

The Sheffield Sixth Form – History of Art Pre-induction Summer Project

Welcome

Welcome to the A Level History of Art Pre-induction Summer Project. We very much look forward to welcoming you in September and as part of your preparation we have developed this booklet.

History of Art A Level – Taster Pack



Hi – In this taster pack for the History of Art A Level course you should find three items:

- A copy of Banksy's art work, 'We're all in the Same Boat'.
This outdoor installation is an example of an artwork that we may analyse in class, or you might be set as homework.
- Links to two power points – elements and principles The power-points give you some idea of techniques you can identify to help you understand how the piece works.
- An introductory leaflet - The leaflet gives an overview regarding the content and structure of the course, the topics covered and the way it is marked. This should really answer any questions you may have.

TASK

For a taste of this A Level consider this artwork by Banksy and ask yourself: what is the point of this piece? What is Banksy trying to say? Is there a ‘message’?

I don’t know for sure what his intention is, but strongly suggest it’s attitudes towards immigration/refugees.

Two clues;

1. What does the saying/metaphor – “we’re all in the same boat” mean?
2. The children, and it’s important that they are children, look like they could be Vietnamese to me. Time to do some research: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnamese_boat_people.
3. The links below are to power-points on artistic techniques: Elements and Principles.

Put that all together and see what you come up with. Don’t worry about getting the ‘right’ answer, the purpose of this task is to get you thinking.

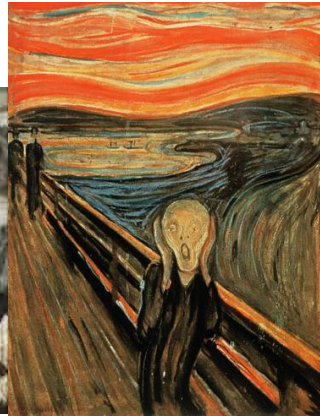


Theses are the links to power-points of artistic techniques: elements and principles

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1HSEzz6lkdV893Tp599fbBODN7xN9-5JWwDrUIUN0kT0/edit?usp=sharing>

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1MfBn9r_alDbIFJtdIXeWDLhkLAAVsrz1I7dh1dUQWGg/edit?usp=sharing

A Level History of Art (Edexcel)



What is the History of Art?



Well, it is the obvious answer, you do study the history of art, but to flesh that out, you look at art from Classical (that is ancient) Greece 500BC to the present day 2022AD. By 'art' the course refers to paintings, sculpture and buildings. The course is in three parts:

1. **Visual Analysis.** For this you learn to apply the elements (vocabulary) of art, which are things like colour, line and texture, etc: and the principles (grammar or structure) for examples balance, focal point and pattern. You apply these to a very wide range of art from over two and a half thousand years of human history, This does include art from around the world with 1850 identified broadly as the beginning of abstract art. So, you get an overview of the history of art while learning how to analyse, and therefore understand and explore how art works.



2. **Themes** – We study two particular themes in more detail, for instance, – **Nature** and **Identities** in art and architecture.
3. **Periods** – We study two particular historical periods in depth, for instance:
- **Invention and illusion – the Renaissance in Italy (1420 – 1520)**



- **Brave New World- Modernism in Europe (1900 – 39)**



What do you need to do?

Knowledge – an overview of the history of art, an understanding of the elements and principles of art, in depth knowledge of key themes and periods.

Skills – visual analysis, in relation the knowledge areas above

Technique – essay writing, revision and exam technique.

At the end of the course, there are two exams. **Paper 1** (3 hours) is Visual Analysis and Themes. Three questions, three essays, for the first question you have photographs of a painting, sculpture and building and then for the second section two questions on the themes.

Paper 2 (3 hours) – Periods: You have a four-part question to answer, in essay form, of each of the two periods you will have studied in detail. You explore a particular work of art (painting/sculpture/building).

Your work is marked against three A.O.s (assessment objectives)

AO1 – Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the contexts of art

AO2 – Analyse and interpret artist's work, demonstrating understanding of visual language.

AO3 – Make critical judgements about art through substantial reasoned argument



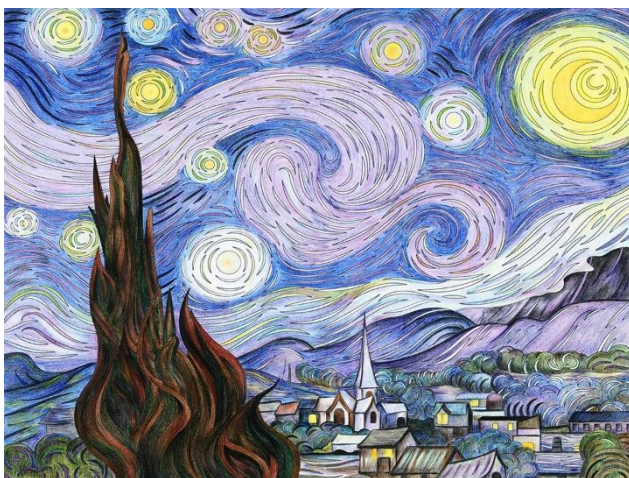
Why would you want to do it?

Specifically, if you are looking towards studying art at university and an art based career this is an excellent academic component to do in combination with Fine Art and Photography.

Generally, the course offers excellent transferable skills, particularly analyse and the development of comprehensive written expression.

In all honesty, if all this grabs your imagination, you should do **History of Art**

Entry Requirements – 5 GCSEs grade 5 – 9.



For more information see: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/history-of-art-2017.html> or contact richard.pegam@sheffcol.ac.uk