

## History of Art

History of Art is one of the most relevant A levels you can study on the curriculum today and also one of the most misunderstood. It is an essay-based subject which does not involve any practical art and does not require any previous knowledge.

Using art and architecture as a prompt, we consider the various factors which have impacted them, addressing cultural, social, political, religious and technological issues. We discuss the ways in which art objects and buildings have been used and interpreted by past and contemporary viewers and learn about the motives for and roles of patronage. We hone our visual skills and develop a keen eye for detail whilst learning the correct terminology with which to describe and interpret the works.

The Edexcel A-level syllabus is wide ranging and includes art which is Western and non-Western, ancient and modern, and made from a variety of materials. There are two exam papers with a mixture of short response and essay questions. The first tests your ability to formally analyse unseen artworks and then addresses the themes of nature and identity in art. The second paper focuses on an in-depth study of two periods: The Renaissance in Florence, Rome and Venice (1420-1520); and the British and French Avant-Garde (1848-1899).

The value of seeing works first hand cannot be underestimated, so we will visit museums, galleries and exhibitions. There will also be a study trip to Florence. The department is vibrant in hosting visiting speakers, taking part in national competitions such as ARTiculation and SpoKE and offering lectures on a variety of topics beyond the curriculum (History of Art bitesize).

The subject is multidisciplinary and dovetails well with any other humanities, languages and sciences. It leads to a wide range of possible degree courses and opens the door to a broad spectrum of careers including law, journalism, publishing, marketing and advertising, film, digital media, travel and tourism, international relations, architecture and all careers in the art world.

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