

Year 11 GCSE Art & Design ESA Checklist - 2025

Fine Art & Photography Endorsements

General Information:

- The ESA begins in **January 2025**.
 - You will receive a project theme from the exam board and start developing your ideas.
 - The **10-hour controlled test** takes place in **April 2025** over two days under exam conditions.
 - The exam contributes **40%** of your total GCSE mark. Coursework is worth **60%**.
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Preparation Checklist by Weeks

Weeks commencing 6th/13th/20th January

AO1: Develop Ideas Through Investigations

- Create a [mind map](#) of ideas.
 - Develop a [moodboard](#).
 - Visit exhibitions/galleries (e.g., **Louvre on 21st January**) and [document in your sketchbook](#).
 - Complete [three double-page spreads](#) of artist research.
 - Produce your own **responses in the style of the artist(s)**.
 - Arrange and document **interviews** with artists, designers, or photographers (if possible).
 - Conduct [photo-shoots](#) exploring areas or ideas of interest.
 - Annotate and **analyse your findings**.
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Weeks commencing 20th/27th January – 3rd February

AO2: Refine Work by Exploring Ideas and Experimenting with Techniques

- Complete [observational drawings](#) (Fine Art) or **your own photographs** (Photography).
- Experiment with **different art media, materials, and techniques** relevant to your ideas.
- Create **experimentations inspired by your chosen artist(s)**.

- ❑ Explore **different compositions, colour schemes, and textures**.
 - ❑ Record progress with **photographs and annotations**.
 - ❑ Present all work neatly in your **sketchbook with annotations**.
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Weeks commencing 10th/17th/24th February

AO3: Record Ideas, Observations, and Insights

- ❑ Develop a [linking page](#) summarising your new ideas.
 - ❑ Produce [observational drawings](#).
 - ❑ Include **sketched design ideas (thumbnails for your outcome)** with annotations explaining your concepts.
 - ❑ Take and document [primary source photographs](#).
 - ❑ Record progress with **photographs, screenshots and annotations**.
 - ❑ Present work in your **sketchbook and/or as digital portfolio**.
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Weeks leading to Exam

AO4: Present a Personal, Informed, and Meaningful Response

- ❑ Create [plans and drawings](#) of your final piece ideas.
 - ❑ Complete [mini mock-ups and experiments](#) for your final piece.
 - ❑ Produce your [final piece](#) during the 10-hour exam, clearly inspired by your research and journey.
 - ❑ Write an **evaluation** explaining how your final piece links to the project theme.
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Final Tips

- ❑ Stay **organised** and keep to deadlines.
- ❑ Document everything in your sketchbook with **clear annotations**.
- ❑ Make sure your work demonstrates your **creative journey** from start to finish.
- ❑ **Practise** techniques and experiment to refine your skills before the final exam.
- ❑ If you are unsure of what to do, **ask your teacher**.
- ❑ **Make use of the art studios** during your free time.