

Art KS4 Key words and definitions

- **Tone** - This refers to the lightness or darkness of something. This could be a shade or how dark or light a colour appears. **Tones** are created by the way light falls on a 3D object. The parts of the object on which the light is strongest are called highlights and the darker areas are called shadows.
- **Shading** - **Shading** is used in drawing for depicting levels of darkness on paper by applying media more densely or with a darker shade for darker areas, and less densely or with a lighter shade for lighter areas.
- **Tint** - A colour is made lighter by adding white, this is called a tint.
- **Tonal drawing** - Refers to the technique of drawing in which there are no lines only shading.
- **Development** - to grow into a more mature or advanced state; advance; expand: to bring out the capabilities or possibilities of; bring to a more advanced or effective state:
- **Theme** - a unifying or dominant idea, topic, motif, etc., as in a work of art.
- **Study** - *Art.* something produced as an educational exercise, as a memorandum or record of observations or effects, or as a guide for a finished production:

She made a quick pencil sketch of his hands as a study for the full portrait in oils.

- **Theme study** – a study produced of your chosen topic
- **Observational drawing** - Observational drawing is exactly what it sounds like: drawing via **observation**. By simply looking at the subject and drawing what is presented to the eye,
- **Final response** – The piece of artwork produced at the end of a project combining all the best sections of your research.
- **Personal response** - Belonging to or affecting you rather than anyone else. How you feel about your artwork.
- **Experimentation** – trying different materials, techniques and compositions to develop/ come up with an idea for a final response.
- **Materials** – paint, pencil, paper, newspaper, etc. equipment used to create various forms of art.
- **Media** (in art) - Refers to the materials you use to create your art. Mixed media is artwork in the making of which more than one medium has been employed.
- **Medium** - Can refer to both to the type of art (painting, sculpture, printmaking) as well as the materials an artwork is made from.
- **Planning** - to draw or make diagrams or layouts of potential final responses,
- **Composition** - the organization or grouping of the different parts of a work of art so as to achieve a unified whole.
- **Contrast** - opposition of different forms, lines, or colours in a work of art to intensify each element's properties and produce a more dynamic expressiveness (make it stand out more).

The difference in colour found between the light and dark parts of an image.

- **Drawing** - A technique in which images are created on a surface using lines and other marks. Drawings may also consist of areas of tone, washes and other non-linear marks. All students must evidence drawing activity in both their Portfolio and Externally set assignment submissions. It must feature in their evidence for AO3 but could also be evidenced in AO1, AO2 and AO3. Drawing activity should fulfil a purpose or a need, rather than demonstrate technical mastery, unless this is the student's explicit intention. Drawing might, therefore, take many different forms as it features in the creative journey undertaken
- **Brief** - A designer's brief, or creative brief, is what a client will give to a designer to help them come up with a creative solution or set of concepts.
- **Portfolio** - a body of work that shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. This must include a sustained project evidencing the journey taken from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work produced during the course of study.

- **Sources** - In both components, students are required to engage with, and make connections with sources. Sources can include such references as the work of artists, craftspeople, designers and/or makers, the built environment, the natural world, objects and/or artefacts, as well as performance, music, text, the moving image, customs, traditions and issues.
- **Written annotation** - All students must evidence written annotation in both their Portfolio and Externally set assignment submissions. It must feature in their evidence for AO3 but could also contribute to evidence in AO1, AO2, and AO4

Using appropriate specialist vocabulary, written annotation should supplement visual material and could support the student's evidencing of ideas development, observations, reflections, evaluations and personal intentions. Examples of annotation will be in the accompanied guide for this requirement. Annotations can be presented in hand-written and/or digital form as appropriate.

Further Subject specific Vocabulary

The following subject specific vocabulary provides definitions of key terms used in AQA's GCSE Art and Design specification. More can be found on the AQA GCSE Art and Design pages of their website.

- **Alignment** - The adjustment of arrangement or position in lines of a text or an image – for example, left, right, centered.
- **Ambient light** - Already existing light surrounding a subject – available light.
- **Ancient** - Belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence.
- **Angle of view** - Also known as the "Field of view," it is the width of the view produced by a lens. Wide-angle lenses have a wider angle of view than telephoto lenses.
- **Animation** - Generating movement by displaying a series of images using frames.
- **Area of study** - Each title contains a number of 'areas of study'. Students are required to select one or more to work in when developing their portfolio submissions. These include for example drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, mixed media, illustration, typography, ceramics, jewellery and body adornment, installation and the moving image. For Art, craft and design, students are required to work in areas of study from two or more titles.
- **Art, Craft and Design** - The term 'Art and Design' has now changed to 'Art, craft and design' to encompass a broad course associated with two or more of the endorsed titles. It should take into account the specific qualities and practices of art-based study (such as personal work that conveys an experience or responds to an idea, theme or issue); craft-based study (such as practical work involving making activities) and design-based study (such as working within the requirements or constraints of a brief or starting point).
- **Armature** - A rigid framework, often wood or steel, used to support a sculpture or other large work while it is being made.
- **Assemblage** - Art that is made by assembling disparate elements which are often scavenged by the artist, or sometimes bought specially.
- **Asymmetrical** - This is when graphics and/or text are not identical on both sides of a central line.
- **Avant-garde** - Avant-garde ideas, styles, and methods are very original or modern in comparison to the period in which they happen.
- **Backlighting** - Lighting from behind the subject.
- **Bas relief** - Sculpture in which figures project only slightly from a background, as on a coin. Also known as low relief sculpture.
- **Bitmap** - A series of bits that forms a structure representing a graphic image. The colour of each pixel is individually defined.

- Bleeding - Describes the action of one colour running into another. Most applicable to watercolour where a second or third colour can be dropped onto an already applied wash while wet.
- Bleeding (textiles) - The blending or merging together of different colours when applied to a wet fabric. The escape of dye from under a stencil into an unexpected area during screen printing.
- Block print - Fabric that has been hand printed using carved wooden printing blocks.
- Border - The decorative design or edge of a surface, line, or area that forms its outer boundary.
- Branding - The process involved in creating a unique name and image for a product in the consumers' mind, mainly through advertising campaigns with a consistent theme.
- Bricolage - A construction or artwork using any found materials.
- Brushwork - Refers to the way paint is applied in a painting, describing texture of the paint surface applied with a brush.
- Camera angle - Same as "viewpoint". The position of the camera in relation to the position of the subject.
- Candid - Candid photographs unposed.
- Cartoon - A term originally used to describe the preparatory drawing for a painting, mural, tapestry and stained glass, which changed its definition in the nineteenth century to humorous illustrations then again to sequences of illustrations forming a story.
- Carving - A technique used by sculptors using tools such as chisels and files to cut or scrape away from a solid material such as stone or wood.
- Casting - The pouring of liquid clay into plaster moulds to make wares.
- Close-up - A picture of a subject taken with the subject close to the camera.
- Coiling - A method of forming pottery or sculpture from rolls of clay that are smoothed together to form the sides of a jar or pot.
- Collage - Describes both the technique and the resulting work of art in which pieces of paper, photographs, fabric and other materials are arranged and stuck down onto a supporting surface.
- Collograph - A method of direct printing in which materials such as string, cardboard, and other found materials are stuck to card or board to enable prints can be taken.
- Colour field painting - Describes the work of abstract painters working in the 1950s and 1960s who painted large areas of a more or less flat single colour.
- Colour wash - A term used to describe the transparent layers of colour in a watercolour.
- Commercial - The art of creative services, referring to art created for commercial purposes, primarily advertising. Commercial art traditionally includes designing books, advertisements of different products, signs, posters, and other displays to promote sale or acceptance of products, services, or ideas.
- Complementary colours - Red and green, yellow and purple, blue and orange. These colours lie opposite each other on the colour wheel.
- Composite photographs - Made by combining pictures from different sources into a single image (photomontages or montages).
- Composition - The arrangement of elements within a work of art.
- Computer animation - Also known also as CGI animation, refers to the creation of moving graphics (animated images) using computer technology.
- Conceptual - An art form in which the underlying idea or concept and the process by which it is achieved are more important than any tangible product.
- Contemporary - The term contemporary art is loosely used to refer to art of the present day and of the relatively recent past, of an innovative or avant-garde nature.
- Context - The setting for an event, statement, or ideas
- Crop - A tool that removes portions of an image. It is usually used in digital photography.
- Cross hatching - Mark making technique using crisscrossed lines which are used to build up shadow and tone. They can be created using crisscrossed hand or machine stitches as well as 2D media.
- Culture - The ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.

- Decorative - Art that is meant to be useful as well as beautiful, it is inclusive of different crafts such as ceramics, furniture, interior design, jewellery, and textiles.
- Depth of field - The distance between the nearest and furthest point in focus in an image.
- Digital art - Refers to art made or presented using digital technology.
- Diptych - An artwork made in the form of two painted or carved panels.
- Embellishment - The application of stitching, trimmings, threads, braid, ribbons and beads to decorate a fabric or textile.
- Embossing - The creation of a raised, three dimensional area on a printed sheet.
- Engraving - To print designs by cutting the surface of a metal plate.
- Exaggerated - Enlarged or altered beyond normal proportions. Exaggeration could be seen in overstating the features of a subject or in overemphasising the colour or surface of an image or artefact
- Experience - Practical contact with and observation of facts or events. An event or occurrence which leaves an impression on someone.
- Expressive - Effectively conveying thoughts or feelings. Where the process and style of creation is emphasised rather than the final product. Expression in art might be seen in bold colour, or gestural mark making.
- Focal point - The main or principal point of focus.
- Font - A complete combination of characters created in a specific type, style, and size.
- Foreshortening - The technique of depicting an object or human body in a picture so as to produce an illusion of projection or extension in space.
- Form - In relation to art the term form has two meanings: it can refer to the overall form taken by the work – its physical nature; or within a work of art it can refer to the element of shape among the various elements that make up a work.
- Functional - Functional art refers to artwork that serves practical purposes. It encompasses everything from furniture and lighting, architecture, toy and game design, domestic utensil design and a wide range of decorative design.
- Genre - Often refers to different types of art work having a particular form, content, technique ie still life genre, a realistic style of painting using everyday life as subject material.
- Glazing - Applied to painting media, the term glazing means the laying of a transparent colour over previously laid and dried-out pigments that may be opaque or transparent.
- Golden section/Mean - The use of a mathematical proportion as the basis for important parts of a composition.
- Gouache - A type of water-soluble paint that, unlike watercolour, is opaque so the white of the paper surface does not show through.
- Ground - Refers in painting to the surface on which an image is painted.
- Horizon line - Refers to the eye level used in perspective.
- Hue - One of the three primary attributes of color. A hue is a variety of color such as red, blue, green, or yellow.
- Line drawing - Refers to a kind of drawing in which there are only lines and no shading.
- Maquette - A small scale model or rough draft of an unfinished sculpture.
- Mixed media - A term used to describe artworks composed from a combination of different media or materials.
- Monochromatic - Having only one colour. Descriptive of work in which one hue, perhaps with variations of value and intensity, predominates.
- The monoprint - A form of printmaking where the image can only be made once, unlike most printmaking which allows for multiple originals.
- Montage - An assembly of images that relate to each other in some way to create a single work or part of a work of art.

- Negative space - The space around an object rather than the object itself.
- Oil paint - Slow drying paint in which the pigment is mixed with an oil such as linseed or poppy that forms a hard coloured surface when dry.
- Pastels - A coloured drawing medium made from a stick of compressed pigment and binder.
- Pattern - A repeated decorative design. It is also the term given to a series of templates or instructions which are used to assemble a fashion or costume piece.
- Perspective - Refers to the use of a mathematical system to represent three dimensional space on the two dimensional surface of a drawing or painting.
- Photomontage - Another name for a composite image, which is made by combining pictures from different sources into a single image.
- Photorealism - A genre of art that encompasses painting, drawing and other graphic media, in which an artist studies a photograph and then attempts to reproduce the image as realistically as possible in another medium.
- Picture Plane - An imaginary flat surface that is assumed to be identical to the surface of a painting. Forms in a painting meant to be perceived in deep three-dimensional space are said to be "behind" the picture plane. The picture plane is commonly associated with the foreground of a painting.
- Pigment - A colouring substance made from plants, earth, or minerals and may include other synthetic elements. When mixed with binders it becomes paint, ink or crayon.
- Pixel - The smallest picture content that can be individually assigned a color.
- Photography - The term 'Photography: lens-based and light-based media' has now changed to 'Photography'. It continues to enable the production of static or moving images using traditional and/or new media practices
- Polyptych - An artwork made in the form of more than three painted or carved panels.
- Primary colours - Any hue that, in theory, cannot be created by a mixture of any other hues. Varying combinations of the primary hues can be used to create all the other hues of the spectrum. In pigment the primaries are red, yellow, and blue.
- Realism - Representing a person, location or thing in a way that is accurate and true to life.
- Screenprint - A technique of printing in which each coloured ink is squeezed through a stencil held on a mesh screen.
- Secondary colours - A hue created by combining two primary colours, as yellow and blue mixed together yield green. In pigment the secondary colours are orange, green, and violet.
- Simplification - To make less complex or complicated; make plainer or easier: In visual terms this might mean less detail, a minimal outline.
- Site-specific - A work of art designed specifically for a particular location and that has an interrelationship with the location.
- Stencil - A shape or image cut out of paper or card to create a space through which dye can be applied.
- Still life - One of the principal genres (subject types) of Western art – essentially, the subject matter of a still life painting or sculpture is anything that does not move or is dead.
- Style - Style may refer to the visual appearance of a work of art that relates it to other works by artists from a particular genre, or "school", art movement or culture (for example, an impressionist style). Style can also mean the way you have made your work (for example, an expressive style).
- Stylised - To conform you're working process to a particular style. To work only in a manner that has a particular identity.
- Template - Shape or image cut out of paper or card to create a pattern.
- Tertiary colours - Six colours positioned between the primary and secondary colours on the colour wheel.
- Triptych - An artwork made in the form of three painted or carved panels.
- Vanishing point - The point at which the receding lines in perspective appear to meet.
- Wash - Application of a thin or dilute colour to a surface.

- Watercolour - A painting technique using coloured pigment suspended in a transparent medium.