

Art and Design and History of Art

A guide to our qualifications



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Overview

Our comprehensive range of qualifications was developed in consultation with teachers to ensure that the content and assessment are accessible to students of all abilities.

Our suite of specifications, including History of Art, offers a variety of progression routes for your students, with a range of support which will assist you in planning your courses to ensure a seamless transition through the different levels of study.

ELC – Entry Level Certificate

Art and Design

A broad course which offers students the opportunity to develop skills in art, craft and design. The qualification is designed for students who would be unlikely to gain a grade G at GCSE. The ELC Art and Design course, however, can also offer progression to our GCSE in Art and Design.

GCSE – Full Course

Art and Design

The Full Course is available as a broad course in Art and Design or in 6 specialist endorsements:

- Applied
- Fine Art
- Graphic Communication
- Photography: lens-based and light-based media
- Textile Design
- Three-Dimensional Design.

GCSE – Short Course

Available in Art and Design only.

AS and A-level

Art and Design

Available as a broad course in Art, Craft and Design or in five specialist endorsements:

- Fine Art
- Graphic Communication
- Photography: lens-based and light-based media
- Textile Design
- Three-Dimensional Design.

Applied Art and Design

At AS, students are introduced to vocational processes in art, craft and design through:

- the study of 2D and 3D visual language
- research into historical and contemporary artists, craftspeople and designers and their work.

At A2, students expand on their knowledge with:

- further development and application of 2D and 3D visual language
- an exploration of vocational theories and practice in art, craft and design.

History of Art

History of Art establishes a framework for exploring aspects of Western art and architecture.

At AS, students develop the ability to analyse and interpret a variety of works of architecture, painting and sculpture, alongside an understanding of some of the major themes.

At A2, optional art historical periods are available, allowing teachers to teach to their strengths and to the interests of their students.

GCSE Art and Design

We have developed our new specification in response to your feedback, building on the strengths of the previous GCSE Art and Design and Applied Art and Design specifications, while incorporating opportunities for innovation and curriculum development. The specification has a unitised structure, consisting of a Portfolio of Work (Unit 1) and an Externally Set Task (Unit 2).

Students will develop knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to their chosen endorsement:

- Art and Design (Full Course and Short Course)
- Applied
- Fine Art
- Graphic Communication
- Photography: lens-based and light-based media
- Textile Design
- Three-Dimensional Design.

Benefits of GCSE Art and Design

- **a range of options** within one specification, with a broad course in Art and Design and six specialist endorsements. The new Applied endorsement has added a vocational element to the specification so your students can now also follow a course which focuses on art and design in a work-related context
- **an open and expansive approach** to give you the flexibility to design engaging courses of study which best suit your students, allowing them to develop their interests in art and design
- **updated content** reflecting developments in art and design and new media technologies
- **straightforward assessment criteria** applied to both units
- **focused on ability** with a Portfolio for Unit 1 (controlled assessment), giving your students the opportunity to select work from their course which best supports the assessment objectives.

With a similar structure and assessment criteria, our GCSE provides a strong and appropriate foundation for our A-level in Art and Design.

‘Our Art and Design students enjoy the new AQA GCSE because it enables them to work to their strengths. Also, it fits in very well with AQA A-level Art and Design, making the transition from GCSE to A-level very smooth.’

Brian Murphy, Head of Art, The Piggott School



Assessment overview

All units are available in June only.

Unit 1: Portfolio of Work

Controlled assessment – set by the centre

60% of the total marks

80 marks

Internally assessed and externally moderated

Students should select and present materials which exemplify work carried out during their course of study. The total portfolio submission will comprise approximately 45 hours of work.

The Portfolio of Work must include **more** than one project for the Full Course and **one** project for the Short Course.

Unit 2: Externally Set Task

10 hour examination

40% of the total marks

80 marks

Internally assessed and externally moderated

Separate question papers will be set for each endorsement, with a choice of inspiring starting points.

Question papers can be issued to students from 1 January in the year of the examination. Unlimited preparation time from the issue of papers to give flexibility in curriculum planning.

Students respond to their chosen starting point to produce a personal response, and work submitted can take any appropriate form.

A-level Art and Design

Our specification has been produced with you and your students in mind. It provides students with opportunities to develop personal responses to ideas, observations, experiences, environments and cultures in practical, critical and contextual forms.

The specification comprises two units at AS and two units at A2. Students should be introduced to a variety of experiences employing a range of media, processes and techniques appropriate to the chosen area of study:

- Art, Craft and Design
- Fine Art
- Graphic Communication
- Photography: lens-based and light-based media
- Textile Design
- Three-Dimensional Design.

Benefits of A-level Art and Design

- **suitable for a diverse range of students** who wish to develop their interest in, and enjoyment of, art and design, allowing them to work to their strengths
- **reflects current thinking** about the aims of art education at this level
- **updated content** reflecting developments in art and design and new media technologies
- **a broad course** in Art, Craft and Design for students who wish to work in a variety of areas according to their interests
- **five specialist areas** available to study
- **straightforward criteria for both AS and A2** with four units which are marked out of 80
- **lays an appropriate foundation for further study** of Art and Design or related subjects in Higher Education.

‘Students at our centre are not only producing excellent examination work, but are also getting into the best UK and international art schools based on work being completed in line with the AQA A-level Art and Design specification. The specification has also been well developed to prepare students for their next steps up the creative ladder.’

Dan Robinson, Head of Photography, King Alfred School

AS Art and Design

Our AS offers progression from our GCSE Art and Design with similar structure and assessment criteria to assist you and your students in the transition.

Assessment overview

AS Assessment Units – available in June only.

Unit 1: Coursework Portfolio

50% of the total AS marks
25% of the total A-level marks
80 marks

A submission of work selected by the student that exemplifies work carried out during the AS course.

At least one extended collection of work, or project, based on an idea, concept, theme or issue, from initial starting point to a realisation.

Unit 2: AS Externally Set Assignment

5 hours of supervised time – emphasis on development of ideas

50% of the total AS marks
25% of the total A-level marks
80 marks

Separate question papers will be set for each AS endorsement, with a choice of five inspiring starting points.

Work can take any appropriate form.

Students may produce preparatory work and finished piece(s), or work of a developmental nature.

A2 Art and Design

Our A-level allows students to develop an awareness of the importance of consumers to art and design, as well as gaining an understanding of the contribution of artists, craftspeople and designers to society and industry.

Students are required to build upon the knowledge, understanding and skills gained in the AS with a greater depth of study.

Practical skills underpin all aspects of the subject and the ability to make critical judgements are considered to be important.

Assessment overview

A2 Assessment Units – available in June only.

Unit 3: Personal Investigation

25% of the total A-level marks
80 marks

Personal investigation based on an idea, issue, concept or theme.

Practical unit with written material of a critical, analytical nature of no less than 1000 words and no more than 3000 words.

Supporting written work needs to be linked to the practical work and support the chosen focus for study.

Unit 4: A2 Externally Set Assignment

15 hours of supervised time

25% of total A-level marks
80 marks

Separate question papers will be set for each A2 endorsement, with a choice of eight inspiring starting points.

Assesses students' ability to work independently in response to a chosen starting point.

Students produce a clearly defined selection of work, which will lead to a finished piece or pieces.

A-level Applied Art and Design

Our A-level Applied Art and Design course is a natural progression for students who have taken the Applied endorsement as part of the GCSE Art and Design course. However, the course is also designed to be accessible to students who have no previous experience of an applied area of study.

Our A-level Applied Art and Design course comprises a unitised structure. The selection of units which students study is determined by the award structure they have chosen to follow.

Benefits of A-level Applied Art and Design

- **encourages active experience** in art and design, including work experience, links with employers, case studies and research
- **knowledge of professional practice;** students learn how to respond to the requirements of a client or audience and work within the constraints set
- **flexible study;** students can combine their study of units in a holistic way or produce work to individual units
- **a broad course** can be followed by selecting three **different** areas of study from the option unit alternatives in Units 6, 11 and 12
- **opportunity to specialise** in a particular area of study by choosing **the same** option alternative for Unit 6 and Unit 11 or 12
- **develops strong portfolio and presentation skills** in preparation for Higher Education or the world of work.



Assessment overview

From January 2012, all units are available in June only.

Unit (All units 60 marks)	Title
AS Unit 1	Investigation of 2D visual language
AS Unit 2	Investigation of 3D visual language
AS Unit 3 (Externally set)	Working to a brief
AS Unit 4	Historical and contemporary references
AS Unit 5 (Externally set)	Professional practice, communication and meaning
AS Unit 6 Students select one of the options for study.	Option Unit Alternatives A – F A: Drawing and painting or printmaking B: Photography, film and video C: Graphic design D: Public art E: Textile, art and fashion F: 3D design
A2 Unit 7	Application and development of 2D visual language
A2 Unit 8	Application and development of 3D visual language
A2 Unit 9 (Externally set)	Working to self-identified briefs
A2 Unit 10	Cultural and critical studies
A2 Unit 11 Students select one of the options for study. This has to be a different option from the one selected for Unit 12.	Option Unit Alternatives A – F A: Drawing and painting or printmaking B: Photography, film and video C: Graphic design D: Public art E: Textile, art and fashion F: 3D design
A2 Unit 12 Students select one of the options for study. This has to be a different option from the one selected for Unit 11.	Option Unit Alternatives A – F A: Drawing and painting or printmaking B: Photography, film and video C: Graphic design D: Public art E: Textile, art and fashion F: 3D design

The award options are:

Award	Specification code	Units
AS Single Award	8511	Units 1 – 3
AS Double Award	8513	Units 1 – 6
A-level Single Award	8516	Units 1 – 3 and 7 – 9
A-level with AS Additional	8517	Units 1 – 9
A-level Double Award	8519	Units 1 – 12

A-level History of Art

Our A-level History of Art (Art of the Western World) specification establishes a framework for exploring aspects of Western art and architecture. Within each unit, we offer a range of options which allows you to design a course to utilise available resources and to suit the interests and strengths of you and your students.

The specification aims to encourage students to develop and communicate their knowledge and understanding of:

- the roles and achievements of practitioners
- the relationship between society and art
- art historical terms and issues
- methods of researching, investigating and analysing
- how works of art and architecture are interpreted and evaluated.

Benefits of A-level History of Art

- **develops a knowledge and understanding of the subject** that encourages skills in investigation and interpretation
- **sharpens skills:** observational, reasoning, critical argument and judgement skills which are also relevant to a wide variety of progression routes
- **achieves an appreciation of significant art historical themes** from Classical Greece to the end of the twentieth-century
- **encourages enjoyment and appreciation of our visual culture**
- **complements the study of other subjects**, such as, Art and Design, History, English Literature and the Humanities.

‘The new style thematic approach to art history has totally reinvigorated my teaching and increased its appeal to a young and dynamic audience. More than ever, the new specification is attractive to fine art teachers given its joint concentration on formal qualities and a choice of works and periods which can be made entirely the teacher’s own. There really is something to suit everyone.’

Penny Huntsman, Head of History of Art, Farlington School

AS History of Art

AS equips candidates to analyse and interpret works of art and architecture, and to understand art historical themes.

Assessment overview

AS Assessment Units – available in June only.

Unit 1 – HART1

1 hour written paper

40% of the total AS marks
20% of the total A-level marks
60 marks

Visual Analysis and Interpretation

Three questions; one on painting, one on sculpture and one on architecture, assessing knowledge and understanding of formal aspects and how they contribute to meaning.

Unit 2 – HART2

1 hour 30 minutes written paper

60% of the total AS marks
30% of the total A-level marks
90 marks

Themes in History of Art – from Classical Greece to the end of the twentieth century (500 BC – 2000 AD).

The following eight themes should be studied: subjects and genres; materials, techniques and processes; form and style; form and function; historical and social contexts; patronage; social and cultural status; gender, nationality and ethnicity.

Questions test knowledge and understanding of significant art historical themes.

A2 History of Art

The A2 units build on the skills of visual analysis and interpretation, and the knowledge and understanding of art historical themes learnt at AS, allowing students to study a chosen topic in more depth.

Assessment overview

A2 Assessment Units – available in June only.

Unit 3 – HART3

1 hour 30 minutes written paper

25% of the total A-level marks
60 marks

Investigation and Interpretation (1)

Questions test knowledge and understanding of art and architecture in relation to an art historical period chosen from the following four optional topics:

- Fifteenth-century Europe
- Seventeenth-century Europe
- Nineteenth-century Europe
- Europe and the United States of America between 1946 and 2000.

Unit 4 – HART4

1 hour 30 minutes written paper

25% of the total A-level marks
60 marks

Investigation and Interpretation (2)

Questions test knowledge and understanding of art and architecture in relation to an art historical period chosen from the following four optional topics:

- Thirteenth- and fourteenth-century Europe
- Sixteenth-century Europe
- Eighteenth-century Europe
- Europe and the United States of America between 1900 and 1945.

ELC Art and Design

We are developing a new ELC specification for first teaching in September 2011 which builds on the strengths of the current ELC specification. Our ELC Art and Design specification is designed for students who are unlikely to achieve a grade G at GCSE. However, it provides opportunities for students to develop their interest, knowledge and skills in art, craft and design and to gain a qualification in Art and Design.

Benefits of ELC Art and Design

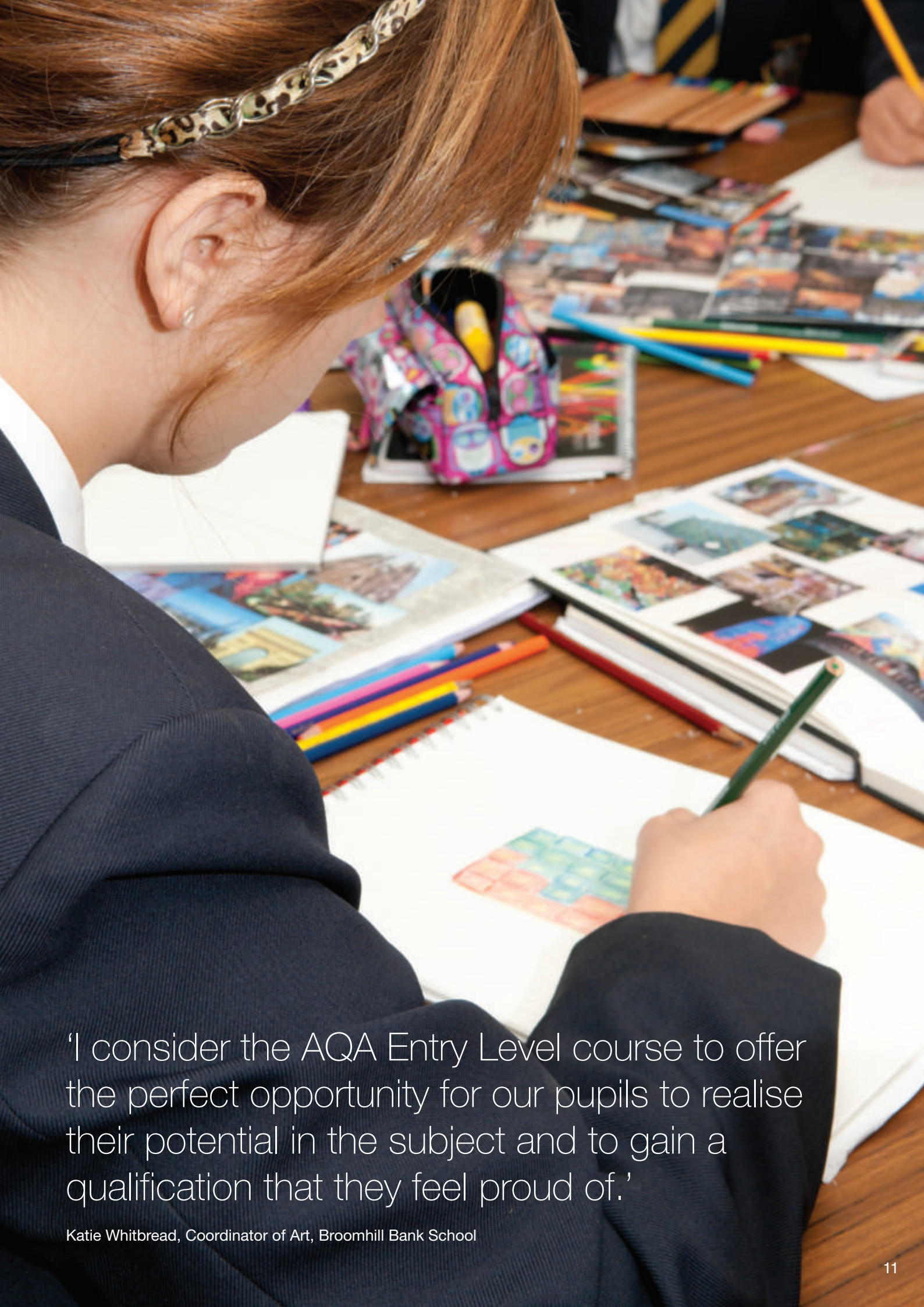
- **choice and flexibility** with a variety of unit options to allow teachers to design courses which suit their students
- **a broad course** which enables students to experiment with and develop their skills in a wide variety of art, craft and design techniques and processes
- **portfolio based course** with no examination period
- **progression** to our GCSE in Art and Design and teachers can easily deliver the ELC specification alongside the GCSE
- **a link to the Unit Award Scheme** which allows students to do individual, stand-alone units and to receive credit for each completed unit. Students can enter for ELC, the Unit Award Scheme, or both.

‘AQA offers exceptional support in the delivery and assessment of ELC; with regular standardisation meetings delivered by subject-specific professionals.’

Katie McCarthy, Art teacher, Hebden Green Community School and Specialist Arts College

‘ELC is a brilliant option for our less able pupils. It ensures that all pupils leave our school with a qualification in Art and Design.’

Kate Lang, Art teacher, Elmwood School



'I consider the AQA Entry Level course to offer the perfect opportunity for our pupils to realise their potential in the subject and to gain a qualification that they feel proud of.'

Katie Whitbread, Coordinator of Art, Broomhill Bank School

Resources and support



‘My department has always found AQA to provide the most professional of services, administered by a knowledgeable and approachable team at AQA.’

William Messer, recently retired Head of Art,
Walbottle Campus Technology College

We understand that support and guidance are essential, which is why we are committed to working with you to offer the support that you and your colleagues need, when you need it:

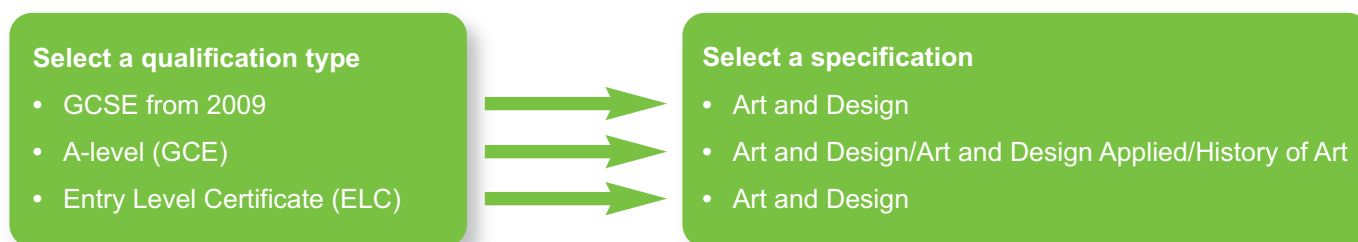
- **Subject Advisers** are allocated to every centre and are available via telephone or e-mail to answer any subject-specific questions or offer guidance on course provision and development
- **free of charge Teacher Standardisation meetings**, which provide training on AQA assessment standards through reference to exhibitions of ‘live’ students’ work. Senior examiners are available at the meetings to provide advice and guidance
- **direct access to knowledgeable subject teams** at AQA via telephone or e-mail so you can be sure of getting the right answer straight away
- **exemplar materials** are available on e-AQA (Secure Key Materials). Art and Design material is provided in the form of ‘Reminder Notes’, which include photographs of the work used at the Teacher Standardisation meetings supported by commentaries written by senior examiners. For History of Art, students’ exemplar responses to specimen question papers and past question papers are available
- **free teacher resource materials** are available on our website, including schemes of work, sample questions and resources lists
- **Ask AQA online question and answer service** gives you 24-hour access to useful information and answers to the most commonly asked questions. If the answer to your question is not available, you can submit a query and you will receive a response from the subject team
- **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** courses led by experienced Art and Design tutors covering in-depth training on our specifications to support your classroom teaching
- **resources from publishers, Nelson Thornes**, for A-level and GCSE Art and Design, written by our senior examiners to support your students’ learning.

Specification details

Specification Code	Title
4200	GCSE Art and Design
2200	A-level Art and Design
8511/ 8513/ 8516/ 8517/ 8519	A-level Applied Art and Design
2250	A-level History of Art (Art of the Western World)
4920	ELC Art and Design

You can read and download copies of our specifications, past question papers, mark schemes, teachers' guides and useful support materials from the Teacher Resource Banks on our website aqa.org.uk.

Use the specification finder in the middle of the home page:



You can also purchase printed copies by ordering via our website aqa.org.uk/publications

Question papers, mark schemes and Reports on the Examination are available via e-AQA (Secure Key Materials) and are published on our website normally nine months after the examination.

Contact information

Friendly, helpful staff are available from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm to answer queries via telephone and e-mail.

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A-level Applied Art and Design	01483 477775
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ELC Art and Design	01483 556432

