

YR 11 PHOTOGRAPHY EXAM PREP 2017

Below is a list of practical steps to help with your exam unit. Your ideas, experiments and willingness to 'own' these is key. You can divert from these steps, but pay attention to the flow/quantity. Work should always be meaningful to you.

RESPONDING TO EXAM PAPER

Use/disrupt your exam paper - with notes/key words added, key interests highlighted.
Attach small examples of artists work; doodle upon it with initial visual ideas etc.
Can you play with the actual exam paper in an experimental way linked to your theme?

QUICK RESPONSES

Take your own quick photos exploring the theme – a **visual** collection of first thoughts and possible starting points/ideas. Don't be too precious. Aim for quantity and then select/order from these.
Create/screenshot your own Pinterest board and exam theme instagram feed. Importantly explain your decisions.

MORE CONSIDERED RESPONSES

Produce a range of more considered recordings demonstrating technical awareness/sensitive thinking/playfulness - use different media e.g. photos, film animation, drawings, etc.
Develop a small sketchbook or Instagram feed specifically for your chosen theme.
Consider how your experiments might be grouped or ordered in various ways.

ARTIST RESEARCH

Research at least one photographer/artist in more depth and respond in your own way (experimental photography, film making, collaging etc.). Add notes explaining your ideas. Make these pages energetic and experimental.

STYLES & GENRES

Experiment with your theme considering various art/photo genres e.g. set up a carefully lit still life using relevant objects (or photograph these objects where you find them in a more documentary style); produce a set of portraits in a relevant location (these be formally posed, or taken in a more informal/snapshot manner) – importantly, think about genres and justify your choices.

SERIES

Develop a series of photographs (or collages, gifs, films, sketches etc.) – a collection that maintains consistencies e.g. similar viewpoints, subject matter, a reoccurring colour, object, theme etc. Consider previous experiments (and prior work on typologies, diptychs and photobooks).
Present these in a handmade book format – experiment with different surfaces, customise copies in various ways.

MANIPULATIONS

Experiment with manipulating/abstracting/disrupting images. Consider overlaying or working on top of them e.g. mono printing, drawing, collaging; use Photoshop; print images and construct with them; fold/tear and re-photograph; re-photograph images in different locations e.g. contrasting spaces, obscured, with objects placed upon them etc.

ARTIST RESPONSES

Produce further studies/responses into an artist work. Focus on techniques. Include notes on how their work links to your own ideas. Consider how their style/intentions/technique might inspire you to produce something of your own.

DEVELOPMENT OF AN AMBITIOUS RESPONSE:

What do you want your work to do/say/mean to others? What are your intentions, your skills? What materials do you want to use? What will give your work 'value'/interest/quality? E.g. technical skill, concept, ambition/scale, complexity etc. Support your bullet-point notes with imagery/sketches.

PRODUCE AN AMBITIOUS RESPONSE:

Produce a personal outcome in response to the work/notes above. Do not compromise on quality, treat it like a final outcome – there will always be new developments/possibilities that arise.

SUPPORTING WORK FOR A FINAL OUTCOME/EXAM PIECE:

Review your previous outcome. Consider how this might lead to a more complex work during the timed session. Experiment further with the media and skills required; explain and justify your experiments. Explore potential compositions/layouts.
Produce thumbnail drawings to show possibilities. Prepare the materials required.

PRODUCTION/JUSTIFICATION OF FINAL OUTCOME/EXAM PIECE:

Produce a highly personal response meaningful to you. Pay attention to quality - visual, technical, conceptual. Work should be subtle and thought provoking rather than overstating something or making it too busy. (Unless that's a deliberate intention).