

# Preparing for A Level Photography at Sherburn High

Hoping to study Photography at A Level? Or maybe you are simply interested in taking some time to further your creativity and problem-solving skills that you have developed at GCSE?

## There are number of things you can do:

- 1. Develop as a Photographer**— observing and recording the world around you through your camera lens, capturing your personal perspective through a range of images. Get creative with your photographs by downloading different photo editing apps, or experimenting with filters on Instagram. Deepen your knowledge of how a camera works by explore settings such as macro (looks like a flower), zoom, shutter speed (measured in seconds, e.g. 1/500), aperture (measured in f-stop numbers), and any other pre-sets on your camera. To further your understanding of the photographic world, you could research famous photographers, watch relevant art or photography based programs, visit relevant websites, galleries and museums (virtually or in person) to develop your creative skills, knowledge and understanding.
- 2. Preparing for the A Level Course** - Start to explore the specification, and practice analytical and practical skills which will be studied in the A Level course.

## Successful Photographers develop the following:

**A creative eye** – A good photographer must be able to look at something ordinary, or even extraordinary, and use their imagination to find different ways to interpret it through the lens of the camera. A creative eye will fuel the desire to capture the world through photography and convey your own personal interpretations in beautiful and meaningful photos.

**Attention to detail** – A big part of great photography is the ability to focus on the tiny details as well as the big picture. This means sometimes focusing on the small details, and making decisions during the editing process to make tiny subtle changes, or edit out the tiniest details when they're not adding to the picture.

**Technical knowledge** – Understanding the different settings on your camera, and getting to know how to use professional equipment such as studio lighting are key to a Photographer's success. By exploring new tools, settings and software such as Photoshop, you will build resilience and

**Communication skills** – Photographs are visual communication. A photographer must take care to ensure that all elements within the photo—the lighting, the composition, the subject, and everything else in between—work together harmoniously to convey the right vision or message.

**Patience and flexibility** –There may be days when the lighting or model won't cooperate, or when your camera just isn't capturing the desired results. Sometimes it takes hundreds of shots just to get that *one* perfect photo. You need to be patient enough to deal with whatever comes your way, and flexible enough to make the best of undesirable conditions.

**Passion and determination** – When you are passionate about what you do, it will always shine through in your work. It will always make you work a little harder, push a little farther, and strive to be better than you were the day before.

Your Photography or Art GCSE will have covered the assessment objectives which echo those covered at A Level. You will have developed a range of practical skills and learned to analyse your own work and that of others using subject specific vocabulary. A Level will now enable you to gain greater independence and creativity when exploring your camera, as well as developing your technical knowledge in programs such as Photoshop.

The best Photographers at A Level are determined to capture the world around them through photography. They seek to improve their creative eye, develop their vocabulary and ability to interpret and respond to a given theme or a new idea.

This guide has been designed for you to be able to dip in and out of, from looking at the course specification and assessment objectives, to providing learning resources and links to help you further your understanding of Photography, to help prepare your for the tasks you will undertake in Year 12 and 13.



### AS AND A-LEVEL ART AND DESIGN

AS (7241, 7242, 7243, 7244, 7245, 7246)  
A-level (7201, 7202, 7203, 7204, 7205, 7206)

Specifications  
For teaching from September 2015 onwards  
For AS exams in May/June 2016 onwards  
For A-level exams in May/June 2017 onwards.

Version 1.1 March 2016

- These specifications include the following titles:
- Art, craft and design
  - Film and animation
  - Graphic communication
  - Textile design
  - Three-dimensional design
  - Photography



### Specification link

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/specifications/AQA-ART-SP-2015.PDF>

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/AQA-7246-7206-OE-FLYER.PDF>

## PREPARING FOR A LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY AT SHERBURN HIGH SCHOOL

At Sherburn we follow the AQA A Level (which is under the Art and Design Specification). The course is assessed on **2 components**. The A-level specification is designed to be taken over two years with all

Component 1: Personal investigation		Component 2: Externally set assignment	
<p><b>What's assessed</b></p> <p>Personal investigation – 7201/C, 7202/C, 7203/C, 7204/C, 7205/C, 7206/C</p>	<p><b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustained personal project exploring an independent theme of your choice.</li> <li>• Illustrated essay (1000-3000) words. This critical and contextual study that will support your practical work.</li> </ul>	<p><b>What's assessed</b></p> <p>Response to an externally set assignment – 7201/X, 7202/X, 7203/X, 7204/X, 7205/X, 7206/X</p>	<p><b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins February 1<sup>st</sup> in second year of study.</li> <li>• Working from a choice of themes supplied by the exam board to produce a sketchbook of 'preparatory' work.</li> <li>• 15 hours supervised time to produce an ambitious final response to your theme.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Assessed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No time limit</li> <li>• 96 marks</li> <li>• 60% of A-level</li> </ul>		<p><b>Assessed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparatory period + 15 hours supervised time</li> <li>• 96 marks</li> <li>• 40% of A-level</li> </ul>	

assessments taken in the second year.

The **assessment objectives** for A Level are very similar to those seen at GCSE Art and Design (the differences are in bold):

**AO1:** Develop 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 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**.

Listed below are a range of websites, books, documentaries, and other learning resources which provide great ways to stay inspired and to engage with the world of Photography:

## LEARNING TOOLS

**Online camera simulators** such as this one by Canon help you to master manual camera settings and capture successful photographs, all online from the comfort of your own home! <http://www.canonoutsideofauto.ca/play/>. Other online camera simulators to improve your photography skills can be found here:

<https://www.adorama.com/alc/10-online-camera-simulators-to-improve-your-photography-skill>

**The Student Art Guide** features outstanding examples of photography projects, ideas, tips, and helpful learning strategies for art and photography students around the world. <https://www.studentartguide.com/featured/high-school-photography-projects> Student Art Guide also have a list of 100 creative photography ideas:

<https://www.studentartguide.com/articles/creative-photography-ideas>

**Art 2 Day** have an amazing Photography section, showing a range of photographic styles and genres, including digital and experimental photography. <https://www.art2day.co.uk/photography2.html>

**The Arty Teacher** has a very extensive list of photographers, all listed by themes and genres

<https://theartyteacher.com/photographers-themes/>

**The Art Photo Index:** over 3000 photographers and projects, searchable by key words, style, genre, or name.

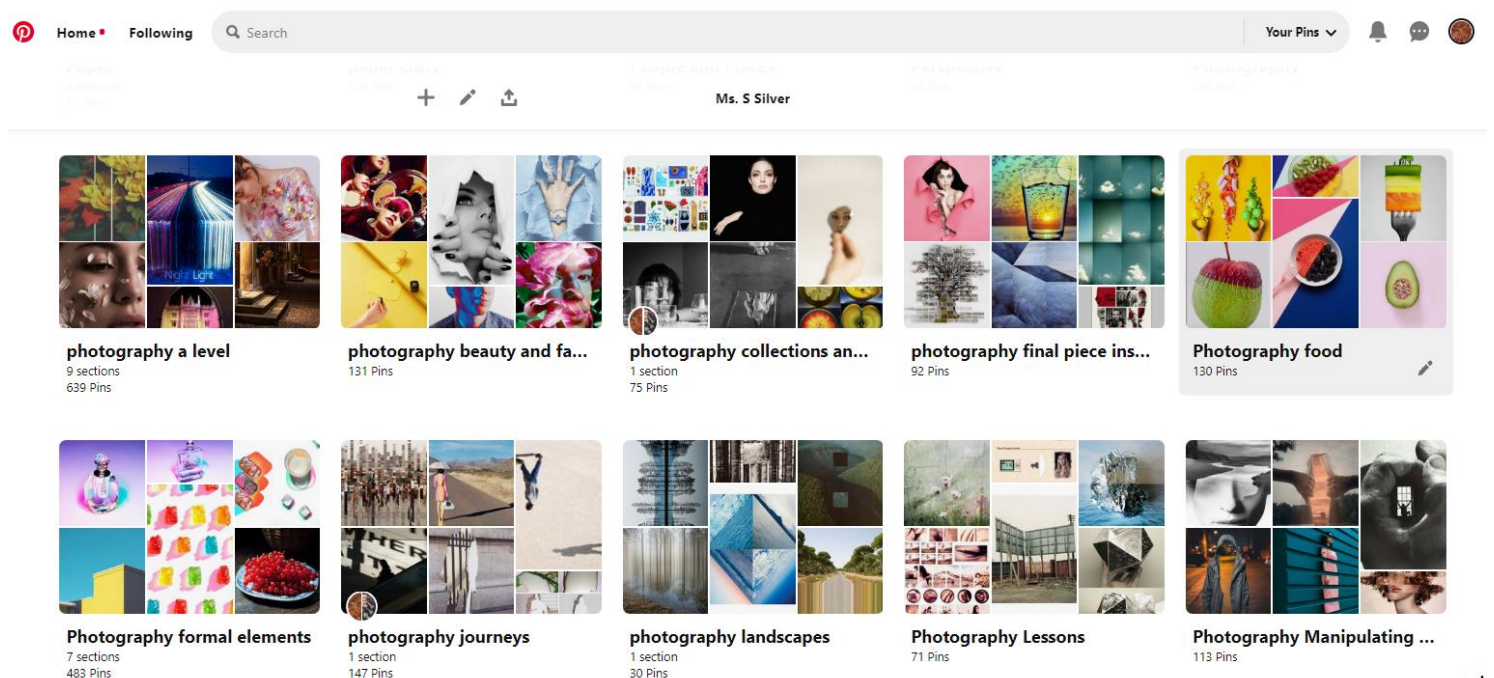
<https://www.artphotoindex.com/api>

**Pinterest** is an excellent learning tool that we use to collect images and inspiration. If you do not already have an account we advise that you make one. Find Ms Silver's pinterest : <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/beginwithadot/> ...You can also use the search box on Pinterest to find 'A Level photography', and filter by 'boards' to find inspirational ideas, including many other art and photography teachers, schools, and department, such as:

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/bhasvicASphoto/>

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/blackdahlia8/photography/>

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/photopedagogy/>



## PHOTOGRAPHY RELATED TV PROGRAMS

### Netflix

**Abstract: The Art of Design** – This amazing series on Netflix documents a variety of creatives, including artists, designers, and photographers. Season 1, Episode 7 focuses on the photographer Platon.

**Tales By Light** – by Canon is shot in jaw-dropping 4K, and follows five of the world's best photographers as they travel to most outer untouched reaches of the globe

**Hondros** – A powerful documentary into the life of award-winning war photographer Chris Hondros, who photographed more than a decade of conflict before being killed in Libya in 2011.

**Harry Benson: Shoot First** - This documentary chronicles the career of Harry Benson, a Scottish photographer who earned global fame with his shots of the Beatles, Muhammad Ali, Michael Jackson and others.

### **The B-Side: Elsa Dorfman's Portrait Photography** -

Exploring the life, work and studio of Elsa Dorfman, a Polaroid photographer who captured luminaries and regular folk alike. It offers an intriguing glimpse at a notable artist's work that's as warmly engaging as its subject.

### YouTube

**Top Photographer with Nigel Barker**- Like America's Next Top Model, but for photographers.

**World of Photography**- The classic TV show for Photographers, filmed between 1985 and 1991 was a big influence on a generation of photographers, exposing them to new photographers and photography

### Sky Go and Now TV

**Sky Arts Master of Photography** – This reality contest aims to find Europe's 'best new photographer' . Available of Sky Go Player, and Now TV

**Seeing Daylight** – Documenting the life and works of renowned Photographer Dorothy Bohm, who Escaped Nazi Europe to spend a lifetime capturing humanity with her camera.

### BBC iPlayer

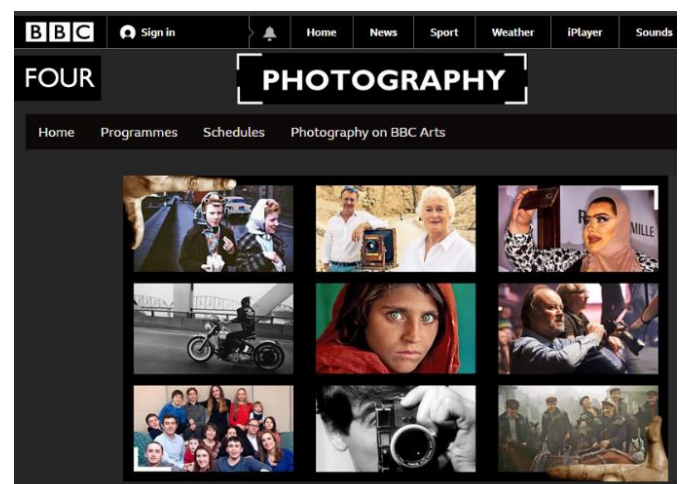
**Age of the Image** –Documentary series in which Art Historian James Fox explores how the power of images has transformed the modern world

-The 'arts' section, on the iPlayer is available here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/categories/arts/>

There is also a designated BBC photography page with link to interviews, documentaries, quizzes and articles:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04vb8y1>





## PUBLIC GALLERIES AND COLLECTIONS



**Tate Galleries** - now with their very own photography curator. <http://www.tate.org.uk/search/photography>

**The Photographers' Gallery** – Based in London, this gallery holds fantastic exhibitions, most of which are free. <https://thephotographersgallery.org.uk/>

**The Museum of Modern Art New York** – The Photography Collection contains online exhibitions of some incredibly famous Photographers, just type 'photography into the search bar at <https://www.moma.org/collection/works>

**The Hillman Photography Initiative** - explores the creation, transmission, consumption, storage, potential loss, and re-emergence of photographic images in contemporary culture. <http://www.nowseethis.org>

**The Museum of New Mexico Photography Collection**, containing an online exhibition of thematically related work entitled *Idea Photographic*. <http://www.newmexicoculture.org/mfa/ideaphotographic/>

**George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film**. <https://www.eastman.org/>

**The Victoria and Albert Museum** – The online Photography pages explore one of the oldest collections of photographs in the world. <https://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/photographs>

**Peter Fetterman Gallery** - An excellent collection of work by famous photographers including Cartier-Bresson, Helen Levitt, Robert Capa and Elliot Erwitt. <https://www.peterfetterman.com/>

**Stephen Daiter Gallery** - A great collection of high-quality scans of famous photographs. [www.stephendaitergallery.com](http://www.stephendaitergallery.com)

**The International Centre of Photography New York**- Collections, interviews and archives, <https://www.icp.org/>

The **Huis Marseille** - Foundation for Photography, Amsterdam. <https://huismarseille.nl/en/>

**Fotomuseum Winterthur** in Zurich - an excellent collection of historical and contemporary photography <https://www.fotomuseum.ch/en/>

## MAGAZINES

**Digital Camera World**  
**Amateur Photographer**  
**Practical Photography**  
**Black and White Photography**  
**Outdoor Photography**



## BOOKS AND FURTHER READING

**Understanding a Photography** Berger, J

**New Fashion Photography** Blanks, T

**The Visual Toolbox: 60 Lessons for Stronger Photographs** duChemin, D

**The Photography: A Visual and Cultural History** Clark, G

**A Complete Guide to Digital Photography** Farrell, I

**The Photographer's Eye: Composition and Design for better digital photos**

Freeman, M

**20th Century Photography: A complete guide to the greatest artists of the photographic age** Golden, R

**Image Makers Image Takers** Jaeger, A-C

**The Photography Book** Jeffrey, I & Phaidon

**Story of Photography** Langford, M

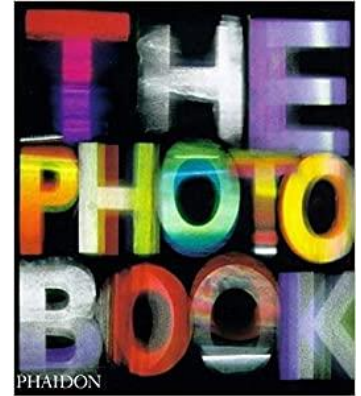
**The Oxford Companion to Photography** Lenman, R

**Reframing Photography: Theory and Practice** Modrak, R

**A History of Photography from: 1839 to present** Mulligan, T and Wooters, D

**Twentieth Century Colour Photographs** Pénichon, S

**On Photography** Sontag, s



## ONLINE READING MATERIAL

**The BBC Arts Collection** – Features Photography articles, shows, and an Archive of works to get stuck in to!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/5I9VvIkcpS8hYNkdI9vWlNF/photography>

**Masters of Photography** - a superb resource, including articles, photographs and resources on a wide variety of famous photographers. <https://masters-of-photography.com/>

**A History of Photography** – Learn about how photography began and how it shaped the world.

<https://www.lightstalking.com/history-of-photography/>

**Photoquotes** - a great source of quotations by photographers about photography <https://www.photoquotes.com/>

**Interviews with famous photographers-** <https://www.all-about-photo.com/photo-articles/interviews.php>



## CAREER PROGRESSION

Many students who study A Level Photography go on to study Photography degrees at University, or a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design. Photography students can consider a career in any of the following areas: fashion; graphic design; architectural; illustration; forensic; journalism; studio based photography; wedding photographer, teacher; advertising; web-design; Photoshop specialist in special effects or in film and television work. Many photographers become self-employed and establish their own business.

## UNIVERSITIES TO EXPLORE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Over 100 Universities in the UK offer Photography degree that span a wide range of specialisms, including Fashion Photography, Medical Photography, Commercial Photography, Documentary Photography and Photojournalism, Digital and Contemporary Photography, Art and Design Photography, and many more. To find the course that's right for you, visit UCAS at <https://digital.ucas.com/search>

Some of the Universities specialising in the creative arts in the UK include:

**University of West England (UWE) Bristol** <https://courses.uwe.ac.uk/W640/photography>

**Manchester school of Art** <https://www.art.mmu.ac.uk/photography/>

**York St John University** <https://www.yorks.j.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/art--design/photography-ba-hons/>

**University of the Arts London (UAL)** <https://www.arts.ac.uk/subjects/photography/undergraduate/ba-hons-photography>

**University of the Creative Arts (UCA)** <https://www.uca.ac.uk/study/courses/?subject=Photography>

**Arts University Bournemouth** <https://aub.ac.uk/courses/ba/ba-photography/>

**University of Brighton** <https://www.brighton.ac.uk/courses/study/photography-ba-hons.aspx>

**Edinburgh College of Art** <https://www.eca.ed.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/photography-ba-hons>

**Norwich University of the Arts** <https://www.nua.ac.uk/study-at-nua/courses/ba-hons-photography/>

**Leeds Arts University** - The only specialist arts university in the North of England. Students enjoy a small, close-knit community in a creative atmosphere where anything feels possible. <https://www.leeds-art.ac.uk/study/undergraduate-courses/ba-hons-photography/>

