

GCSE Photography: Exam 2016 Guidance

The work you complete for this exam is worth **40% of your GCSE**. The deadline for the submission of your terminal exam will be the second week after Easter. This gives you 12 weeks to complete:-

- at least 7 shoots, with all contact sheets presented
- preliminary and ongoing research into the work of other photographers and artists. With each shoot, compare your reasons for what you are doing with the intentions of others.
- all edits – aiming for at least 4-6 per shoot
- introduction / aims and summaries for each shoot; however -
 - not every edit needs annotating and you can use screenshots.
 - don't write masses but ensure that your notes explore clearly the purpose of your shoot
- final presentation of best edits – this does not need to be in your book, and can be on a larger scale
- final summary of your overall project

Please read the assessment criteria in the exam paper: the key points to note are that your response must be: personal – informed - meaningful. Use your research into the work of others to develop reasons for your shoots – ask yourself: “why did they do it – what were they trying to show?”

1. Landmarks

The obvious response to this is to use either the docks or Cathedral; however, you can be creative with a response to this one – choose locations of meaning to you that are not necessarily beautiful or interesting. Choose if you want to do most of the shoots outside. Develop a specific point to the theme – what can you say about your subject that makes the shoot worthwhile?

2. Outline

This can be either an internal or external shoot, or both. Subjects can be still life, people or landscapes. Results can either use natural lighting effects or enhanced through editing. Ask yourself what the point of exploring a subject in silhouette or outline is – what does it say about the subject?

3. Reflections

Another theme that asks you to consider exploring subjects in an abstract or visually interesting way. Consider a creative range of subjects and reflective surfaces. A good choice for school based shoots, especially if you like to set up still life shoots using organised lighting.

4. Diary

This can begin with a random shoot of various aspects of your life, but will need to develop a specific theme; for example, a subject/person changing their appearance, or shots of different places/circumstances, or the same location at different times of day. A good choice if you prefer to use a phone camera, but they must not be “snaps” – your shots need thoughtful composition with regard to lighting, background, angle etc.

5. Repetition

A fairly random theme that needs you to develop a more specific response or subject. For example, structure, pattern, or natural / man-made forms. Can develop with a focus on composition or subject matter.

6. Clothing

This is a wide-ranging theme, so as with others, it needs to focus in on a more specific area or theme, such as colour, texture or function. It could focus on particular subjects such as shoes/ gloves/ accessories, or explore the use of clothing on a model under studio conditions, or of a relative in workwear at home. Consider a shoot exploring contrasts between subjects (eg silk/leather).

7. *Groups* A theme that allows you to generate your own personal response and the subject can be completely up to you. One suggestion could be crowds at school or in town.