



St Joseph's Catholic Academy Art & Photography Department

A LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



WHAT SHOULD I CONSIDER WHEN TAKING A PHOTOGRAPH?

WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN TAKING A PHOTOGRAPH – COMPOSITIONAL TECHNIQUES

Rule of Thirds - The rule of thirds is used when aligning an object or subject with the guidelines/grid lines which split the screen in thirds horizontally or vertically.

Filling the Frame - Fill the Frame is a photography composition technique where the subject of interest occupies a significant area in the Frame. It is an easy to use composition technique, used by most of the photographers, especially when they want to remove distracting backgrounds.

Leading Lines - Leading lines refer to a technique or rule of composition where you use lines that direct the viewers' attention to the main subject of the image

Framing Devices - Using objects to frame your photographs and draw the viewers attention to the subject.

Vantage Points - The vantage point is the position from where you take your photograph. This includes viewpoints from extremely high to low and everything between. This changes the viewers perspective and gives them a fresh perspective on your subject.

WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN TAKING A PHOTOGRAPH – THE EXPOSURE TRIANGLE

This exposure triangle is simply the relationship between three elements: aperture, shutter speed, and ISO. These three components work together to create an actual exposure or photograph. It is referred to as the exposure triangle because when you adjust one element, another element MUST change to capture the same exposure.

Shutter Speed - This concept is simply the amount of exposure time (measured in seconds) that the camera's shutter is open allowing light to hit the sensor to make an exposure. The higher the number, the faster the shutter will open and close. Slower shutter speeds give a long exposure time for the sensor to collect light and produce a higher exposure. Meanwhile, a faster one means less exposure time for the sensor to receive the amount of light.

Aperture - This refers to how large or small the opening is thru the lens. This opening is what controls how much or little light can pass through the camera lens and onto the camera's sensor

ISO - ISO refers to the sensitivity of the camera. A high ISO means there's more sensitivity, while a low ISO means the sensor becomes less sensitive to the amount of light. If you set the ISO too high, you might get a very bright image that has lots of visible dots. Auto ISO creates a balanced exposure depending on the aperture, shutter and camera settings.

WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN TAKING A PHOTOGRAPH – FORMAL ELEMENTS

Line - You can use lines in your composition to guide the viewer through your shot, or to a specific focal point, these are known as *leading lines*. Your lines don't necessarily need to be straight, horizontal or vertical, they can be curved, angular, or random too.

Shape & Form - When referring to *shape* in photography, this usually means a 2D outline of a subject, whereas *form* is referring to a shape that takes on more of a 3D appearance. And for the purpose of this article, we've put these two together as one formal element.

Pattern - Symmetry and repetition make attractive photographic subjects, and when you start looking, you'll see a surprising amount of patterns around you in the natural and built environment.

Tone - Concentrating on tone in your composition is to use variables of contrast, and light and dark areas to bring depth to your image. Tone is particularly important in black and white photography and should be used to guide the viewer through your image where there is no colour present to focus the attention of the viewer.

Colour - A prominent colour in your image, whether it's a solid colour block or a set of similar colours that form a *palette* across your image can make a bold statement, and convey a mood for your image that will be emotive to the viewer. You could also single out one particular colour and make a striking statement by making it 'pop out' in your shot

Texture - Focusing on the texture in your composition can bring your image to life by giving the viewer a tangible connection with it. Textures can be drawn out from all kinds of surfaces and environments, and to do this you can use a wide range of lighting scenarios and varying levels of depth-of-field.

Space - Building space into your compositions creates a sense of scale and brings depth to your shot. It can also provide breathing room for the main subject of your image, and allow the viewer to hone in on the primary features of the scene.

HOW TO PRESENT YOUR PHOTOSHOOTS

When presenting your work it is important to do this clearly so that you are showing how you are meeting each of the AQA Assessment Objectives. The following steps will help you show your thought process and explain to the examiner exactly what you were thinking at each step of taking your photoshoot. You are expected to follow each step when presenting each of your photoshoots.

STEP ONE: Add a 'Statement of Intent' to explain what exactly you are going to do in your photoshoot, where you got your ideas from, which artist/photographer your shoot is influenced by and how this is shown in your own shoot, what you hope to achieve in your shoot.

STEP TWO: Include a contact sheet of all of your images from your shoot. You will need to copy and paste a screen grab of a print preview to get some small icons of your entire shoot. If you have taken a large amount of images it would be best to spread them over two slides so the examiner is able to clearly see them.

STEP THREE: Choose 6-9 of your best images and present them in a larger format on one slide so that the examiner can clearly see them in more detail.

STEP FOUR: Present your original image and its edit alongside each other. Explain how your image has been changed and how your editing has improved your image.

NB: DO THIS FOR EACH IMAGE YOU EDIT

STEP FIVE: Present how you have edited your images using Photoshop/other software programme in a step by step way using screen grabs of your editing process. Use the standard workflow (as presented) for each image. If you use this work flow for each image then you will only have to show your photoshop editing once in your project - if you do anything extra to an image then you can state that you have followed the standard work flow but have also done additional editing and show this.

STEP SIX: Include an Evaluation of your shoot. Explain whether your shoot was successful. If so, how? If not, why not? What worked well? Give an overall view of what went well and what could be improved. Where will you go from now? Will you develop your shoot into a second? Will you refine your ideas/techniques in a second shoot? Will you look at another artist to develop your ideas?

AQA PHOTOGRAPHY ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES



Marks Out of 24	<h2 style="text-align: center;">AO1 – 25%</h2> <p>RESEARCH OF CONTEXTUAL REFERENCES ie ARTISTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, ART MOVEMENTS, CULTURAL MOVEMENTS. DEVELOPMENT OF IDEAS Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">AO2 – 25%</h2> <p>EXPERIMENTATIONS WITH MATERIALS, PHOTOGRAPHY TECHNIQUES & PROCESSES. REFINING AND IMPROVING WORK THROUGHOUT YOUR PROJECT Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">AO3 – 25%</h2> <p>IDEAS, PHOTOGRAPHS, EDITED PHOTOGRAPHS, DRAWINGS, COLLAGES. ANNOTATION OF IDEAS. Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">AO4 – 25%</h2> <p>FINAL IDEA & FINAL PIECE, HOW YOUR PROJECT FLOWS AND ARRIVES AT IT'S ENDING. Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements</p>
0	No Work			
1 Just	Minimal ability to develop ideas and sustain investigations, informed by contextual and other sources.	Minimal ability to explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.	Minimal ability to record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions.	Minimal ability to present a personal and meaningful response, limited by a lack of skill and understanding.
2 Adequately				
3 Clearly	Demonstrates minimal analytical and critical understanding.	Minimal evidence of reviewing and refining ideas as work develops.	Demonstrates minimal ability to reflect critically on work and progress.	Demonstrates minimal ability to realise intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.
4 Convincingly				
5 Just	Some ability to develop ideas and sustain investigations informed by contextual and other sources.	Some ability to explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.	Some ability to record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions.	Some ability to present a personal and meaningful response which is uneven.
6 Adequately				
7 Clearly	Demonstrates some analytical and critical understanding.	Reviews and refines ideas with limited success as work develops.	Demonstrates some ability to reflect critically on work and progress.	Demonstrates some ability to successfully realise intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.
8 Convincingly				
9 Just	A reasonably consistent ability to develop ideas through sustained investigations, informed by contextual and other sources.	A reasonably consistent ability to explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.	A reasonably consistent ability to record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions.	A reasonably consistent ability to present a personal and meaningful response.
10 Adequately				
11 Clearly	Demonstrates reasonably consistent analytical and critical understanding.	Reviews and refines ideas with a degree of success as work develops.	Demonstrates a reasonably consistent ability to reflect critically on work and progress.	Demonstrates a reasonably consistent ability to successfully realise intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.
12 Convincingly				
13 Just	A consistent ability to develop ideas through sustained investigations, informed by contextual and other sources.	Consistent ability to explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.	A Consistent ability to record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions.	Consistent ability to present a personal and meaningful response.
14 Adequately				
15 Clearly	Demonstrates consistent analytical and critical understanding.	Reviews and refines ideas with increasing confidence as work develops.	Demonstrates a consistent ability to reflect critically on work and progress.	Demonstrates a consistent ability to successfully realise intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.
16 Convincingly				
17 Just	A confident and highly developed ability to develop ideas through sustained investigations, informed by contextual and other sources.	A confident and highly developed ability to explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.	A confident and highly developed ability to record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions.	A confident and highly developed ability to present a personal and meaningful response.
18 Adequately				
19 Clearly	Demonstrates confident and highly developed analytical and critical understanding.	Reviews and refines ideas in a confident manner as work develops.	Demonstrates a confident and highly developed ability to reflect critically on work and progress.	Demonstrates a highly developed ability to successfully realise intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.
20 Convincingly				
21 Just	An exceptional ability to develop ideas through sustained investigations informed by contextual and other sources.	An exceptional ability to explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.	An exceptional ability to record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions.	An exceptional ability to make a personal and meaningful response.
22 Adequately				
23 Clearly	Demonstrates exceptional analytical and critical understanding.	Reviews and refines their ideas in a confident and purposeful manner as work develops.	Demonstrates an exceptional ability to reflect critically on work and progress.	Demonstrates an exceptional ability to successfully realise intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.
24 Convincingly				