

# Art – Fine Art/Visual Arts

## A level – Fine Art

### What will I study and learn?

The course is designed to provide you with an exciting and varied experience across a range of Fine Art disciplines. Key skills and techniques will be taught and developed over the two years, and projects will be informed through an exploration of different artists and designers. There is a strong emphasis on developing an individual and independent approach in each student, which will allow you to fully explore art ideas and develop your own techniques and methodologies as the course develops.

Within the Fine Art specification, there are opportunities to work across a wide range of media beginning with drawing and painting, and extending to printmaking, collage and textiles. You will also get to investigate ideas through screen print, photography and digital processes.

### How will I be assessed?

#### Lower Sixth

The initial projects will develop a range of technical skills and explore the work of artists with the aim of building a broad understanding of different media and processes. Future tasks are designed to develop an individuality to your research and art making. The emphasis of the work is to learn new skills and establish a creative problem-solving approach to your investigations. You will also complete a short written project, and mount an end-of-year exhibition of your work. More than 90% of this course is practical. Towards the end of the Lower Sixth you will commence your Personal Investigation.

#### Upper Sixth

##### Component 1

Personal investigation (60%)

This will be started in the Summer term of the Lower Sixth and will run until January. You will be encouraged to create a body of work that explores an idea, concept or theme from initial research through to realisation in any chosen medium(s). This will be supported by work journals that explore and document your ideas, influences and progress. You will also be required to write a 3,000-word dissertation exploring an aspect of art that has influenced your own practice.

##### Component 2

Externally-set assignment (40%)

This unit is similar to the GCSE examination as it begins with a preparatory period running from February through to April and will culminate in a fifteen-hour examination at the start of May. The weeks prior to the examination will be used to research and explore the chosen question. You will also build up a body of work, which will be supported by a work journal.

## A level/IB

During the course there will be opportunities for you to visit museums and galleries, and experience visits from practising artists. Residential trips allow you to explore art concepts and histories that are relevant to the coursework, and will enable you to broaden your artistic horizons.

Both the Fine Art A level and the IB Visual Arts courses have successfully enabled students to gain admission to degree courses in Architecture and History of Art, and Art & Design foundation and degree courses. Art is also accepted as a main choice in most non-art degrees.



## IB – Visual Arts

### What will I study and learn?

The IB Visual Arts course will immerse you in the theories and practices of art-making, enabling you to explore the dynamics of the history of world art and its relevance to modern and contemporary art forms. You will be required to investigate ideas and themes in art by dividing them into context, methods and communication as a way of building up a critical and aesthetic understanding of the world around you. The three elements – theoretical practice, art-making and curatorial practice – will lead you from initial research through to creating and exhibiting a work of art.

This course will offer opportunities to work with a wide range of techniques and processes, from the digital graphic arts through to screen print, intaglio printmaking, painting in a variety of mediums, and drawing. Parts of the course will involve performance art and image manipulation. Residential trips will support and expand your learning, giving you the chance to experience contemporary art first-hand. Students taking this course will need to be highly motivated and have a strong level of practical skills.

### How will I be assessed?

There are two external sections of assessment and one internal assessment:

External		Internal
<b>Paper 1</b> Comparative study (20%)	<b>Paper 2</b> Process portfolio (40%)	<b>Paper 3</b> Exhibition (40%)
<b>SL:</b> a study of three works of art by at least two artists and a 10–15 screen commentary.	SL – submit 9–18 screens HL – submit 13–25 screens  The Process Portfolio is evidence of your experimentation, exploration, manipulation, and refinement of a variety of art-making activities. The submitted work, should address at least two art-making forms, from separate columns of the art-making forms table.	<b>SL:</b> 4–7 outcomes with accompanying exhibition text and a 400-word maximum curatorial rationale.  <b>HL:</b> 8–11 outcomes with accompanying exhibition text and a 700-word curatorial rationale.
<b>HL:</b> same as SL with the addition of 3–5 screens reflecting on how the artwork studied has influenced your own work.		

### Want to know more?

Mrs Jane Troup  
Head of Art  
jtroup@bgs.bristol.sch.uk

Exam Board:  
[www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)  
[www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)

“Due to the smaller class sizes I regularly receive one-to-one support from my teachers. This extra support has allowed me to expand my creative abilities and has increased my confidence to reach for the top grades in Art.

Tilly Boss, Upper Sixth  
Courses: Psychology, Art and Biology