

GET READY TO STUDY A LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

If you are planning to study A Level Photography with us in September, please review this document and complete the required activities. Please bring the completed activities with you at induction.

FAQ

What specification will I study?

You will be studying the Pearson Edexcel A Level Art and Design specification.

Use the weblink or QR code to read about the specification and you can also view past papers to see what the assessment looks like.



Edexcel AS and A level Art and Design 2015 | Pear...
qualifications.pearson.com

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/art-and-design-2015.html>

How many lessons will I have a week?

You'll have 4 lessons a week, each lesson is 1 hours and 10 minutes.

Who can I contact if I have a question about this subject?

Chloe Moulding: c.moulding@barnsley.ac.uk

What subjects go well with Photography?

Art and Design Fine Art, Media, English Literature, Performing Arts, Film, History

What grades should I have?

In addition to the general sixth form entry requirements, learners must have grade 5 or above in either Art and Design or Fine Art and a submission of a digital portfolio covering a range of media.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

For this A-level there are two components. Component 1 is 60% of your overall grade and component 2 is 40% of your overall grade. The 2-year course is split into four sections which are:

- Interim
- Personal Investigation Part One (PI Part One)
- Personal Investigation Part Two (PI Part Two)
- Externally Set Assignment (ESA)

Time period

Component	Dates from and to	Section
One	September – February 2025	Interim
One	February – June 2025	PI Part One
One	September – January 2026	PI Part Two
Two	February – May 2026	ESA

Component One (60%)

In this component you will create a large body of work exploring a wide range of materials, techniques and processes both formal and experimental. You will learn how to use specialist DSLR cameras and lighting, then using industry standard software you will create digital and physical edits, photobooks and more. Here you will also develop your researching skills, critical thinking, individuality and unique practical work.

Alongside your practical work you will also create a personal written study (Essay) which is 2000 words. This is started before the summer holidays in year 12 and submitted with your practical work in January 2026.

Component Two (40%)

In this component you will produce a body of work similar to component one, but on a much more concise scale. The exam board provide a new theme for the ESA every year, you will begin to create your own interpretation of the new theme, choosing techniques and processes that you have specialised in throughout the course, to showcase your ability and subject specific skills in preparation for a 15-hour formal practical exam at the end of the project.

WHAT WILL I NEED?

To study the course, you will need to purchase a 'Build a Kit **Base**' of compulsory materials, the extras are aimed more towards Fine Art students, but you can purchase whatever you like. These are available to buy from Barnsley Sixth Form College, just fill in the 'Build a Kit'.

Build a Kit

Build a Kit allows you to decide what you want. In an Art Kit there is a **Base** and **Extras**. There are 5 options to choose from, look through the list of materials and select the option that suits you best.

Base: Includes 9 items

Pencils 12 pack
Coloured pencils
Glue stick
Fine liners
Rubber
Scissors
Sharpener
Ruler

+ Sketchbook

Circle the style of sketchbook you want from the options below

Portrait (black pages)
Portrait (white pages)
Portrait (brown pages)
Landscape (white pages)

Extras: 13 items

Oil pastels
Coloured pastels
Coloured soft chalks
Charcoal Box
Charcoal 12 pack grey tones
Acrylic paint
Water colour paint
Paint brush set
6 pack White gel pens
Double sided tape and masking tape
 (these items come as a pair)
Palette and palette knife
 (these items come as a pair)

Options:

1	Base Only = £30
2	Base and ALL Extras = £65
If you select any option below please circle the Extra materials you want including in your Kit from the blue list	
3	Base + 1 Extra = £35
4	Base + 3 Extras = £40
5	Base + 5 Extras = £50

Student:
 name

Option no:

It is recommended that students have their own camera, however the college does have equipment that students can book out to complete their studies. A camera on a mobile phone isn't recommended, instead an entry level DSLR is preferable.

FIND OUT MORE

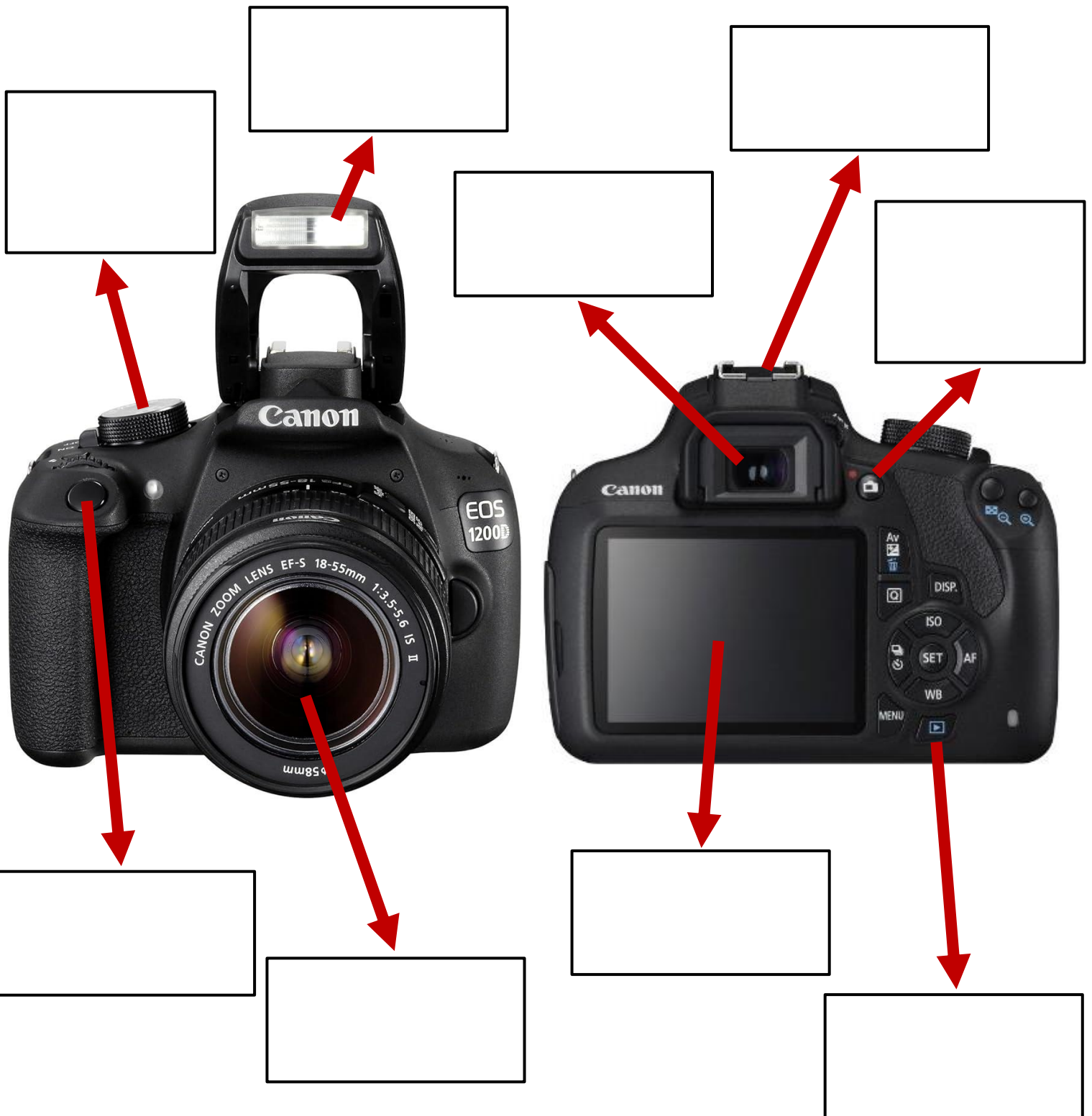
These activities are to help broaden your understanding of the subject in preparation for studying this subject at an advanced level.

Careers	https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/photography https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/photographer
Social Media	Talk Art podcast (player.fm) Watch Grayson's Art Club Stream free on Channel 4
YouTube	Tate - YouTube
Further Reading / Useful websites	Virtual tours Visiting National Gallery, London

INDUCTION TASK

You have three tasks to complete for your induction lesson.

TASK ONE: Label the DSLR camera below.



TASK TWO: Research Steven McCurry's 9 rules of composition

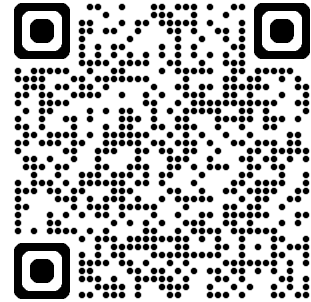
Steve McCurry has been one of the most iconic figures in contemporary photography, his images were among the first to show the world the brutality of the Russian invasion. His body of work spans conflicts, vanishing cultures, ancient traditions, and contemporary culture alike - yet always retains the human element that made his celebrated image of the Afghan Girl such a powerful image.

Watch the following video and fill in the grid with the necessary diagrams and definitions.



9 photo composition tips (feat. Steve McCurry)

<https://youtu.be/7ZVyNjKSr0M?si=mxF1GvDWki6ySefA>



9 Rules of Composition	Diagram	Definition
<p>Rule of Thirds</p> <p>EXAMPLE</p>		<p>It divides a photo into nine equal parts and is used as a guideline that places the subject in the left or right third of an image, leaving the other two thirds more open.</p>
<p>Leading Lines</p>		
<p>Diagonals</p>		

Framing		
Fill the Frame		
Centre Dominant Eye		
Patterns and Repetition		
Symmetry		
Figure to Ground		

TASK THREE: Research two photographers, one **must be a portrait photographer and the other can be any of the following: portrait, landscape, object or still life.**

Alongside your research you need to create a skilful artist study (a copy of the artist's work). You can use your mobile phone to take the photograph If you do not own a DSLR camera.

When gathering your research, you need to include the following:

- Primary Research (Direct information from the artist, interviews, facts, statistics)
- Secondary Research (Critiques from others)
- Minimum of two artist images
- Skilful artist study

Here are some photographers to get started:



Stephen Shore, Landscape



Diane Arbus, Portraits



Cindy Sherman, Self Portraits



Peter Puklus, Still Life

Your research...

1) Needs to be **Credible!**

You have found this information on a reliable and trustworthy site, such as their own personal website or gallery websites etc.

2) Needs to be **In-depth!**

Talk about all the details, thinking about the formal elements, colour, composition, technique, camera functions, lighting and subject matter.

3) Needs to have a **Purpose!**

The photographer should inspire you and you must find them interesting. So you can create work that you enjoy!

4) Must be **Relevant!**

Do not include information that is surface level! The reader does not need to know where they graduated, worked part time or how many pets they own. The information you present must share key points that have shaped the photographic journey, what has happened to them to result in the way they create work?

THIS WORK IS DUE FOR:

**Your Induction Lesson.
Please ensure you bring it
printed out with you!!**

**Do not present this in a sketchbook, you
just need it printed out on paper**

**If there are any questions about this
work, you can email**

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