

## Year 12 Art & Design Curriculum – OCR A-Level

**Board:** OCR (H600 for Fine Art or H601 for Photography pathway)

**Component 1:** Personal Investigation (60%)

**Focus:** Painting Workshops & Photography

**Total Lessons:** 36 (12 per term)

### OCR Core Materials & References

Type	Title/Source	Use
<b>Specification</b>	<a href="#">OCR A Level Art and Design Specification</a>	Curriculum and assessment framework
<b>Exemplar Materials</b>	<a href="#">OCR Teaching and Learning Resources</a>	Past student portfolios, assessment objectives, and teacher commentary
<b>Assessment Grid</b>	<a href="#">OCR Mark Scheme (AO1–AO4)</a>	Teacher assessment, student self-reflection
<b>Annotated Student Work</b>	<a href="#">OCR Sample Work Gallery</a>	Inspiration and benchmarking
<b>Textbooks</b>	"AQA/OCR Art & Design Student Guide" by Martin Piercy & Jayne Shepherd (can be adapted for OCR)	Techniques, AO explanations, and context writing
<b>Support Guide</b>	"How to Write About Contemporary Art" – Gilda Williams	Supports the personal study and AO1 analysis
<b>Digital Resources</b>	Google Arts & Culture, Tate.org.uk, ArtUK.org	Artist research, contextual links
<b>Portfolio Guidance</b>	OCR's "How to create a sketchbook for A Level Art" PDF	Sketchbook structure, expectations, and layout

## Curriculum Overview (36 Lessons)

**Autumn Term: Foundation & Skills (Lessons 1–12)**

Week	Topic	Lesson Objectives	OCR AO Focus	OCR Resources
1	Intro to A-Level	Outline structure, AOs, coursework requirements	AO1	Specification PDF
2	Drawing & Mark-Making	Observational drawing from life and photography	AO3	OCR Exemplar Work
3	Painting Workshop 1	Acrylic techniques – tonal painting	AO2	OCR Painting Techniques Slides
4	Painting Workshop 2	Colour theory: warm/cool and expressive palettes	AO2	OCR Technical Skills Booklet
5	Photography Workshop 1	Camera control: aperture, shutter speed, ISO	AO2	OCR Photography Skills Guide
6	Photography Workshop 2	Composing narrative photos; outdoor photo shoot	AO3	Tate Photography Collection
7	Photoshop Intro	Edit & collage scanned paintings/photos	AO2	OCR Digital Editing PDF
8	Sketchbook Layouts	Page composition, annotations, links	AO1–AO3	OCR Sketchbook Guide
9	Artist Research 1	Jenny Saville (painting) and Cindy Sherman (photo)	AO1	Google Arts & Culture
10	Mixed Media Play	Merge painting and photography	AO2–AO3	OCR Creative Media Techniques
11	Theme Brainstorm	Independent idea generation (PI themes)	AO1–AO3	Mind Map Templates
12	Critique & Review	Present work for peer and teacher feedback	AO4	OCR Peer Feedback Sheet

### Spring Term: Personal Investigation (Lessons 13–24)

Week	Topic	Lesson Objectives	AO Focus	OCR Materials
13	Finalise Theme	Title/question for Component 1	AO1	Personal Investigation Guide
14	First Outcome	Develop initial visual response	AO2	Sketchbook Planning Sheets
15	Photography Development	Location shoot, editing, sequencing	AO2–AO3	OCR Photo Planning Docs
16	Painting Development	Studies related to personal theme	AO2–AO3	Exemplar Sketchbook Pages
17	Artist Study 2	Research 1–2 new contextual artists	AO1	Gilda Williams Reading Extracts
18	Media Expansion	Incorporate textiles, layering, projections	AO2	OCR Mixed Media Examples
19	Text/Image Integration	Handwriting, digital text, stencils	AO2–AO3	Typography & Meaning Slide Deck

Week	Topic	Lesson Objectives	AO Focus	OCR Materials
20	Mid-Project Crit	Presentation and reflective critique	AO4	Peer/Teacher Feedback Forms
21	Outcome #2	Second painting/photo piece with evolution	AO2–AO4	Project Planning Templates
22	Sketchbook Deep Dive	Ensure logical development and annotation	AO1–AO3	OCR AO Checklists
23	Written Study Begins	Writing about artists, process, intentions	AO1	Essay Planner from OCR
24	Mid-Year Review	Evaluate progress toward all AOs	AO4	Marking Grid & Audit Sheet

### Summer Term: Refinement & Final Outcomes (Lessons 25–36)

Week	Topic	Lesson Objectives	AO Focus	OCR Materials
25	Technical Extension	Workshop (chosen by student needs)	AO2	OCR Advanced Media Options
26	Final Outcome Prep	Thumbnails, test pieces, proposal	AO3–AO4	Final Piece Planning Templates
27	Final Piece 1	Begin executing large-scale or polished work	AO2–AO4	OCR Time Management Guide
28	Final Piece 2	Continue work and document development	AO4	Sketchbook Spread Planner
29	Final Piece 3	Refine and complete outcome	AO4	Student Reflection Sheets
30	Personal Study Writing	Support extended essay (1,000–3,000 words)	AO1	OCR Essay Mark Scheme
31	Final Artist Research	Comparative artist/contextual link	AO1	Exemplar Artist Pages
32	Evaluate & Reflect	Link all outcomes to investigation	AO4	Evaluation Writing Prompts
33	Final Presentation	Plan display for internal assessment	AO4	OCR Display Guidelines
34	Group Critique	Verbal presentation, feedback round	AO4	OCR Oral Presentation Prep
35	Final Writing Submission	Final polish and submission of personal study	AO1	OCR Writing Submission Checklist
36	Exhibition & Next Steps	Portfolio preparation for Y13/university	AO4	OCR Future Pathways Pack

### Suggested Reading & Viewing List

## Year 12 curriculum plan



- *How to Write About Contemporary Art* – Gilda Williams
- *Vitamin P: New Perspectives in Painting* – Phaidon
- *Ways of Seeing* – John Berger (BBC/Book)
- *The Photograph as Contemporary Art* – Charlotte Cotton
- Tate's "Art Terms" & "Artist Rooms" Online Collections