

The GCSE Photography Handbook



Name:

Course Information

The Photography GCSE is made up of two elements, **portfolio work** and the final **exam**.

The portfolio work will be created in year 10 and the first term of year 11. You will work on 2 mini projects and 3 full length projects in this time and at the end of year 11 you will select your best work and submit this for marking. The portfolio mark will account for 60% of your final grade.

The exam will be 10 hours, spread over 2 days and sat at the end of year 11. You will have from the beginning of January to prepare for the exam and complete all your preparation work. You will be given a range of themes/words by the exam board and you will have to select and investigate one of these for your exam work.

Projects

Year 10

Over the course of year 10 you will be working on 4 different projects.

1. Mini Project - **The Basics**

During this project you will gain an understanding of how to operate a DSLR camera and how to take creative and original photographs.

During this project you will explore:

focusing the camera, print quality, resolution, aperture, shutter speeds, panning the camera, light drawing, composition, the formal elements and 'wrong' photographs.

2. Mini Project - **Alive!**

During this project you will explore:

A number of different photographers and artists who have used toys to create and base their photographs on, depth of field, basic computer editing, using lighting, creating backdrops, viewpoints and creating gifs.

3. Full Project - **Welcome to...**

During this project you will explore:

Our local surroundings via a number of field trips, photographers who have focused on architecture, designers and landscape photography. You will be creating your own online presentation to record your progress and then tasked with creating a coffee table style book with your photographs.

4. Full Project - **Strange and Distorted**

During this project you will explore:

A wide range of photographers, designer and artists who have created distorted images, collage, computer and hand editing methods, shutter speeds, mixed media photographs, pattern, double exposure and joiners.

Year 11

In year 11 you will begin the **mock exam work**. You will be given the exam themes at the end of the summer in year 10 and have the whole of the Autumn term to investigate and develop your ideas ready for the 10 hour mock exam at the end of December. The work you complete for this mock can be counted towards your portfolio work.

Assessment Objectives Explained

All of your work will be marked according to how well you have met the 4 assessment

Assessment Objective 1 Developing Ideas

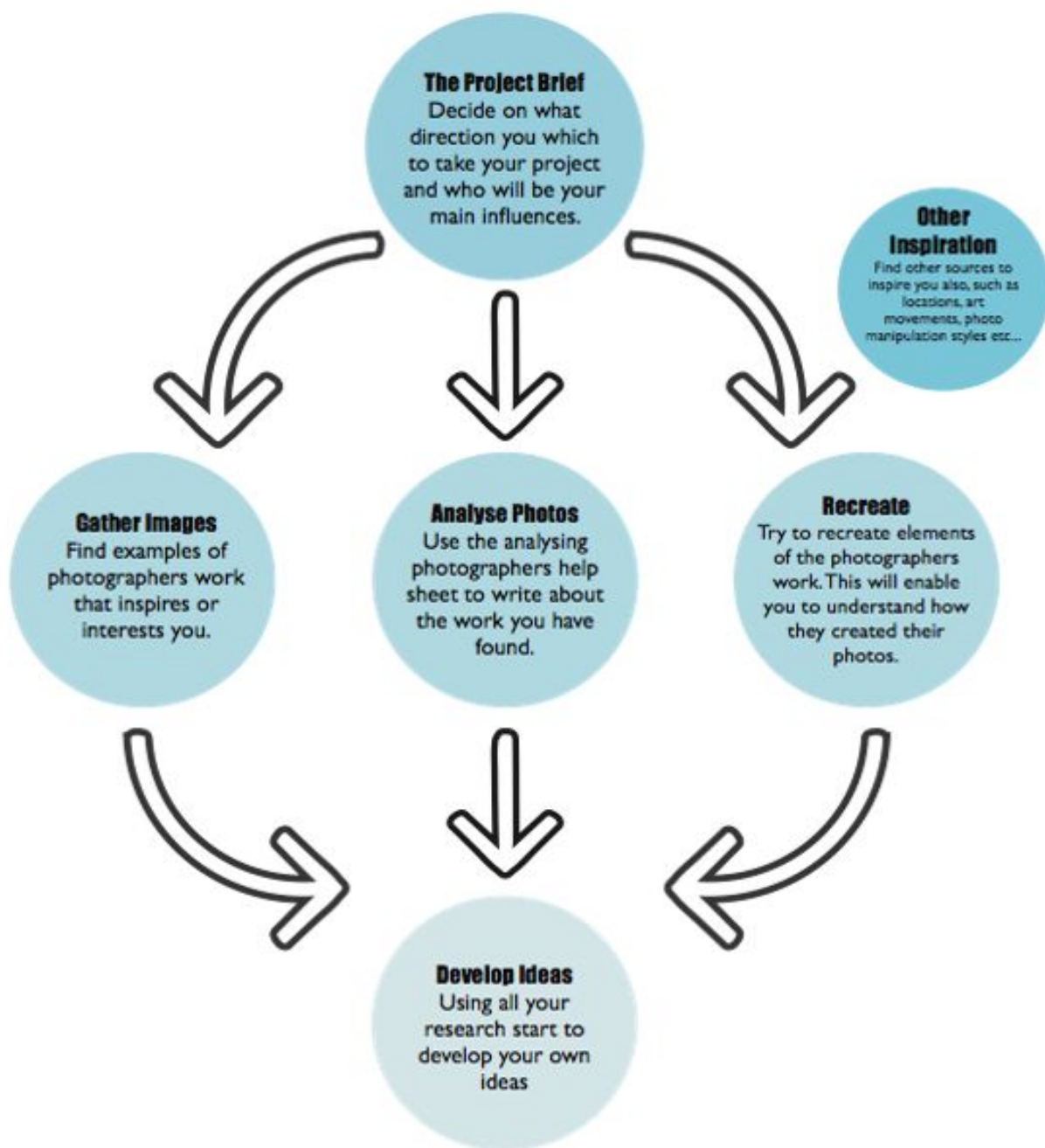
A01

You must **develop** your ideas for your projects by **investigating** various photographers, artists or designers.

You should also undertake **trips** out of the classroom to gather photos that will aid your ideas.

You must **analyse** and **annotate** your images with your thoughts and opinions.

Always **link** your ideas back to your original research.



Assessment Objectives Explained

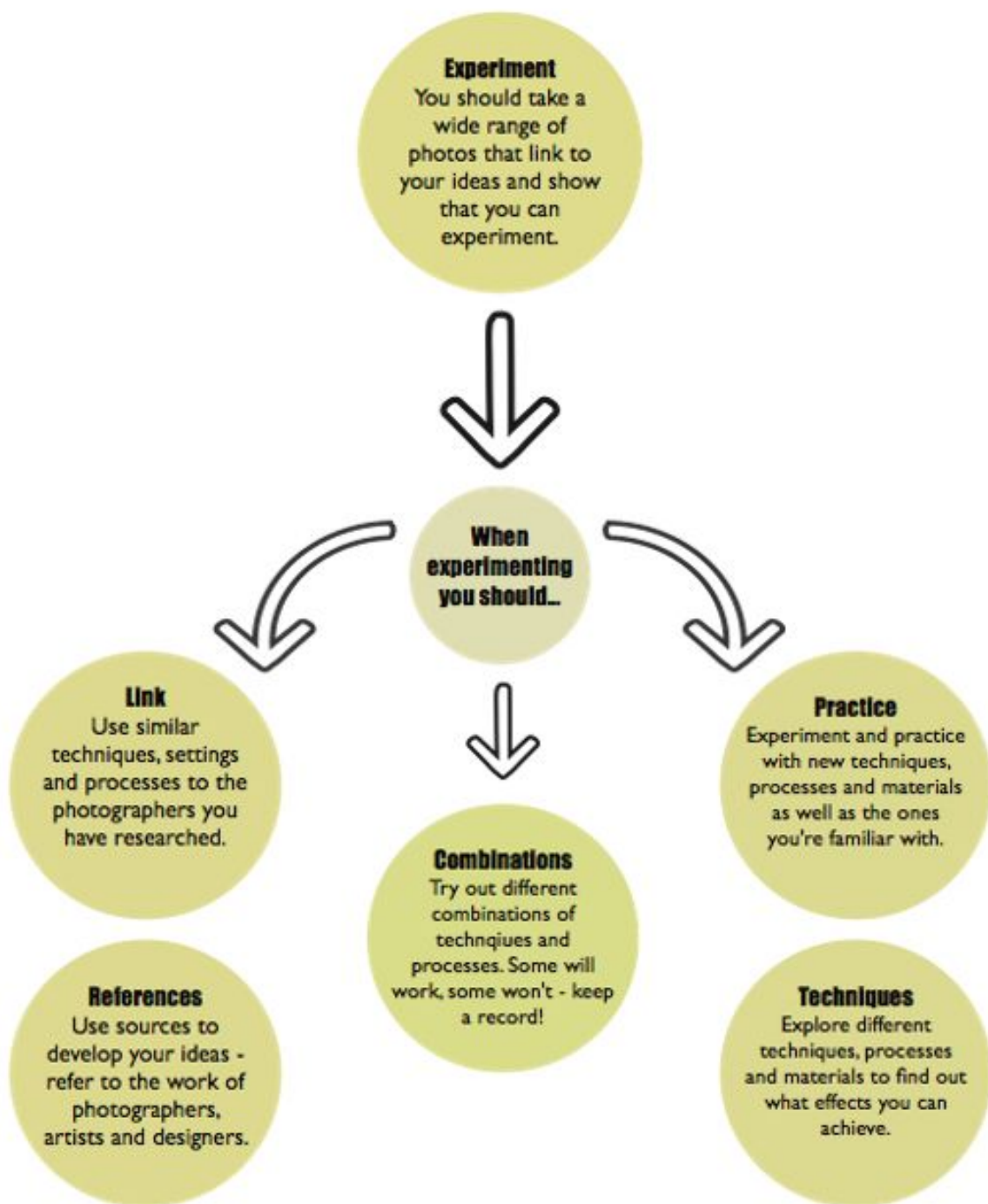
Assessment Objective 2 Experimenting

A02

You must show that you can **explore** and **refine** your ideas through **experimentation**.

You should select **different** techniques, process, methods, resources, media and materials.

It should be clear how you are developing your ideas and that you are **improving** your work as you go.



Assessment Objectives Explained

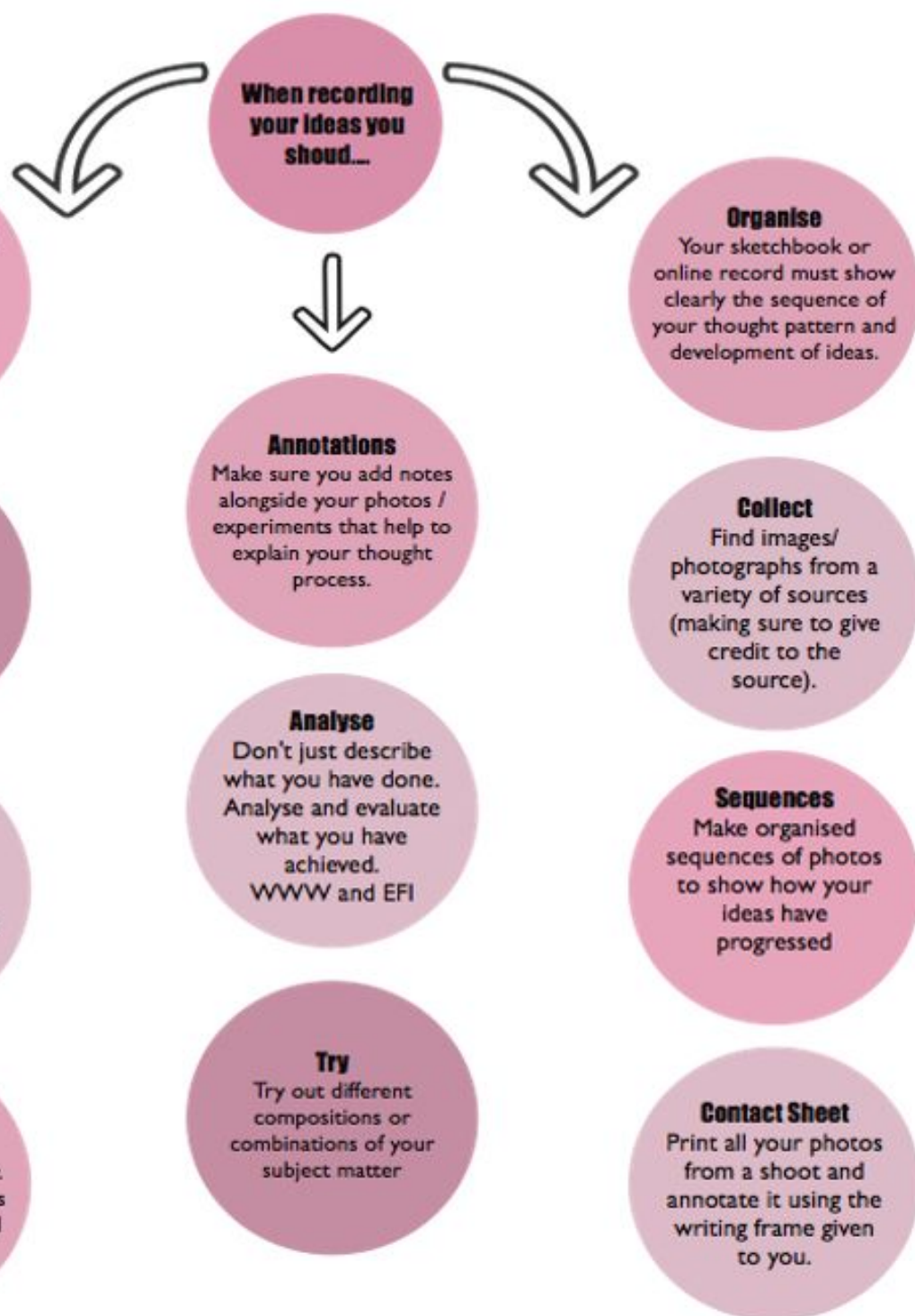
Assessment Objective 3 Recording

A03

You can record your **ideas, observations** and **insights** in visual, written and other forms.

You should work from a range of **experiences** and **stimulus** materials.

You must talk and **describe** your work; what you have achieved at each stage and what you will do next.



Assessment Objectives Explained

Assessment Objective 4 Present

A04

You must present a **personal, informed** and **meaningful** response to the brief
You should demonstrate **analytical** and **critical** understanding throughout.
You must present the **culmination** of your **journey** in a finished piece or pieces.

**When presenting
your final piece(s)
you should...**

Realise

Your intentions must be clear in both your preparation work and your final piece(s).

Evidence

Provide evidence of the development of your finished ideas from the initial brief to the finished work.

Experimented

Show that you have experimented with different techniques, processes and media.

Record

Record your ideas, observations and insights into both your own work and that of others.

Select

Show that you used, in your final piece(s), some of the techniques, processes and media you experimented with.

Understanding

Analyse and evaluate what you have done at each stage to show your understanding throughout the project.

Present

Present a personal response to your chosen theme or brief.

Evidence

Make sure you show evidence of link between your work and the sources you chose to research.

Skill

Show that you can select and work skillfully with a range of techniques, processes and media.

9-8 Grade descriptors

AO1 – Research 25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality, in depth analysis of a wide range of purposefully chosen artists. • Artists chosen are completely relevant to ideas and fully inform your investigations for the project (eg. Techniques, composition, colour schemes, content etc) • Opinions are clearly explained, informed and justified. • Accurate use of a wide range of key technical words. • Excellent presentation with clear links to the art work • Strong links between artists and ideas are shown throughout experiments • Work demonstrates highly developed cultural understanding
AO2 – Experiments 25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiments are purposeful and help you to move forwards • A wide range of materials/techniques/processes are explored creatively and independently • Materials/techniques/processes chosen, allow for a high level of skill to be demonstrated • Experiments are reviewed through analysis and evaluation of their success, with suggestions for improvement and development. • Experiments allow for effective refinement and development of ideas. • Excellent progress is made over a high number of purposeful experiments.
AO3 – Ideas 25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observational drawing is highly skilled • Ideas are recorded fluently and are relevant to developing the project • Ideas are recorded skilfully using a range of techniques such as through sketching, photography, mind maps, notes etc. • A wide range of ideas are purposefully explored, experimented with and evaluated. • Written communication is fluent and accurate
AO4 – Outcomes 25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes bring together ideas individually and creatively • Imaginative, personal and meaningful response to the project • Finished to a high standard • Creatively inspired by artists • Highly developed ability to evaluate

7-6 Grade descriptors

AO1 – Research 25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In depth analysis of a range of thoughtfully chosen artists. • Artists chosen are relevant to ideas and purposefully inform your investigations for the project (eg. Techniques, composition, colour schemes, content etc) • Opinions are explained, informed and justified. • Accurate use of a range of key technical words. • Creative, effective presentation with clear links to the art work • Clear links between artists and ideas are shown throughout experiments • Work demonstrates good cultural understanding
AO2 – Experiments 25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiments are purposeful and help you to move forwards • A wide range of materials/techniques/processes are explored creatively showing good progression of ideas • Materials/techniques/processes chosen, allow for a good level of skills to be demonstrated • Experiments are reviewed through reflections and evaluation of their success, with suggestions for improvement and alternatives. • Experiments allow for refinement and development of ideas. • Effective progress is made over a number of purposeful experiments.
AO3 – Ideas 25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observational drawing is tonal and skilful • Ideas are recorded effectively and are relevant to developing the project • Ideas are recorded clearly using a range of techniques such as through sketching, photography, mind maps, notes etc. • A range of ideas are thoughtfully explored, experimented with and evaluated. • Written communication is confident and clear
AO4 – Outcomes 25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes bring together ideas individually and thoughtfully • Produce a creative, personal and meaningful response to the project • Skilfully finished to a good standard • Clearly inspired by artists • A confident ability to evaluate

5-4 Grade descriptors

AO1 – Research 25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thoughtful analysis of a range of artists. • Artists chosen are relevant to ideas and inform your investigations for the project (eg. Techniques, composition, colour schemes, content etc) • Opinions suggest an understanding of the art work and are clearly explained • Accurate use of key technical words. • Effective, neat presentation with clear links to the art work • Links between artists and ideas are shown throughout experiments • Work demonstrates cultural understanding
AO2 – Experiments 25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiments are purposeful and help you to move forwards • A range of materials/techniques/processes are explored, showing some development and progression. • Materials/techniques/processes chosen, allow for a good level of skill to be demonstrated • Experiments are reviewed through annotations and evaluation of their success, with suggestions for improvement. • Experiments inform the development of ideas. • Clear progress is made as a result of purposeful experiments.
AO3 – Ideas 25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observational drawing is tonal and generally effective • Ideas are recorded clearly and are relevant to developing the project • Ideas are recorded using a range of techniques such as through sketching, photography, mind maps, notes etc. • A range of relevant ideas are explored, experimented with and evaluated. • Written communication is appropriate and reasonably clear.
AO4 – Outcomes 25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes bring together ideas effectively • A personal, meaningful and informed response to the project • Finished to a good standard • Some links to artist research can be seen in the outcome • A generally consistent ability to evaluate

After school activities

The more you participate in after school activities, the greater the rewards!!!

Sign up to our after school sessions at Bolton College where you will learn how to use film and a darkroom with specialist equipment and staff.

Attend after school art sessions at WHS to learn how to, develop your Photoshop skills or just work on your own ideas!!!

Rewards for attending on a regular basis include:

Pizza parties

Photography ambassador responsibilities (plus photographer badges)

Post cards of praise

Photography student of the week

Greater skills and subject knowledge

Use of art rooms at break and lunch times

Improved GCSE results

Develop relationships with other aspiring photographers

The list goes on.....



Grade information



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/art/>
Course advice and tips from the BBC

<http://www.pinterest.com/>

A visual discovery tool that you can use to collect ideas for the different projects and themes (great for finding artists and other examples of GCSE artwork)



<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/wpy.html>

Images from the Wildlife photographers' competition. This is an annual competition, which also has a category for young photographers.



<http://photofocus.com/>

Photofocus is a helpful and educational resource for the aspiring and professional photographer. This is a "blogazine" style website that has content from accomplished photographers and artists.

<http://expertphotography.com/>

Lots of tutorials and guides on how to achieve a wide range of photographic techniques.



<https://www.flickr.com>

A great source for inspiration, most photos will also have the exposure information about the photo.

<http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/>

More tutorials, hints and tips and articles about all things photographic.



<https://www.bolton.ac.uk/subject-areas/art-and-design/>

Here you will find information about art courses and more!

<https://www.wigan-leigh.ac.uk/courses/art-design>

Here you will find information about art courses and more!

<https://www.runshaw.ac.uk/area-of-study/art-design/>

Here you will find information about art courses and more!

<https://www.theartcareerproject.com/careers/>

