

When studying A-level Art and Design, it is important that you not only attend all of your lessons and complete all of your homework, but that you are also doing independent study. We would recommend that you are spending at least 5 hours a week on your independent study. In order for this study to be of maximum benefit, it is important that you do a range of different activities, you should be doing some from each of the boxes below. In addition, if you would like to stretch yourself beyond the A-level curriculum then have a look in the super-curricular box for ideas.

Content

One important part of independent study is making sure you have learnt all of the course content, below are some suggestions of things you can do to help learn the content in A-Level Art and Design:

- ✓ *Practicing techniques, particularly those that you find tricky at first.*
- ✓ *Researching the work of relevant artists, looking at context and meaning as well as visual language.*
- ✓ *Reading relevant articles, web pages and books.*
- ✓ *Visiting galleries and museums.*
- ✓ *Taking opportunities to create primary sources.*
- ✓ *Reviewing and refining your processes, techniques, and ideas regularly.*
- ✓ *Annotating your sketchbook as work progresses to personalize your work.*
- ✓ *Spending time in the studio outside of lesson times and completing work at home regularly to keep progress on track.*
- ✓ *Making yourself aware of the mark scheme and Assessment Objectives for the subject.*

Skills

Another important part of independent study is developing the skills to be able to succeed in the exams. Below are some suggestions to help you develop those skills:

- ✓ *Preparing and documenting thoroughly.*
- ✓ *Looking for challenging context / ideas*
- ✓ *Sticking to the project briefs, timescales and breakdowns given to you during the unit.*
- ✓ *Look for opportunities to extend a variety of ideas and techniques to show your technical ability in full.*
- ✓ *Be bold and take risks! Vary materials, approaches, techniques, and scale.*
- ✓ *Exploring a range of areas in depth before deciding on an area to refine further.*

Feedback

The final important part of independent study is getting and using feedback. Feedback allows you to understand what it is you need to do differently next time in order to improve. Below are some ideas about how you can use feedback:

- ✓ *One-to-one discussions with your teachers*
- ✓ *Using the checklists, feedback and planning sheets given to monitor your own progress.*
- ✓ *Checking against timescales, content, and expectations regularly.*
- ✓ *Marking your own work using a mark scheme and looking at online exemplar materials for the exam board. (EDUQAS)*
- ✓ *Reviewing your work and reflecting with other students in groups/pairs*

Super-curricular Art and Design

If you were considering studying art, design, or architecture at university, or you are just really interested in the subject, then you could complete some super-curricular activities. These are things which go beyond what is covered in the curriculum and includes things such as visiting galleries and museums, undertaking study trips, taking part in practical workshops, watching relevant documentaries, listening to podcasts, reading relevant journal articles, and reading relevant books. Keep an eye out on your class Teams page where details about local exhibitions, events and workshops will be posted.