

What skills do I need??

You should be passionate about the creative arts and in particular researching, taking and making digital photography; enjoy exploring and researching art forms and working independently.

Good organisational skills and be prepared to write and reflect on your own work and that of other

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GCSE Photography

Exam Board: AQA



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Subject Guide Key Stage 4

GCSE
Photography

Exam Board:
AQA

Course starting September 2026



What will I learn?

GCSE Photography provides students with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore their interests in ways that are both personally relevant and developmental in nature.

In GCSE Photography you will produce projects exploring the work of photographers, learn about darkroom and digital techniques, explore independent ideas and experiment with editing techniques.

You are expected to be very creative and imaginative within the constraints of a brief. Homework will develop from what you do in class.

During the course our students develop personal attributes including self-

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Portfolio of work

This unit is worth 60% of the final award. Students will be given a selection of starting points for their portfolio and will base all their photography around these themes. You will produce research, developmental studies and final pieces. The emphasis is on using your own creativity and imagination to produce a portfolio that is relevant to yourself and includes your own ideas and designs.

Unit 2: Set Task

This unit is worth 40% of the final award. During the final year of the course AQA will provide you with a choice of starting points, of which one must be chosen by yourself. You will base your project around this starting point and will produce research and developmental work. The conclusive piece of the project will be produced in 10 hours under exam conditions.

How is this course delivered?

The course is delivered in three ways:

- Through practical skills based lessons which will help students gain new skills and techniques.
- Through encouraging independence and initiative in the students.
- Through whole class critiques where students will be given opportunities to comment on their own and others work.