



# PiXL Gateway: Progression – Art or Graphic Design

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## Welcome to A Level Art/GD

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Now that you've decided to study Art or GD at A Level, you'll need to do a bit of preparation. This pack contains information regarding the course structure, the summer project, suggested equipment list and websites to prepare you to start your A level in September.

The purpose of studying Art or GD at A Level is to develop knowledge and understanding of:

- Specialist vocabulary and artist terminology when analysing or explaining your own and others' work*
- Theoretical research of a particular genre style and/or tradition*
- In-depth understanding of a variety of media, techniques and processes*
- Development of an idea, concept or issue*
- Recording ideas and observations related to chosen lines of enquiry*

-Communicating a particular meaning, message, idea or feeling

## What do I have to do in A Level Art or GD?

There are two components of the course- the personal investigation and the externally set assignment. The table below summarises the evidence you will produce for each component:

A Level Components	What will I need to do?	How will I evidence this?
<b>Personal Investigation</b> <i>(coursework)</i>  <b>60%</b>	-Write a personal study (essay) based on your chosen theme -Create a body of work related to a chosen theme/s -Create a final piece/s	-A 1000-3000 word essay -Research on a range of artists and/or designers -Exploration of a variety of media, techniques and processes -Development of ideas in response to chosen artist/s/theme -Recording of ideas and observations
<b>Externally Set Assignment</b> <i>(Exam)</i>  <b>40%</b>	-Create preparatory studies based on the theme -Create a personal outcome/s in 15 hours of sustained focus	-By creating a body of work based on the theme given. This will include research, ideas, exploration of media, development of ideas and a final piece/s.

The table below summarises tasks you will need to do to meet each objective:

Development of Ideas	Exploration of Media	Recording & Reflecting	Personal Response
-Research a range of artists- collect images, make a visual study, include biographical information and analyse their artwork -Create your own ideas inspired by your chosen artist/s -Show a clear development of ideas- have they been manipulated, transformed and edited throughout the journey	-Explore with a wide variety of media, techniques and processes -Continually review and refine your work- consider the potential and the limitations of the media used	-Take own photographs related to chosen theme/idea -Create a range of observational studies from primary and secondary sources -Use annotation to explain your idea/s and to reflect on your progress	-A final piece plan to document intentions for final piece and explanation -A final piece/s that realises what you intended to do

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## What areas of Art & Design or GD can I study?

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The table below summarises the different types of design you can study:

<b>Art, Craft &amp; Design</b> <i>This includes the exploration of 2D or 3D design.</i>	<b>Fine Art</b> <i>This could include painting, drawing, printmaking, mixed media, ceramics, installation, moving image and sculpture.</i>	<b>Graphic Communication</b> <i>This could include branding, information graphics, advertising, packaging design, interactive media, multimedia, motion graphics or illustration.</i>
<b>Textile Design</b> <i>This could include textiles for fine art, fashion or interior, costume design, digital textiles, printed and/or dyed fabrics, wallpaper or installed textiles.</i>	<b>Three-Dimensional Design</b> <i>This could include ceramics, sculpture, exhibition design, architectural design, product design, environmental design, design for theatre, jewellery/body ornament or spatial design.</i>	<b>Photography</b> <i>This could include film, video, digital, photojournalism, moving image, documentary photograph, multimedia or film-based photography.</i>

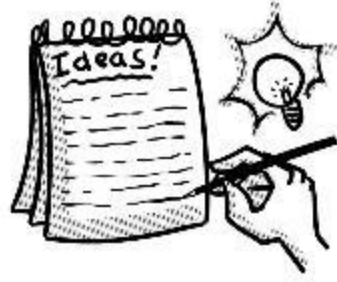
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## Where should I start?

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You need to think about the following:

- *What subject/ theme are you most passionate about?*
- *What is it about this subject that is interesting?*
- *What other avenues could this branch into?*
- *Will you be able to sustain this theme for a long period of time?*
- *Can you think of any particular artists that could relate to it?*
- *Are there any particular styles or techniques that you can explore with?*
- *Are there any current galleries, exhibitions or events that could be relevant?*
- *What places, objects or things could you collect or photograph?*



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## Summer

## Project

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Over the holiday, you will need to complete the following tasks:

- To *select a theme* you are passionate about- this could link to people, places, objects, natural world, environment etc.
- Visit a gallery or exhibition* and document this- photos, drawing, notes, sketches, ticket etc.
- To *collect images and take photographs* related to your theme-whole images, sections, close up etc.
- Create a range of *drawings and studies* from these and life using a range of *different materials and techniques*-try as many different ones as possible!
- Find 2 artists that interest you- it could be their style, use of colour, materials they use etc. Document their work- a copy of their artwork, write some notes to explain it and include biographical information that is relevant.
- Create a variety of studies from your sources but now try them in the style of your chosen artists- consider the artists style, technique and use of media etc.
- Use notes/annotations to support your work so far- this could include explanations or reflections.
- Develop your own hand-designed fonts and lettering styles particularly for Graphic Design.
- For Graphic Design start to learn the terms for typography anatomy. What are the terms for how lettering is laid out? What are the terms for different parts of each letter?
- For Graphic Design, practice looking at existing lettering (brand names, film poster titles, band names, logos) and copy them by hand.

\*Document your project in any format you wish- sketchbook, sheets, folder, concertina etc.



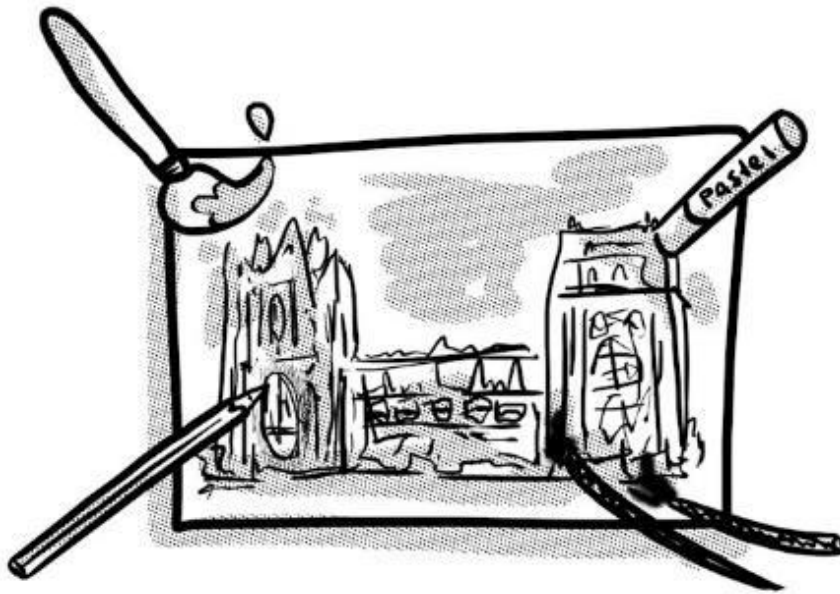
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## Equipment List

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Please find below a suggested list of materials for A Level Art:

- A1 plastic folder or portfolio
- A3 (or bigger) sketchbook
- A selection of drawing pencils-(B, 2B, 4B etc.)
- Masking tape
- Acrylic paint/Oil paint
- Watercolour palette or tin
- A selection of paintbrushes- (soft and stiff bristle)
- Pastels- soft/oil
- Soft coloured pencils or watercolour/Aquarelle
- Charcoal- compressed or pencil
- Selection of inks
- Selection of pens- fine liners
- Scalpel
- A3 cutting mat
- Printing ink
- Rollers
- Plastic mixing tray
- Art palette
- Selection of paper- cartridge/textured/watercolour
- Fineliner pens in a range of thicknesses



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## Suggested Reading

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### Websites:

<https://www.studentartguide.com/>

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/>

<https://www.artforum.com/>

<http://www.artnews.com/>

<http://artreport.com/>

<http://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/a-z>

<https://www.artsy.net/artists>

<https://artuk.org/discover/artists>

### TED Talks:

[https://www.ted.com/talks/alexa\\_meade?language=en#t-262476](https://www.ted.com/talks/alexa_meade?language=en#t-262476) Ted Talk by Alexa Meade- Your body is

my canvas

### Books:

Thinking About Art: A Thematic Guide to Art History by Peter Huntsman (2015)

What Are You Looking At? 150 Years of Modern Art in the Blink of an Eye by Will Gompertz (2016)

Think Like an Artist by Will Gompertz (2015)

Looking at Pictures by Susan Woodford (2018)

The Art Book by Tom Melick (2014)

The Art of Creative Thinking by Rod Judkins (2015)

100 Artists' Manifestos from the Futurists to the Stuckists by Alex Danchev (2011)

For Graphic Design:

The Art Of Looking Sideways by Alan Fletcher (2001)

The Graphic Design Of Neville Brody by Jon Wozencraft

Just My Type: A Book About Fonts by Simon Garfield



### **Reading List Tasks:**

- Collate notes about key subject matter, record quotes and any other relevant information.
- Create a visual mind map of key ideas. Use drawings, images and photographs to illustrate this.
- List key terms and vocabulary- research meanings and/or context.
- Write a list of key questions and/or discussions points that are raised.







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