

The **AQA GCE A-Level in Photography** is a creative and intellectually stimulating course designed to develop students' technical, artistic, and critical skills in photography. Students explore various aspects of photography, including digital and traditional techniques, while critically engaging with the work of other artists and contextual influences.

Key Features

1. **Qualification Level:** A-Level (Level 3).
 2. **Assessment:**
 - Personal Investigation (60% of the qualification).
 - Externally Set Assignment (40%).
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Content of Study

Students explore creative and practical photography techniques alongside analytical and evaluative skills. The course fosters experimentation and personal expression through a variety of photographic media.

Key Areas of Study

1. **Technical Skills**
 - Camera operation and functions (e.g., aperture, shutter speed, ISO).
 - Digital and analog techniques, including darkroom processes.
 - Use of lighting, lenses, and editing software.
 2. **Artistic Exploration**
 - Development of conceptual ideas through photography.
 - Experimentation with composition, colour, texture, and form. use of traditional and non-traditional materials.
 3. **Contextual Understanding**
 - Critical analysis of the work of other photographers and artists.
 - Understanding of historical and contemporary photographic practices.
 - Exploration of how social, cultural, and political contexts influence art.
 4. **Portfolio Development**
 - Building a body of work that demonstrates technical proficiency and conceptual depth.
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Assessment Overview

1. **Component 1: Personal Investigation (60%)**
 - A self-directed project, allowing students to explore a theme or concept of personal interest.
 - Includes:
 - A portfolio of practical work.

- A related written study (1000–3000 words) analysing influences and contextual connections.
 - Assessed on technical ability, creativity, critical understanding, and reflection.
2. **Component 2: Externally Set Assignment** (40%)
- Students select a theme or question from a paper provided by AQA.
 - Includes:
 - A preparatory period to develop ideas and experiments.
 - A final 15-hour supervised practical session to produce a finished piece.
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Skills Developed

- **Creative Problem-Solving:** Exploring innovative approaches to visual communication.
 - **Technical Expertise:** Mastery of photographic tools and techniques.
 - **Critical Thinking:** Analysing and contextualizing artistic works.
 - **Portfolio Building:** Producing a cohesive body of work.
 - **Project Management:** Planning and executing self-directed projects.
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Career Paths this qualification provides a foundation for:

1. **Higher Education:** Degrees in photography, fine art, visual communication, or media studies.
 2. **Professional Training:** Careers in photojournalism, fashion photography, or advertising.
 3. **Employment:** Roles in creative industries, art curation, graphic design, or marketing.
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Who Is It For?

- Students passionate about visual storytelling and photography.
- Those who enjoy experimenting with artistic and technical processes.
- Learners aiming for careers in creative fields or further artistic study.