

# Fine Art & Photography Summer Project



Moving from GCSE to A Level

## 1. Choose your theme

*Pick one of the following or choose your own:*

**Movement**

Dreams and the  
imagination

**Self-  
identity**

**Expressive  
hands**

Music and musical instruments

**Viewpoints**

**Weather**

**Masks**

**My  
surroundings**

Distortion

Joy and sorrow

*Natural and man-made*

**Inside, outside**

**Messages**

**SPACES**

*Check out these websites before making a final decision:*

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z2hp3k7/revision/3>

<https://theartyteacher.com/art-themes-to-explore-in-gcse-igcse/>

<https://www.studentartguide.com/articles/a-level-art-exam-paper>

<https://oysterartgalleries.com/articles/how-to-pick-art-project-idea-7>

<https://www.saatchigallery.com/schools/AQA%20GCSE%20Art%20and%20Design%20Theme%202019.pdf>

## 2. Mind-map your theme

# Present your ideas creatively.

*Photographers – you could use printed images + string to connect them or create a digital mind-map.*



Identify ideas that you can research from first-hand experience (primary). You might have to do some secondary research too but focus on primary research.

Highlight the sub-themes/subjects you are most interested in investigating further.



Which artists could help you to develop these sub-themes? – do research!



### 3. Investigate your theme through direct observation

#### AO3 RECORD

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

- ✓ *Record regularly*
- ✓ *Record creatively*
- ✓ *Record with purpose*
- ✓ *Record with connections*

You should have identified lots of suitable subject matter for primary research while mind-mapping.

Throughout the summer months, aim to 'record' your observations of subjects related to your theme, at least once a day.

Fine Artists

- Work in sketchbooks and/or on pieces of paper
- Annotate your work: When (date & time)? Where were you? How long did it take you? How could you develop the idea/drawing further?
- Use a range of materials and techniques - show variation in how you record.

*N.B. Fine Artists can also use photography to supplement their observational work.*

Photographers

- Print key photographs if you can, and present in a sketchbook, or keep a digital sketchbook.
- Annotate your work: When (date & time)? Where were you? How could you develop the idea/image further?
- Use a range of equipment and techniques - show variation in how you record.



## Creative observational drawing ideas!



Apply washes of colour/watercolour techniques to your paper first and leave to dry before recording your subject on top using a fine ink pen.

Experiment by applying the pen before the wash fully dries.

Experiment by pressing scrunched paper into the background whilst it is wet to create textures.

Experiment with combining other wet and dry media.

Only add colour to some sections of your drawings.

You could create shapes over your drawing and add colour just in these areas.



Observe the shapes around your object (the negative space), rather than the object itself!

Block in the negative space using colour and/or tone to reveal the positive shapes.

Experiment with combining positive and negative shapes in the same composition.

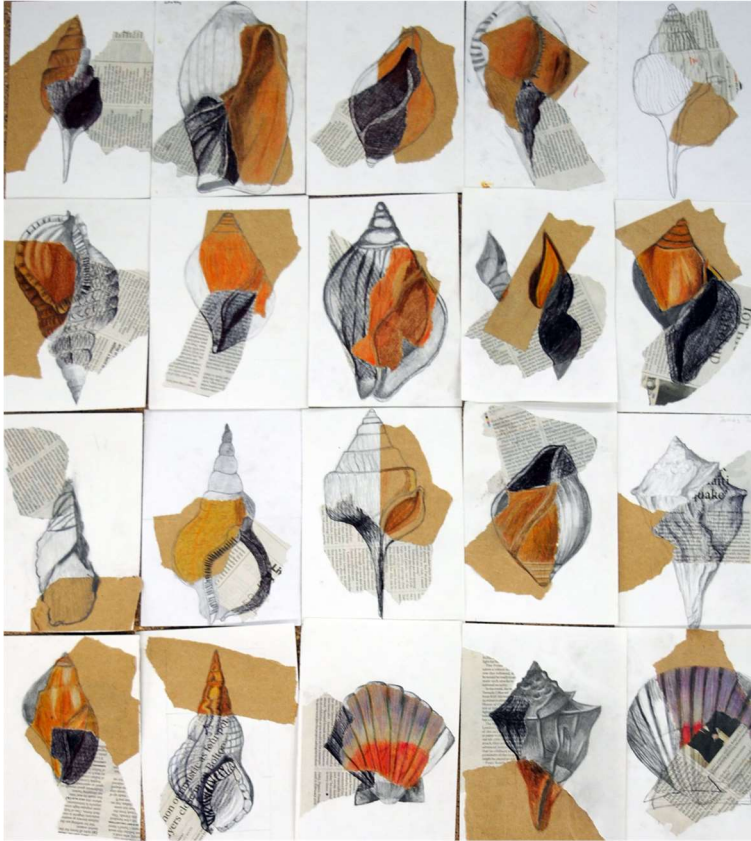


✓ Record regularly

✓ Record creatively

✓ Record with purpose

## Creative observational drawing ideas!



Divide up your page and record multiple viewpoints of the same subject.

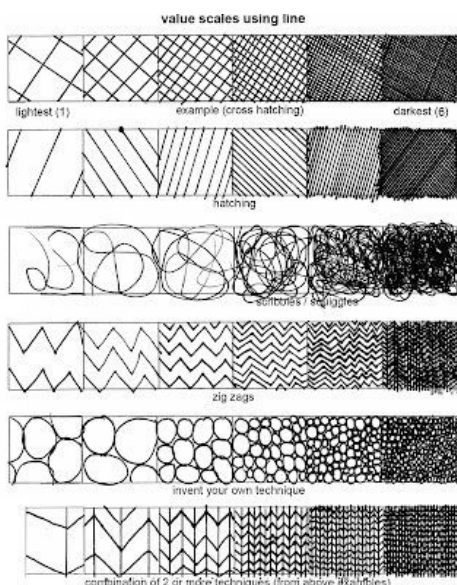
Rip up collage paper and paste onto paper to use as abstract backgrounds; work on top using pens/pencils.

You could rip the outline of the subject from paper and use that as a starting point before adding internal contours, details, and tones.

You don't just have to use pencils and pens for observational work. You can make studies from life using paint too!

Create a monochromatic tonal study of your subject.

Start by creating a tonal scale by mixing tints, tones and shades of one colour.



Apply your pen/pencil in lots of different ways to build up tones and textures.





✓ **Record regularly**

✓ **Record creatively**

✓ **Record with purpose**

## Creative photography ideas!

**Macro** - Experiment with closeup views to achieve images rich in detail and texture.

If you don't have a macro lens you can simply take off your existing lens and reverse it – carefully holding it up to the camera so that it faces out towards the subject.

If using your smart phone – invest in a clip-on lens set.

Always take plenty of photos during each photoshoot, varying your approach (see ideas below), so you have lots of choice when selecting images to best define your intentions.



Capture  
blurred  
motion

**'SHOOT  
FROM  
THE HIP'  
– WAIST  
HIGHT**

Use the  
rule of  
thirds

Use paper as a  
prop/tool



Shoot  
from a  
low  
position

**Fill the  
frame with  
the  
subject**

Shoot hazy and  
ethereal photos  
with sandwich bag



**Shoot in  
black and  
white**

Shoot  
through  
cloth



***Shoot at  
dusk***

Use a colander to add  
interesting  
light effects



**Use a  
fisheye  
lens**

## Creative photography ideas!



A view through...

Help to lead the eye to the focal point of the image by using an actual picture frame.

This will encourage you to think creatively about how you position yourself in relation to your subject too.

Experiment with positioning your subject inside and outside the frame.



You can frame your subject without using an actual picture frame... use surrounding architecture to enhance perspective in your image or find other objects and natural flora to look through.



Mirrors can get you to think creatively about composition and can take your work in an unexpected surreal direction.

Using mirrors can be an effective way of creating innovative self portraits



#### **4. Make visual and conceptual connections to artist's work when exploring primary sources**

- Use artists'/photographers' work to direct and inspire you when creating observational studies on your theme
- Select an appropriate artist/photographer. Stick in a copy of the artist's work and analyse using the framework (below) before beginning a section of observational work.

<b>The factual information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>Name of artist</b></li><li>■ <b>Title of work</b></li><li>■ <b>Date of work</b></li><li>■ <b>Materials used</b></li></ul>
<b>Initial personal response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>Why did you choose the work?</b> <b>How does it relate to your theme?</b></li><li>■ <b>What is the theme/idea behind the work?</b></li><li>■ <b>What message(s) is/ are being communicated?</b></li></ul>
<b>Analyse and evaluate the form and content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>What are the key formal elements?</b></li><li>■ <b>How have they been used to create visual language and communicate purpose and meaning?</b></li></ul>
<b>Analysis and evaluate media and processes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>Describe the way in which materials, techniques and processes have been used.</b></li><li>■ <b>How have the techniques been used to communicate meanings and ideas?</b></li></ul>
<b>Influences and contexts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>What are the political, social and cultural connections surrounding the work at the time it was made?</b></li></ul>