

When studying, it is important that you not only attend all your lessons and complete all of your homework, but that you are also doing independent study. We would recommend that you are spending at least 5 hours a week on your independent study. For this study to be of maximum benefit, it is important that you do a range of different activities, you should be doing some from each of the boxes below. In addition, if you would like to stretch yourself beyond the A-level curriculum then have a look in the super-curricular box for ideas.

Content

One important part of independent study is making sure you demonstrate that you have learnt all the content. Below are some suggestions of things you can do to help you do this in your Photography A-level:

- ✓ *Practicing techniques, particularly those that you find tricky at first.*
- ✓ *Researching the work of relevant photographers, looking at context and meaning as well as visual language.*
- ✓ *Reading relevant articles, web pages and books.*
- ✓ *Visiting galleries and museums.*
- ✓ *Looking for ways to learn and extend Photoshop techniques you cover in Yr12.*
- ✓ *Taking your opportunities to do additional shoots.*
- ✓ *Reviewing and refining your processes, techniques, and ideas regularly.*
- ✓ *Annotating your powerpoints as work progresses to add increasing depth of thought and analysis.*
- ✓ *Spending time in the studio & Mac Suite outside of lesson times and completing work at home regularly to keep progress on track.*
- ✓ *Making yourself aware of the mark scheme and Assessment Objectives for the subject.*

Skills

Another important part of independent study is developing the skills to be able to succeed in the coursework and exam units. Below are some suggestions to help you develop those skills:

- ✓ *Preparing and documenting thoroughly.*
- ✓ *Looking for challenging context / ideas*
- ✓ *Sticking to the project briefs, timescales and breakdowns given to you during the unit.*
- ✓ *Looking for opportunities to extend a variety of photographic and editing ideas and techniques to show your technical ability in full.*
- ✓ *Varying your approaches, techniques, and scale.*
- ✓ *Exploring a range of areas in depth before deciding on an area to refine further.*

Feedback

The final important part of independent study is getting and using feedback. Feedback allows you to understand what it is you need to do differently next time to improve. Below are some ideas about how you can use feedback:

- ✓ *One-to-one discussions with your teachers*
- ✓ *Using the checklists, feedback and planning sheets given to you in each unit to monitor your own progress.*
- ✓ *Checking against timescales, content, and expectations regularly.*
- ✓ *Marking your own work using a mark scheme and looking at online exemplar materials for the exam board. (EDUQAS)*
- ✓ *Reviewing your photography and reflecting with other students in groups/pairs*

Super-curricular Photography

If you were considering studying photography, or you are just really interested in the subject, then you could complete some super-curricular activities. These are things which go beyond what is covered in the curriculum and includes things such as visiting galleries and museums, undertaking study trips, taking part in practical workshops, watching relevant documentaries, listening to podcasts, reading relevant journal articles, and reading relevant books.

For up-to-date ideas, look at the Art Padlet [Comberton Art & Photography \(padlet.com\)](https://www.padlet.com)