

A LEVEL ART HISTORY



Course description

Awarding Body: EDEXCEL

Examinations

- Paper 1: Visual Analysis and Themes , 3 hours, 50% of qualification, 110 marks
- Paper 2: Periods, 3 hours, 50% of qualification, 110 marks

Non Examined Assessment

No coursework

Course content

Visual Analysis and Themes

For this unit you will develop the understanding and ability to undertake effective visual analysis; you will learn to analyse the formal characteristics of any work of art and architecture. You will study works both pre and post 1850, i.e. art in the academic tradition and modern art. We will study two themes 'Identity in art and architecture' and 'War in art and architecture'. In each theme you will learn four **key topics**: 1. Art historical terms and concepts; 2. Cultural, social, technological and political factors relating to specific artworks; 3. Developments in materials, processes and techniques; 4. Ways in which art has been used and interpreted by past and present societies. You will study both artworks and critical texts.

Periods

For this unit you will study 'the Renaissance in Italy' and 'Modernism in Europe'. As part of the Renaissance period, you will study Religious painting, sculpture and architecture; alongside mythological and secular works. This unit will also include motives for, and role of, patronage in 2D, 3D and architectural works. This unit sets the scene for the introduction of art in the academic style, that is to say the 'proper' way to make art and the rules that make the work so. As part of Modernism in Europe you will study the transition from work in the academic style and understand the development of 'modern art'. You will study the artists that broke and bent the rules, the reasons why they did so, be that technological advances or the introduction of new art academies such as Bauhaus. In both periods you will study the key topics as above and will study both art works and critical texts.

Entry requirements

You need to obtain a 7,8 or 9 in two of the following to study Art History at A level:
Art, DT, English Literature, RPE, History, Geography.

Future opportunities

Students can progress from this qualification onto higher education courses in related subjects, including Art History, History and Art and Design. A wide range of other higher education courses in other subjects also require the same analytical and interpretative skills that you will use in the Art History A level. Future careers could include work in museums and galleries and roles in sectors that require visual literacy and analytical skills, such as advertising, marketing, communications.

Further information

We expect you to visit galleries regularly throughout the 2 years to study artworks discussed in lessons.

The art department has links with Art History Link up at the Wallace collection, which is a Saturday school for History of Art and the Attract scheme at the Royal Academy of Art, which provides workshops for practical skills and support for applications to art based courses at university. We have current students enrolled on both programmes.