

**Examination dates:** *Groups 13A and Group 13D* May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Group 13B May 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> ~ 15 hrs controlled test over 3 days

**The Theme:** 'ENVIRONMENT'

**Preparatory Supporting Studies: (Blog post)**

Prior to the timed examination you must produce and submit preparatory supporting studies which show why and how the supervised and timed work takes the form it does. You must produce a number of blog posts 25-40 that charts the development of your final piece from conception to completion and must show evidence of:

- Research and exploration of your ideas
- Recorded your experiences and observations
- Analysis and interpretation of things seen, imagined or remembered
- Experimentation with materials, processes and techniques
- Select, evaluate and develop ideas further through sustained investigation
- Show connections between your work and that of other artists/ photographers

Each week you are required to **make a photographic response** (still-images and/or moving image) that relates to the research and work that you explored in that week. **Sustained investigations** means taking a lot of time and effort to produce the best you can possibly do - reviewing, modifying and refining your idea and taking more pictures to build up a strong body of work with a clear sense of purpose and direction

**Timed Exam: (Final Outcome)**

This time is for you to fine tune and adjust your final photographs using creative tools in Lightroom/Photoshop and/or complete a final edit of your film or video in Premiere. Your final outcome(s) must be presented in a thoughtful, careful and professional manner demonstrating skills in presenting work in either window mounts, picture frames, foam-board, and/ or submit moving image and video based production and upload as Youtube clip to the blog.

**How to start**

Read the exam paper thoroughly, especially pages 2-3 and page 22-25 which details specific starting points and approaches to the exam theme - make notes! Brainstorm your idea and research artists listed – look also at starting points in other disciplines e.g. Fine Art and Graphic Communication etc. Over H-term begin to gather further information, collect images, make a mood-board and mind-map, make plans and write a specification, start to take pictures and make a response to initial research. You must show evidence of the above on your blog– complete at least 4-5 blog posts.

Below is a timetable and you may find the following guidelines helpful for developing a productive method of approaching this exam unit that fulfil all the Assessment Objectives (see below.)

**Assessment Objectives A2 Photography: (Edexcel)**

**AO1 – Develop** their ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.

**AO2 – Explore** and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining their ideas as work develops.

**AO3 – Record** ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress.

**AO4 – Present** a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate makes connections between visual and other elements.

<b>A2 PHOTOGRAPHY EXAM: 8 weeks preparation</b>		
Date		What you need to do
H-term 27 Feb – 5 March	<b>AO1 AO3</b>	<b>Research 1:</b> Gather as many visual inspirations as possible that may help you to develop your response to the exam theme. Look at a range of visual material – photographs, films, paintings, drawings, design etc that provide some inspiration for you in the way you want to develop your idea. <b>Make a mood-board and a mind-map</b> and produce at least 4-5 blog posts that illustrate your thinking and understanding. Use pictures and annotation and make a photographic response to initial research!
6 - 12 March		<b>Research 2:</b> Research, at least, the work of <b>two or more photographers/artists</b> ; analyse their work and explain why you have chosen them and how it relates to your idea and the exam theme. Produce at least 2 blog posts for each artist reference that illustrate your thinking and understanding. Use pictures and annotation and make a photographic response to your research into the work of others
13 -19 March	<b>AO1 AO2</b>	<b>Planning: Write a specification with 2-3 ideas</b> about what you are planning to do; how, who, when, where and why? Think about locations, lighting and choose a setting or landscape that suits your idea. Take recce shots or experiment with different skills/techniques before principal shooting. Think about how to convey an emotion, expression or attitude and the colour palette, tone, mood and texture of your pictures. Consider <i>mise-en-scène</i> – deliberate use of clothing, posture, choice of subject (people), objects, props, accessories, settings etc. Produce at least 2-3 blog posts that illustrate your thinking and understanding. Use pictures and annotation.
20 March – 12 April + H-term	<b>AO1 AO2 AO3</b>	<b>Shooting:</b> You should explore 2-3 ideas and you will need to take <b>photographs from many shoots (at least 5.)</b> Think about lighting, are you going to shoot outside in natural light or inside using studio lights? If portraiture, shoot both inside and outside to make informed choices and experimentation. Remember to try out a variety of shot sizes and angles, pay attention to composition, focussing, scale, perspective, rule of 1/3rds, foreground/ background and creative control of aperture (depth of field) and shutter speed (movement). Make contact sheets, and select from these 15-20 work prints for further experimentation. Produce 2-3 blog posts from each shoot and analyse and evaluate your photos through annotation showing understanding of basic visual language using specialist terminology.
<b>Easter break:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> April		You have two weeks off school and this is an ideal opportunity to make your final set of pictures, experiment, and make a final edit. <b>Don't waste this time!</b>
19 – 23 April <b>Only a 3 day week</b>	<b>AO1 AO2 AO3</b>	<b>Experimentation:</b> Show development of your idea by reviewing, modifying and analysing your images and <b>go out and take more pictures in the same or different location.</b> Experiment with different processes and methods using Photoshop e.g. cropping, adjusting levels/ exposure, colour correction/ b/w, sepia/ monochrome, blending/ blurring, HDR, panoramic/ joiner, montage/ collage, text/ typology, borders/ frames. Produce at least 3-4 blog posts with pictures and use annotation to explain what you did and how you developed your idea further in a thoughtful and considered manner.
24 April – 1 May <b>This week AS exams no access to class- room – only Wed 26 April!</b>	<b>AO1 AO2</b>	<b>Editing:</b> Be critical and selective when you select your photographs. Do they benefit being part of a series or are they best if presented as a single photo? Think about sequence and relationship between images - does your series of images convey a sense of narrative (story) or are they repetitious. Annotate! Make sure you have tested and tried out different ways of presenting photographs e.g. window mounts, foam-boards, frames etc. Finish and refine studies and produce 2-3 blog posts with your final outcomes, including thoughts on how to present them and a final evaluation.
<b>2, 3 &amp; 8 May (13A 13D)</b>  <b>4,5 &amp; 10 May (13B)</b>	<b>AO4</b>	<b>Examination.</b> Be prepared and bring in relevant materials that you need. Make sure you have completed all blog posts to the best of your ability. This exam is about testing the uniqueness of your knowledge, skills and understanding of photography and what makes your work special to you. End your blog with final outcomes and an evaluation. Good Luck!

Always apply your knowledge of basic visual language to any form of photography.

**...shot sizes...framing and focussing...angles and perspective...composition and rule of 1/3...space and foreground/ mid-ground/ background...aperture to control depth of field and area of sharpness...shutter speed to control a sense of movement...lighting; natural/ artificial...chiaroscuro; light and shadows**