

A LEVEL ART & DESIGN

2025-26



THE
PORTSMOUTH
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL

Course Outline

Art and Design is a rewarding subject for motivated pupils. With opportunities to extend across a very broad range of disciplines, both theoretical and practical, you will work for four full terms on developing your own thematic enquiry. Each term builds and develops your visual and cultural awareness and a personal portfolio of sketchbook development with outcomes is created from the themes and ideas developed through the course. An essay, The Personal Study, is evidenced as critical and contextual research in continuous prose, with images to prove your academic understanding. Your final term is devoted to the Externally Set Assignment, set by the awarding body, leading to a timed test. Our course is tailored around your ideas, with teachers keen to challenge you in offering your best. Art is at the heart of our PGS Core Values.

Entry Requirements

It is anticipated that you should be able to show a passion for this subject and should have attained at least Grade 7 in the subject at GCSE. Pupils who did not take GCSE or who attained Grade 6 may still be able to embark upon this course, dependent upon the standards found within a portfolio of PGS summer holiday research and a short interview with the Head of Department.

Course Assessment

Like GCSE, the course is assessed against four Assessment Objectives and marked against a common standard. 60% of the award comes from Coursework with examination work at 40%. Our teachers internally assess all your studies before a representative from the awarding body moderates their marks.

Skills Required and Developed

Pupils wishing to pursue A Level Art will already have an established technical ability in at least one art field. With more time and more space available to you, A Level Art, Craft and Design will allow you to build greater confidence and show more independence in producing work around your ideas. You will be challenged to think critically about your work and the contexts you use as your influences, discussing and proving how you have resolved the complex issues that connect to your art practice.

Beyond the Classroom

During the course, we would expect you to attend as many exhibitions at local, national and international level as you are able, to bring this research into your studies. It is expected that you will nominate study time to work on your portfolio studies in our Art Studios during the week. This offers you more time for other subjects at home.



Artwork by Sophia Cheng, OP (2025)

University Courses and Professions that require the Subject

It is normal for Art students to attend a Foundation Course as a pre-university requirement, but pupils with strong portfolios of work can gain direct access to undergraduate studies such as Animation, Architecture, Computer Design, Fashion, Fine Art, Graphics, Photography, Sculpture and Textiles. However, this subject promotes critical thinking and pupils who have studied Art as a complementary subject are highly regarded by Oxbridge and other university groups because of the intellectual rigour that Art requires.



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More Information

Contact our Head of Art and Design, Mr. J Peebles:

- Telephone: 023 9268 1316
- Email: J.Peebles@pgs.org.uk

You can also find more information on the exam board's website:

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