

Graphic Communication

GCSE AQA
(8203)

How is the course assessed?

Component 1 – Portfolio (Controlled Assessment) 60% weighting

This involves designing and making quality products and a supporting folder of investigative and exploratory work in response to an initial starting point or brief. The work relates to commercial practices, learning from other artists/designers, and recording all stages of the designing and making process.

Component 2 – AQA Set-Assignment (Controlled Assessment) 40% weighting

They receive a set-task paper in January of year 11 and select one starting point (brief). Preparation time of one term (12 weeks) is given to research, plan and develop ideas. Finishing with 10 hours of supervised time in exam conditions to complete and produce their final outcomes.

What students need to do to achieve:

Lesson time should focus on creative elements using the software under the supervision of the teacher who can offer feedback. Therefore students should complete at least 1 hour of work per week outside of lessons on tasks such as:

- Research: Similar products, competitors' products, work of other designers/artists, target audience and opinions/surveys that cannot be done during lesson time.
- Write up analysis and evaluations of their work as it progresses.
- Write up step-by-step explanations of processes, tools and techniques used to produce work as it progresses.
- Collect primary research such as physical products to analyse and evaluate, gaining understanding of how to improve designs.
- Visit galleries and exhibitions showing work of relevant artists and designers to gain inspiration for their own work.

How parents / carers can help students:

Ensure that students are using their portfolio checklists and task/target sheets to improve or complete work to the highest quality standard possible line with their target grades.

Check that students spend a minimum of 1 hour per week on their portfolio to record their progress.

Support and intervention available at school:

- Extra support sessions are available after school on Mondays, Tuesday & Wednesdays in G6 or G7.
- Access to ICT and colour printing in G6 & G7 is available any lunchtime by request with Miss Popper & Mrs-Beeden Simpson.
- Access to ICT in the library and hubs at break, lunch and after school everyday.
- Coursework catch-up sessions available in Spring half-term and Easter holidays as required.

Dates to make a note of:

Component 1 portfolio submission – 6th January 2018 (TBC)

Component 2 AQA set-task 10 hour exam – End of April 2018 (TBC)

Component 2 AQA set-task submission – 1st May 2018 (TBC)

Who can I contact for further advice / support?

Mrs Beeden-Simpson & Miss R Popper

