

**Final Deadline for improving Coursework: MON 11 MARCH – Whole School!**

**Examination dates:** 15 hrs controlled test over 3 days  
Groups 13A / 13C 7, 13 & 21 May. Group 13D 8, 14 & 22 May

**The Theme:** 'VARIATION and/or SIMILARITY'

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

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

**Controlled Exam: (Final Outcome)**

This time is for you to fine tune and adjust your final images for print using creative tools in Lightroom/Photoshop and/or complete a final edit of your photobook, 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 pdf of photobook, or embed (from Youtube upload) moving image and video based production to the blog.

**How to start**

Read the exam paper thoroughly, especially pages 3-5 and page 24-27 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 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: 10 weeks preparation</b>		
Date		What you need to do
14 – 24 Feb + H-term	AO1 AO3	<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 at least one photographic response to initial research over H-term!
25 Feb – 3 March		<b>Research 2:</b> Research, at least, the work of <b>two or more photographers/artists</b> ; analyse their work with references to texts/ sources/ quotes 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.
4 – 10 March	AO1 AO2	<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.
11 – 24 March	AO1 AO2 AO3	<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). From each shoot select from these 15-20 images for further experimentation. Produce 2-3 blog posts from each shoot and analyse and evaluate your photos through annotation showing understanding of visual language using specialist terminology. Explain how to develop your shoot and explore idea from here. <b>What's your next step!</b>
25 March - 22 April + Easter	AO1 AO2 AO3	<b>Experimentation:</b> Show development of your idea by reviewing, modifying and analysing your images and <b>go out and make more images 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/ typography, 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.
<b>Easter break:</b> 6 – 22 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>
23 April – 7 May	AO1 AO2	<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? Are they suitable for making a photobook? Begin to work on book concept, layout and design. 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 prints and a final evaluation.
7, 13 & 21 May (13A 13E)  8, 14, & 22 May (13D)	AO4	<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 a post of final outcomes and an evaluation. Good Luck!

#### Print Deadline for Final Outcomes

Tues 30 April – prints will be ready for Day 1 of the exam

Tue 7 & Wed 8 May – prints will be ready for Day 2 of the exam

Mon 13 & Tue 14 May – prints will be ready for Day 3 of the exam