

PHOTOGRAPHY A LEVEL

Pre-Learning 2025

TASK 1- Contextual

This task is designed to encourage an appreciation of viewing artwork at first hand and develop a critical and contextual understanding of it. You should visit a museum or gallery, either locally, nationally or abroad (if you are lucky enough to get abroad!) to view photographic work at first hand. Please view in depth a photograph you particularly like. What do you like about it? Try to think creatively and consider elements such as the composition, colour, subject, technique etc. Write a short evaluation of the piece (100-200 words) and include a copy of the image. We will use this as a basis for discussion in class in September.

All work to be handed in on your first lesson in September.

What's On

Where can you view photographs first hand?

Locally, check out exhibitions at the Art School and University. You can also Google 'photography exhibitions Suffolk' to find smaller events held at libraries, cafes and art centres.

'Beyond the Image' photography gallery at Wingfield Barns near Eye holds regular exhibitions but check their website before going.

The Sainsbury Centre at the UEA in Norwich has a fantastic exhibition at the moment on Bill Brandt (more information available on the Sainsbury's Centre website).

Further afield, check out the Photographer's Gallery, National Portrait Gallery or the Tate Modern in London. The V&A is an excellent place to view photography in London as they hold a national collection of photographs.

Finally, if you are away during the summer, make the most of the opportunity by viewing artwork in local museums and galleries.

TASK 2- Practical – **CHOOSE 2 OF THE FOLLOWING 3 TASKS**

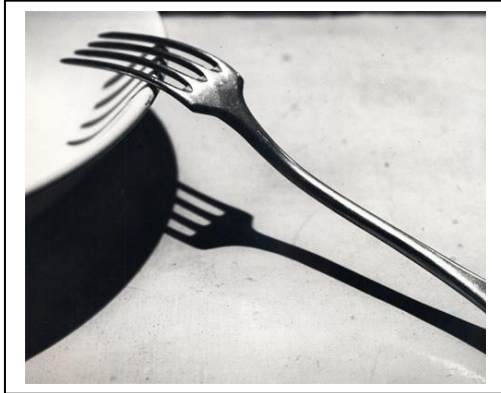
The practical task is designed to see how imaginative you can be at interpreting a given theme. We encourage you to record from lots of different environments, using various compositions and subjects. Remember, the skill of a true photographer is to make the ordinary appear extraordinary!

Option 1 – Unusual Viewpoints You must produce a series of 24+ different photographs based on the theme of 'unusual viewpoints'. The photographs may be in colour or in black and white. You may want to use this as an opportunity to record through different objects, environments and actions or you could develop a series of manipulated or layered images using Photoshop. Use your camera phone if you do not own a digital camera and consider how to best present the outcomes. You might choose to combine them in a grid layout and print it, or present the images as a PowerPoint presentation.



Option 2 – Reflections and Shadows You must produce a series of 24+ photographs (colour or black and white) of reflections and shadows. Consider where you might find shadows (such as metallic objects, water, glass) and what might be reflected in them. You could look at reflections of people in shop windows, buildings in puddles, faces in spoons etc. If you are stuck for ideas, broaden your experience of photography by viewing websites such as Pinterest. These often have pages on photography covering such themes as reflections and shadows.

Add your contact print of 24+ images (thumbnail size pictures) along with a minimum of 4 enlargements (your best outcomes) to a PowerPoint presentation.



Option 3 – A Day in My Life This option should be completed using close-up photographs of objects and places without faces. You can do this in a 'reportage' style (photo documentary) as is popular on sites such as Instagram. Photograph the journey through your day, taking images of a fork in a cereal bowl, door-key in a lock, hand on bike handlebar etc. Present this as a series of small photographs (minimum 16) either digitally or printed. These can be either black and white or colour. Ensure you consider the dimensions of the photograph (square or rectangular, all uniform in size) and how you will print/mount/present them in order for your work to be displayed at its best.

