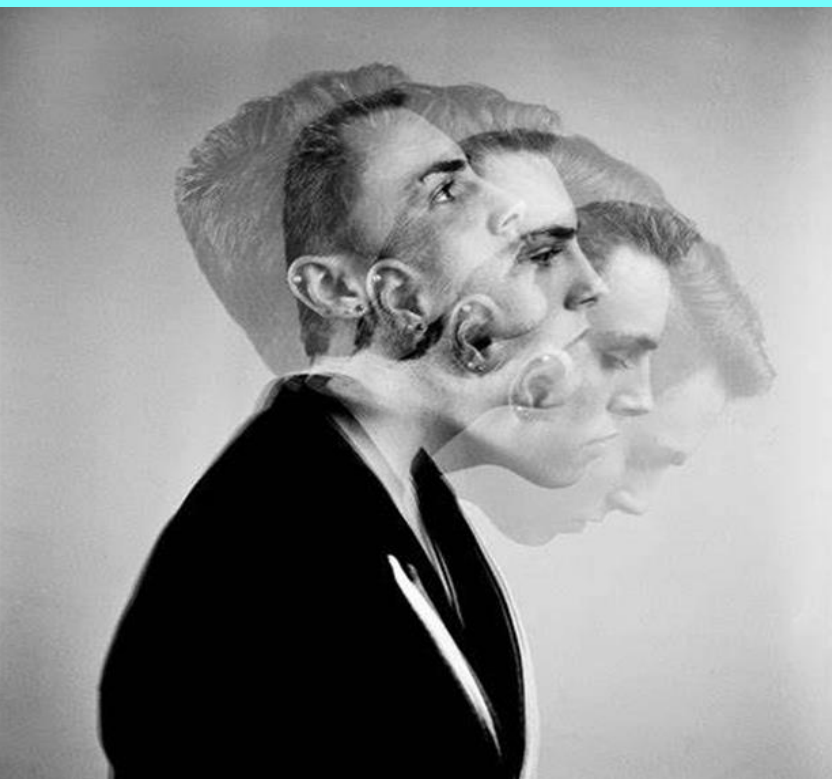




# The GCSE Photography Handbook



**Name:**



# Course Information

The Photography GCSE is made up of two elements, portfolio work and the final exam.

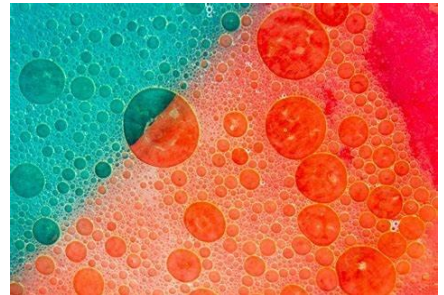
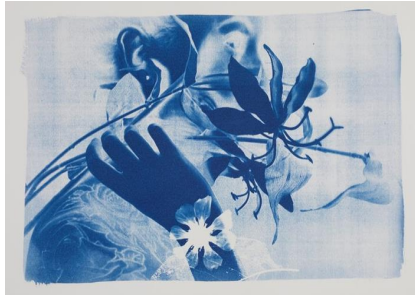
The portfolio work will be created in year 10 and the first term of year 11. You will work on 2 projects in this time and at the end of year 11 you will select your best work and submit this for marking. The portfolio mark will account for 60% of your final grade.

The exam will be 10 hours, spread over 2 days and sat at the end of year 11. You will have from the beginning of January to prepare for the exam and complete all your preparation work. You will be given a range of themes/ words by the exam board and you will have to select and investigate one of these for your exam work, making up 40%.

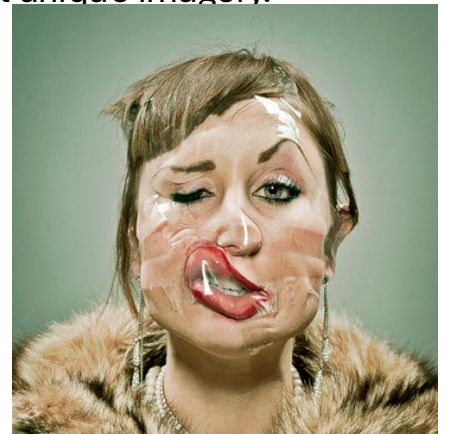
## Projects

Year 10 Over the course of year 10 you will be working on 2 different projects.

1. Still Life - The Basics. During this project you will gain an understanding of the photography principles, pattern, texture, colour, space and line. You will also explore composition techniques and the importance of lighting and focus. Through experimenting with different printing techniques, you will also develop skills in traditional photography, as well as how to use a smart phone camera and photoshop.



2. Distorted Portraits - Experimenting. During this project you will explore: a number of different photographers and artists who have used a range of physical and digital editing techniques to distort their images. This images is about thinking outside the box and stretching the imagination to present unique imagery.



# Projects

## Year 11

After the Christmas holidays you will be given the exam paper from the exam board. You will then have to select from one of the themes given and begin your preparation work. Your final 10 hour exam will take place in the spring term. All work completed for this exam will count towards 40% of your final mark.

## Teacher Feedback

Teacher feedback will be given verbally during lesson and by marking off the two trackers for each project. When a piece of work has been completed to a high standard, it will be highlighted on your tracker. The trackers can be found at the end of this handbook

## Other Websites and Resources



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/art/>  
Course advice and tips from the BBC



<http://www.pinterest.com/>  
A visual discovery tool that you can use to collect ideas for the different projects and themes (great for finding artists and other examples of GCSE artwork)



<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit-us/wpy/gallery/2014/index.html>

Images from the Wildlife photographers competition. This is an annual competition, which also has a category for young photographers.



<http://photofocus.com/>  
Photofocus is a helpful and educational resource for the aspiring and professional photographer. This is a "blogazine" style website that has content from accomplished photographers and artists.



<http://expertphotography.com/>  
Lots of tutorials and guides on how to achieve a wide range of photographic techniques.

# Assessment Objectives Explained

**A01** EXPLORE  
ANNOTATE  
BEGIN TO LINK A  
**THEME** IMAGES  
TO YOUR CHOSEN ARTIST'S WORK  
WRITTEN ANALYSIS  
LINK ARTISTS WORK TO  
IDEAS AND ARTWORK  
**ARTISTS**  
**RESEARCH**

**A03** IDEAS  
IDEAS LINKING TO  
ARTISTS WORK  
OBSERVATIONAL  
**DRAWINGS**  
ALL ARTWORK  
LINKING TOGETHER  
**PLANS**  
PLANS, DESIGNS  
IN A RANGE OF  
EXPLANATIONS  
DIFFERENT MEDIA  
ANNOTATION

**A02** EXPERIMENT  
WITH A  
DRAWING  
LINKING TECHNIQUES  
TO ARTISTS  
AND THEMES  
**RANGE**  
**TEXTILES** OF MEDIA  
MIXED MEDIA  
PHOTOGRAPHS  
**CLAY** WATERCOLOUR  
OIL PASTEL  
PEN AND INK

**A04** FINAL  
MEANINGFUL  
INFORMED  
RESPONSE  
LINK BETWEEN  
VISUALS AND ARTISTS  
PRESENTATION  
PIECE OF WORK  
SHOW UNDERSTANDING  
**LINKS**  
TO ARTISTS WORK  
**RELEVANT**

## A01: Develop Ideas

To gain marks in assessment object 1, you must show an understanding of the theme. By investigating the themes through **mind maps, mood boards, artist research**, you are showing a clear understanding of the starting point. The themes for Year 10 are **Still Life** and **Distorted Portraits**.

## A02: Experiment/ Refine

To gain marks in assessment objective 2, you must experiment using a range of different photographic techniques. You **MUST** have an element of drawing in your portfolio; however, this doesn't have to be traditional, it can be through sewing or mono-printing etc. Experimentation can come in all forms, collage, cyanotype, weaving, editing on photoshop. Refining an idea is practicing the technique in different forms until you reach a highly developed outcome. For example, if you are creating a collage, how could you develop it into the best version? Changing the composition, altering the colours, working in a different material...

## A03: Record

Assessment objective 3 is recording your ideas through annotations and insights. This can be in note form around ideas or experiments or written as full sentence paragraphs. Use the annotation guide on page 9 to help you get started. Remember to consider SPAG as this all counts towards your final mark.

## A04: Personal Response

A personal response is the outcome of your investigations and research throughout your portfolio. Think about how you can link your artist research, experiments and developments together to create a refined outcome. This can be in the form of a sculpture, series of edited photographs, a film, animation etc.

# Lighting

**Lighting** either natural from the sun, or artificial from streetlights, torches or light boxes etc, can be used as a tool to give narrative to your images.

Dark lighting creates a moody atmosphere, whilst bright lights create joyful, heavenly narratives. Think of it like a story, if it is a sunny warm day, something good is about to happen!

## Chiaroscuro

Chiaroscuro literally means “light/dark.” The term traditionally refers to Renaissance paintings where the subject is well-lit and three-dimensional, usually with exaggerated shadows and highlights, and a background that transitions into darker, heavily-shadowed areas.



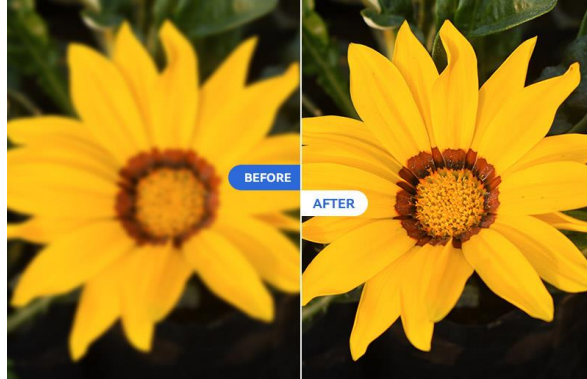
## Coloured Lighting

Coloured lighting can be used to portray varying emotions to the viewer. We relate emotions to colour, for example, red to anger, a photographer can use this technique to convey different narratives.

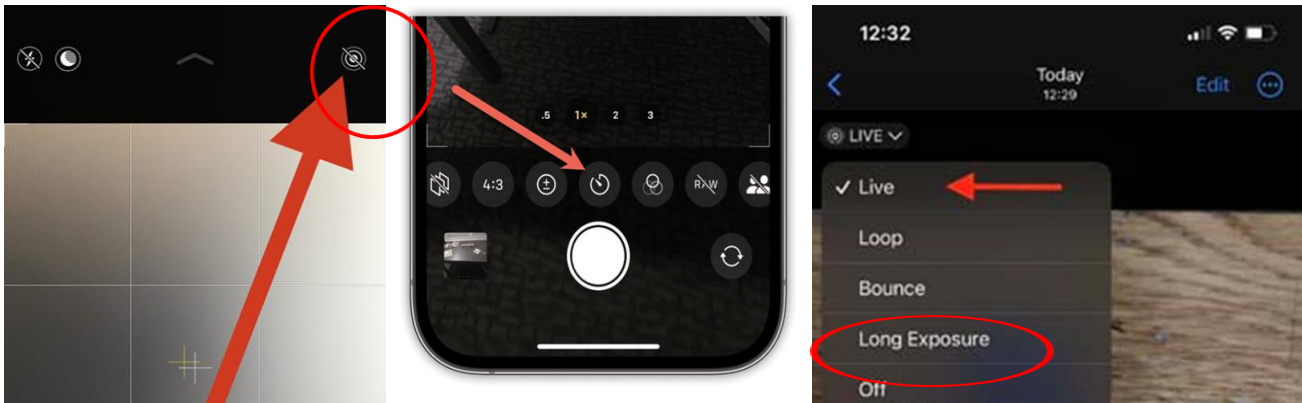


# Focus

Focus is how clear the subject within your image is.



Sometimes a photograph will intentionally blur part, or all of an image, for example by using the long exposure technique.



For iPhone:

- Enable Live Photos
- Set a timer min 5 seconds/ max 10 seconds
- Take your photo repeating the motion with the light (like a sparkler or torch)
- Go to live photos and change to long exposure

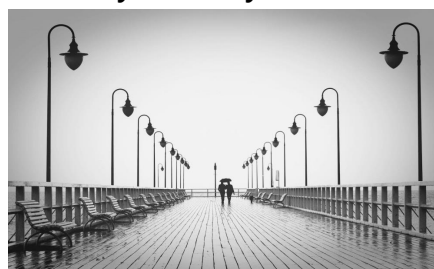


# Composition Techniques

**Composition in photography** refers to the arrangement of visual elements within the frame to create a balanced and aesthetically pleasing image.

Some composition techniques that are quickly achieved but have a big impact on the aesthetic of the image are:

- Leading Lines
- Frame within a frame
- Rule of Thirds
- Rule of Odds
- Golden Ratio
- Symmetry



Leading Lines



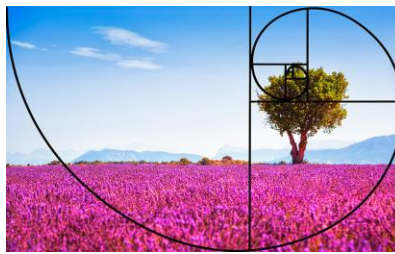
Frame within a frame



Rule of thirds



Rule of odds



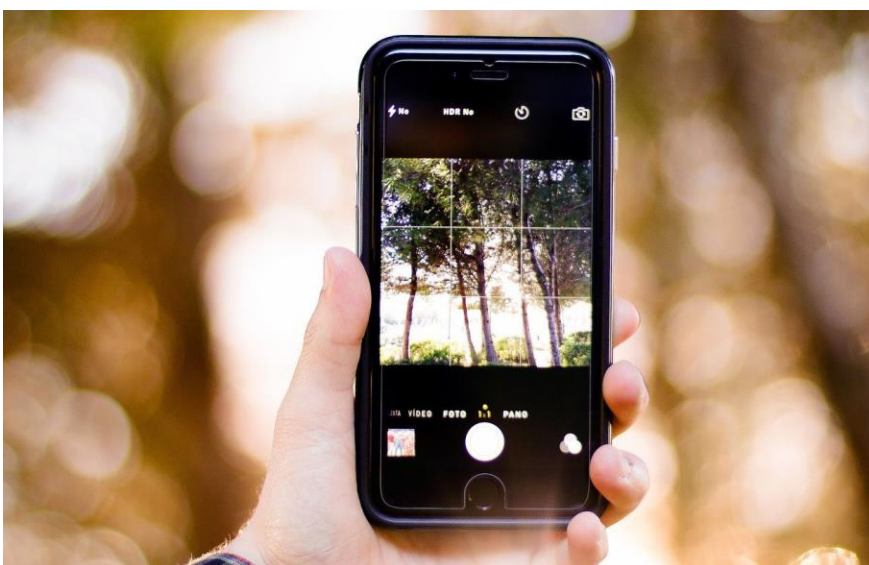
Golden ratio



Symmetry

Applying the Rule of Thirds grid to an iPhone camera in your settings:

- Go to settings
- Select camera
- Under the 'composition' heading, select grid



# Experimenting

Experimentation comes in many forms in photography, from physical editing to digital alterations on photoshop.

## Photoshoots:

**Macro-** zooming in to the image to capture the details and textures

**Lighting-** Playing around with light and dark and coloured lighting

**Props-** Using props such as bubbles to change the narrative of an image

**Costume-** Use a costume or clothing to give your image a new narrative

**Focus-** Focus your camera on the subject with a blurred background

**Filters-** Add coloured sweet wrappers to your camera to alter the colour and texture of your images

**Panorama-** take images using the in built panorama feature... portraits with this technique creates a weird and surreal outcome!

**Shutter speed-** Change the shutter speed to create distorted blurred images



## Physical editing:

**Drawing-** Draw over the top of an image in coloured pen to add a cartoon twist

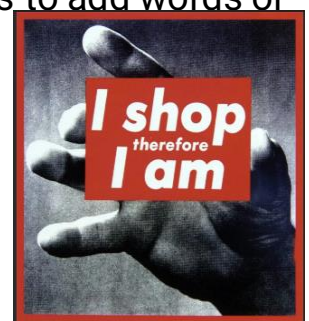
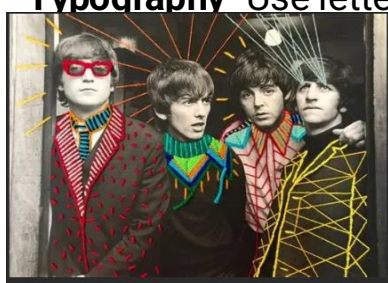
**Embroidery-** Sew in to your images

**Collage-** Cut up your photographs and re-arrange the layout

**Weaving-** Weave two images together to create texture and visual interest

**Silhouettes-** Cut out sections of your images with a craft knife to leave silhouettes

**Typography-** Use letters cut from magazines or newspapers to add words or phrases to your images



## Digital Editing:

**Filters-** Use the filter tool on your smartphone to add colours or textures to images

**Photoshop filters-** In photoshop use the inbuilt filters to change the style of an image

**Photoshop liquify-** Use this tool to swirl, blur and blend images to create surreal outcomes

**Crop-**



# A03 Record- Sentence Starters

**DESCRIBE**  
(What?)

**EXPLAIN**  
(How?)

**REFLECT**  
(Why?)

- For my photoshoot I will need...
- My photoshoot will be set at/in...
- This photoshoot is inspired by...
- The composition of this image is... because...
- My lighting could improve if I...
- For this image I needed to focus my camera... because...
- My best image is... because...
- My least successful image is... because...
- To further develop my images I could...
- I created this image by...
- Using photoshop I...
- Next time I would...
- I think using... worked really well because...
- I am particularly pleased with... and now I aim to...
- Through working in this way, I have learnt how to...
- To progress in this technique, I need to...

## Key Words

- Lens   Shutter   Exposure   Composition   Rule of thirds   Leading lines
- Symmetry   Balance   Contrast   Colour   Light   Flash   Reflector   Filter
- Close-up   Macro   Wide angle   Zoom   Focus   Manual focus
- Autofocus   Focusing point   Shutter speed   Time lapse   Slow motion