

# Your Quick Reference Guide to OCR's GCSE Art and Design specifications

At OCR, we believe in developing GCSE specifications that help you bring Art and Design to life, engage students and encourage them to achieve more. We do this by listening to teachers and consulting with key stakeholders.

## GCSE Art and Design specifications:

- An unendorsed GCSE in Art and Design
- Endorsed GCSEs in:
  - Fine Art
  - Graphic Communication
  - Photography - Lens and Light-based Media
  - Textile Design
  - Three-dimensional Design
  - Applied
  - Critical and Contextual Studies

## Controlled Assessment – Portfolio

- 60% weighting
- Only **ONE** body of work is required
- Candidates are given approximately 45 hours (15 -18 school weeks as a guide) to complete their portfolio – **a requirement common to all Awarding Bodies**
- Centre-set starting points, briefs, scenarios or stimuli (can be candidate led)
- Guidance on appropriate homework available from OCR

## OCR-set Task

- 40% weighting
- Only **ONE** body of work is required
- Candidates have 10 hours of supervised, controlled time to produce evidence for the OCR-set Task unit
- Timetabled to suit the centre; no specified examination window
- OCR-set starting points, brief scenarios and stimuli issued in an early release question paper, which can be given out from 1st January onwards
- Preparatory period determined by the centre – **no set time limit**

## General Information

- All OCR GCSE Art and Design specifications are unitised
- Updated endorsement descriptors reflect the new requirements, current technology, processes, techniques and materials
- Candidates' work is assessed and standardised internally, before external moderation by an OCR moderator
- One assessment opportunity per year, as part of the June series
- Assessment marks must be with OCR by 15th May



## Benefits of the Changes

- **Endorsements:** More options available, including:
  - Applied - client focused briefs and a vocational approach
  - Critical and Contextual Studies – a mix of written and practical responses
- **Flexibility:** Centres have more freedom to structure their delivery programme to suit their needs
- **Assessment:** Reduction in the amount of work required for assessment
- **Display:** Reduction in space required for moderation
- **Progression:** A clear route to A level Art & Design



## What is unique to OCR?

- Only **ONE** body of work for the controlled assessment portfolio is required
- Candidates can now attain a full GCSE with just **TWO** units of assessment from A110 – A117 Coursework portfolio and A120 – 127 OCR set task
- Critical and Contextual Studies endorsement
- Subject Area Support (SAS) Team - experienced Art and Design teachers and moderators offering advice and support
- Transparent moderation process. Same day, one-to-one feedback on the outcome of moderation for your centre.

## Support and Training

Some examples of the support and training on offer to you include:

- Sample assessment materials (SAMs) for each unit
- Sample Schemes of Work and Lesson Plans
- Teacher's Handbook
- Subject Area Support Team (SAS Team)
- E-community **updated**
- Get Started INSET training events
- Guide to Controlled Assessment
- Report on the units each year from the Chief Examiner

**NEW** Art Community – [www.social.ocr.org.uk](http://www.social.ocr.org.uk) where you can start a discussion, comment on other people's posts and upload resources to share with you colleagues.

Visit [www.ocr.org.uk/art/gcse/documents](http://www.ocr.org.uk/art/gcse/documents) to view our range of support materials.

**www.ocr.org.uk**  
OCR customer contact centre

### Vocational qualifications

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