

Year 9 Summer Work: GCSE Art and Design (AQA)

Welcome to GCSE Art and Design!

To prepare for the course in September, you will complete a photography-based investigation into the work of two influential photographers:

Karl Blossfeldt

Edward Weston

This project will introduce you to the research, analysis and recording skills that are an important part of GCSE Art and Design.

Summer Project: Natural Forms in Photography

Task 1: Research the Artists

Research the work of **Karl Blossfeldt** and **Edward Weston**.

Your research should include:

Karl Blossfeldt

Explore:

His background and career

His use of plant forms and close-up photography

The purpose of his photographs

How he revealed pattern, structure and texture in nature

Edward Weston

Explore:

His background and career

His photographs of natural forms, shells, vegetables and landscapes

His use of light and shadow

How he transformed ordinary objects into striking compositions

Task 2: Artist Analysis Page

Create one full page of artist analysis comparing the work of Blossfeldt and Weston.

Your analysis should include:

Description

What can you see in the photographs?

Comment on:

Subject matter

Composition

Texture

Pattern

Shape

Form

Analysis

How have the artists created their images?

Consider:

Camera angle

Cropping

Lighting

Focus

Scale

Tone

Interpretation

What ideas or messages do the photographs communicate?

Think about:

Beauty in nature

Structure and design

Organic forms

Observation of everyday objects

Personal Response

Explain:

Which artist you prefer and why

What techniques you find interesting

How their work could inspire your own photography

Use images alongside your written analysis and annotate directly around the photographs.

Task 3: Create Your Own Photographic Response

Using your research as inspiration, produce a series of your own photographs.

Your photographs should explore themes found in the artists' work, including:

Natural forms

Plants and flowers

Leaves

Seed heads

Trees

Shells

Fruit and vegetables

Texture

Pattern

Shape

Organic structures

Try to photograph subjects in ways that reveal details that are not normally noticed.

Photography Challenge

Experiment with:

Close-up Photography

Cropping

Lighting

Explore natural light and dramatic shadows.

Unusual Viewpoints

Black and White Photography

Convert some images to black and white to emphasise tone, shape and texture, as both artists often focused on these qualities.

Task 4: Present Your Work

Select your best 6–10 photographs and present them neatly.

For each image include a short annotation explaining:

What inspired the photograph

Which artist influenced you

What techniques you used

What was successful