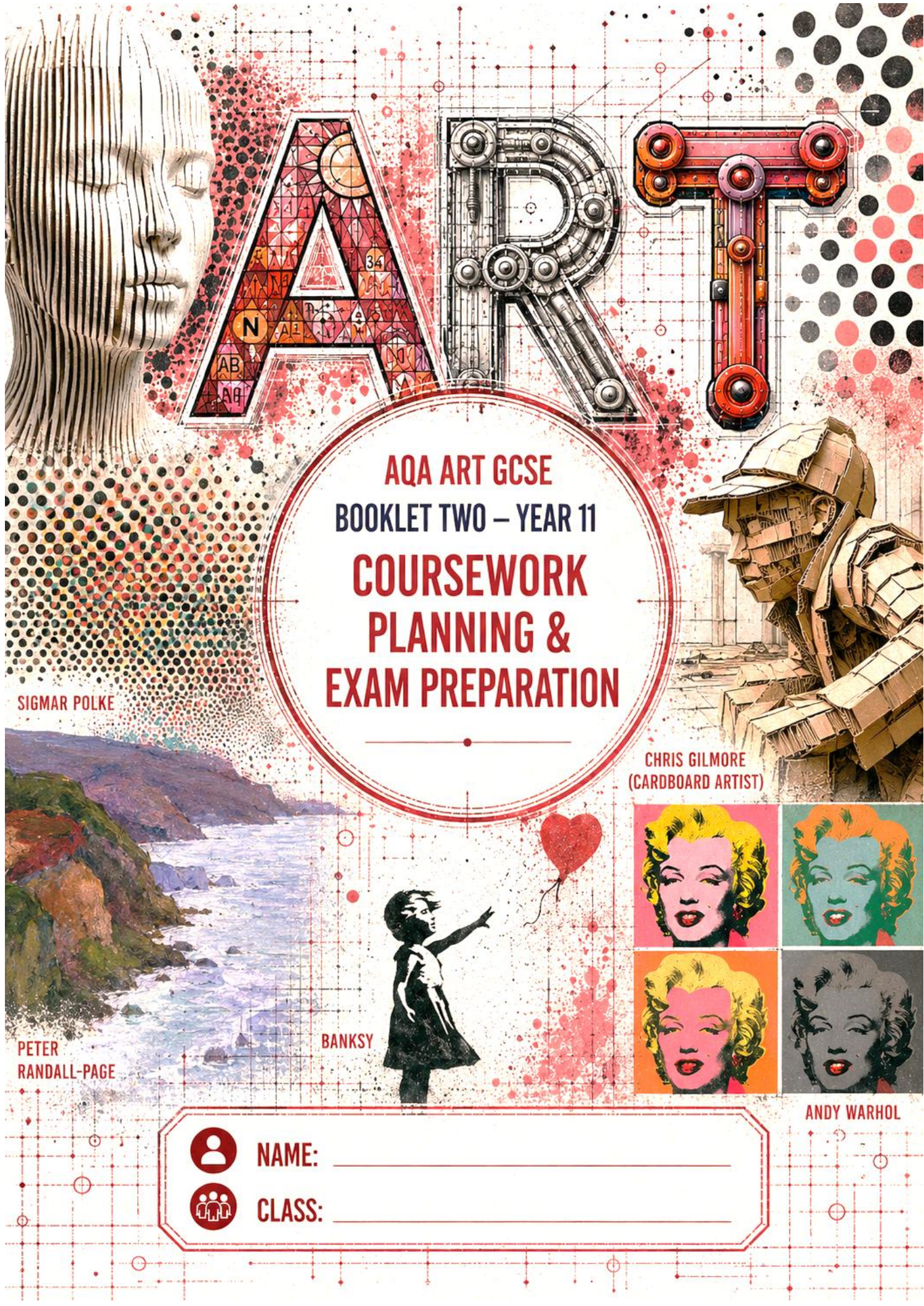




AQA ART GCSE
BOOKLET TWO – YEAR 11
COURSEWORK
PLANNING &
EXAM PREPARATION

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NAME: _____



CLASS: _____

INTRODUCTION

YOUR GCSE ART JOURNEY

YEAR 11 – COURSEWORK & EXAM PREPARATION

This booklet is your guide to success in GCSE Art. It outlines the structure of Year 11, your coursework expectations, weekly activities and your 12 week exam preparation journey. Follow the plan, complete every activity and commit to your progress – this will become homework when needed.

CONSISTENCY CREATES EXCELLENCE.



*Be curious
Ask questions
Take risks
Try new things
Experiment
Be consistent
Work regularly
Keep going
Reflect
Evaluate your work
Improve
Be proud
Present your work
to the best standard.*



YEAR 11 STRUCTURE

Your year is divided into two key parts. Each part is essential and builds the skills, understanding and confidence you need to achieve your best grade.

PART 1: COURSEWORK (PORTFOLIO)

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2026

Focus: Development & Final Outcomes



INVESTIGATE
A01



EXPERIMENT
A02



RECORD
A03



PRESENT
A04



PART 2: EXAM PREPARATION

JANUARY – MARCH 2027 (12 WEEKS)

Focus: Externally Set Assignment (ESA)



PREPARE



DEVELOP IDEAS



CREATE



FINAL 10 HOUR
EXAM

You will respond to your ESA theme, develop ideas and produce a final outcome in a 10 hour exam. This is worth **40%** of your GCSE.

TOGETHER, THESE TWO PARTS MAKE UP YOUR COMPLETE GCSE ART QUALIFICATION.

THE FOUR ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

Your work is assessed against four objectives.

Everything you do should show evidence of:



A01 INVESTIGATE

Research, explore and develop ideas and understanding.



A02 EXPERIMENT

Experiment with media, materials, techniques and processes.



A03 RECORD

Record observations, ideas and insights from a range of sources.



A04 PRESENT

Refine, present and evaluate your work with intention.

WHERE THE FOCUS LIES



INVESTIGATE

EXPERIMENT

STRONG IDEAS LEAD
TO POWERFUL
FINAL OUTCOMES

Investigation and experimentation are the eprim of your portfolio. The more you explore, test and take risks, the stronger and more personal your outcomes will be.

INVESTIGATE. EXPERIMENT. CREATE. SUCCEED.

EXPECTATIONS

- ✓ Complete every weekly activity to the best of your ability.
- ✓ Missed work will become homework.
- ✓ Meet deadlines and seek feedback.
- ✓ Take pride in your sketchbook and final outcomes.
- ✓ Stay organised, curious and committed.



WEEK BY WEEK

This booklet breaks down your journey into weekly activities for coursework and a clear roadmap for exam success.

Follow the plan and trust the process.

YOUR MARKS ARE AWARDED

A01 INVESTIGATE



25%

A02 EXPERIMENT



25%

A03 RECORD



25%

A04 PRESENT



25%

COURSEWORK

60%

+

EXAM

40%

ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

- Be curious
Ask questions and explore.
- Take risks
Try new things and experiment.
- Be consistent
Work regularly and keep going.
- Reflect
Evaluate your work and improve.
- Be proud
Present your work to the best standard.

DISCIPLINE IN THE PROCESS = FREEDOM IN YOUR CREATIVITY. MAKE YOUR YEAR COUNT.

WEEKLY PLANNING

A CLEAR PLAN. CONSISTENT PRACTICE. **STRONGER ARTWORK.**

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GCSE
COURSEWORK JOURNEY
Y11

WEEK	TITLE OF ACTIVITY	WEEK FOCUS	WEEKLY TASKS	TEACHER FEEDBACK
1	 PROJECT REVIEW & PLANNING	Reviewing your Year 10 project	- Review your sketchbook and identify your strongest work. - Create one planning page showing your best studies, experiments and artist influences. - Write a short summary explaining how your project has developed and what you plan to explore next.	Teacher ✓ Feedback ☐
2	 NEW PRIMARY SOURCES	Extending your observations	- Collect new photographs or observational material linked to your project. - Produce 2–3 detailed studies from these new sources. - Focus on recording new information rather than repeating previous work.	Teacher ✓ Feedback ☐
3	 DEVELOPING OBSERVATIONS	Transforming observations into new ideas	- Develop your observational studies by changing viewpoint, cropping, scale or composition. - Produce 2–3 experimental studies showing different visual interpretations. - Continue using materials that best support your ideas.	Teacher ✓ Feedback ☐



REMEMBER

Consistent practice, careful observation and regular reflection will help you grow as an artist. Stay focused, keep improving, and **enjoy** the journey!





WEEKLY PLANNING

A CLEAR PLAN. CONSISTENT PRACTICE. **STRONGER ARTWORK.**

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COURSEWORK JOURNEY
Y11

WEEK	TITLE OF ACTIVITY	WEEK FOCUS	WEEKLY TASKS	TEACHER FEEDBACK
4	 REVISITING ARTIST INFLUENCE	Strengthening artist influence	- Return to your three chosen artists. - Produce 1–2 new practical responses combining artist techniques with your own imagery. - Develop ideas rather than copying artist work.	Teacher ✓ Feedback ☐
5	 MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT	Exploring the best media for your project	- Select one successful subject from your project. - Produce 2–3 new studies using different materials or combinations of media. - Compare how each material changes the appearance or impact of your work.	Teacher ✓ Feedback ☐
6	 IDEA DEVELOPMENT	Developing visual variations	- Take one successful study from your project. - Produce three variations by changing the composition, viewpoint or visual style. - Consider which ideas strengthen your project most effectively.	Teacher ✓ Feedback ☐



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WEEKLY PLANNING

A CLEAR PLAN. CONSISTENT PRACTICE. **STRONGER ARTWORK.**

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Y11

WEEK	TITLE OF ACTIVITY	WEEK FOCUS	WEEKLY TASKS	TEACHER FEEDBACK
7	 IMPROVING YOUR IDEA	Refining your work	- Select one successful development from Week 6. - Improve detail, composition and use of media. - Add further techniques or layers that strengthen the overall image.	Teacher ✓ Feedback ☐ -----
8	 BUILDING YOUR FINAL COMPOSITION	Planning the complete composition	- Break your image into three areas: foreground (including focal point), middle ground and background. - Develop each section separately before combining them into one complete composition study. - Make any final adjustments before starting your final piece.	Teacher ✓ Feedback ☐ -----
9	 FINAL PIECE – STAGE 1	Final Piece – Stage 1	- Begin your final piece. - Accurately establish the composition and main shapes. - Build background, middle ground and focal point using your chosen materials and techniques.	Teacher ✓ Feedback ☐ -----



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WEEKLY PLANNING

A CLEAR PLAN. CONSISTENT PRACTICE. **STRONGER ARTWORK.**

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Y11

WEEK	TITLE OF ACTIVITY	WEEK FOCUS	WEEKLY TASKS	TEACHER FEEDBACK
10	 FINAL PIECE – STAGE 2	Final Piece – Stage 2	- Continue developing your final piece. - Strengthen tone, colour, texture and detail. - Improve the relationship between foreground, middle ground and background.	Teacher ✓ Feedback ☐
11	 FINAL PIECE – STAGE 3	Final Piece – Stage 3	- Refine your final piece by improving weaker areas. - Adjust composition, contrast and detail where necessary. - Continue photographing your progress.	Teacher ✓ Feedback ☐
12	 COMPLETION & PRESENTATION	Completion & Presentation	- Complete your final piece. - Photograph and present your work in your sketchbook. - Complete your final evaluation before beginning the Externally Set Assignment in January.	Teacher ✓ Feedback ☐



REMEMBER

Consistent practice, careful observation and regular reflection will help you grow as an artist. Stay focused, keep improving, and **enjoy** the journey!



THE GCSE ART EXAM YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE

AQA ART
GCSE
EXAM PREPARATION
Y11

The Externally Set Assignment (ESA) is worth **40%** of your GCSE. You will have **12 weeks** to research, develop ideas and create a powerful final outcome in a **10-hour** supervised exam.

THE EXAM OVERVIEW



RESEARCH & DEVELOP

Explore, analyse, experiment and refine your ideas.



MAKE & CREATE

Develop strong visual responses and experiments.



FINAL OUTCOME

Produce a personal and confident final piece.



10 HOUR EXAM

One final sitting to create your best work.

YOU WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOUR ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES



A01 INVESTIGATE

Explore and research. Gather sources, analyse artists, collect visual information and develop understanding.



A02 EXPERIMENT

Experiment with materials, techniques and processes. Test ideas, take risks and refine.



A04 PRESENT

Refine, select and present your ideas with intention. Communicate your meaning clearly.



A03 RECORD

Record observations, ideas and inspiration through drawings, photography and annotations.

SUCCESS COMES FROM BALANCING ALL FOUR OBJECTIVES

TIME MANAGEMENT IS ESSENTIAL



- ✓ Break the 12 weeks into achievable goals.
- ✓ Complete weekly tasks on time.
- ✓ Use lesson time wisely.
- ✓ Don't leave it too late – plan ahead!

THE EXAM REWARDS THOSE WHO PREPARE. NOT THOSE WHO RUSH.

KEY SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

- ✓ Be organised and plan ahead.
- ✓ Manage your time carefully.
- ✓ Take risks and try new ideas.
- ✓ Keep developing and refining.
- ✓ Work with focus and determination.
- ✓ Finish what you start.
- ✓ Present your best work proudly.

CONSISTENCY BEATS TALENT.

WHAT EXAMINERS LOOK FOR

- ✓ A clear personal response to the theme.
- ✓ A wide range of skills, materials and ideas.
- ✓ Strong visual communication and imagination.
- ✓ Evidence of development and refinement.
- ✓ A final outcome that shows personal meaning and control of media.



YOUR MINDSET MATTERS



Perseverance
Keep going, even when it gets difficult.



Resilience
Learn from mistakes and keep improving.



Pride
Finish to the best of your ability and be proud of your journey.

PLAN. EXPLORE. EXPERIMENT. CREATE. REFINE. ACHIEVE.

THE NEXT 12 WEEKS WILL SHAPE YOUR FINAL OUTCOME – MAKE EVERY WEEK COUNT.

YOUR 12 WEEK EXAM ROADMAP

A CLEAR PLAN. CONSISTENT PRACTICE. STRONGER ARTWORK.

This is your roadmap for the Externally Set Assignment (ESA). Each milestone builds your skills and confidence, helping you grow from careful observer to creative artist.

Enjoy the journey.

12 WEEKS TO SUCCEED.

40%

OF YOUR GCSE ART GRADE

ART

OBSERVATIONAL
DRAWING JOURNEY

Y11

KEY

- FOUNDATION SKILLS
- DEVELOPING SKILLS
- CREATIVE SKILLS
- REFINED SKILLS
- REVIEW & REFLECT

★
START
YOUR JOURNEY
BEGINS HERE

1



ESA LAUNCH & THEME SELECTION

- Read the ESA paper
- Choose one theme
- Create title page
- Mind map & notes
- 3-5 short sentences

2



ARTIST RESEARCH (CONTEXTUAL STUDY)

- Choose Artist 1
- Research background, meaning, materials, visual language
- Images & analysis
- Link to your theme

3



ARTIST-INSPIRED EXPERIMENTS

- Choose technique/material from Artist 1
- 1-2 small practical studies
- Repeat for Artist 2
- Optional: third study combining ideas

4



OBSERVATIONAL RECORDING

- Plan photoshoot / primary source collection
- Take & select best 2-3 images
- 2-3 observational drawings
- Annotate observations

5



EXPLORING MATERIALS & MEDIA

- Choose 2-3 materials
- Experimental samples
- Layering, texture, colour
- 1-2 artist-inspired studies
- Annotate samples

6



REVIEWING & REFINING IDEAS

- Review sketchbook so far
- Create refined mind map
- Refined drawing from observations / studies
- Short paragraph: your strongest idea so far

7



COMPOSITION DEVELOPMENT

- 4-6 thumbnail sketches
- Test cropping, scale, focal points
- Strongest composition
- Quick media experiment & annotation

8



REFINING MATERIALS & TECHNIQUE

- Choose best material(s)
- Produce a larger study (A4)
- Focus on accuracy, detail & technique
- Annotate improvements

9



FINAL OUTCOME PLANNING PAGE

- Draw final planned composition (A4)
- Label: materials, colours, techniques
- 2-3 sentences: how your sources & experiments influence final outcome

10



FINAL PREPARATORY STUDY

- Produce preparatory study (A4) from plan
- Test final techniques
- Focus on difficult areas
- Final reflection: what worked / improve

11



FINAL PIECE - STAGE 1

- Begin final piece
- Establish composition & main shapes
- Build background, middle ground & focal point

12



FINAL PIECE - STAGE 2

- Continue & complete final piece
- Refine detail, tone, colour & texture
- Photograph & present in sketchbook
- Final evaluation
- Prepare for exam in January

🏆
FINISH
CELEBRATE YOUR
PROGRESS &
ACHIEVEMENT!



SUCCESS IN THE EXAM REQUIRES...

- ✓ Organisation – plan every week, keep your sketchbook organised
- ✓ Time Management – use your 12 weeks wisely
- ✓ Perseverance – keep going, even when it gets tough
- ✓ Finish What You Start – complete a strong, personal final outcome
- ✓ Reflection – evaluate, improve and learn from every step



REMEMBER

Consistent practice, careful observation and regular reflection will help you grow as an artist. Stay focused, keep improving, and **enjoy** the journey!

**PREPARE.
COMMIT.
CREATE.
ACHIEVE.**



YOU HAVE 12 WEEKS. YOU GET 10 HOURS. MAKE EVERY MINUTE COUNT.



WEEKLY PLANNING

A CLEAR PLAN. CONSISTENT PRACTICE. **STRONGER ARTWORK.**



Tick off each task as you complete it.
Stay focused, keep improving, and enjoy the journey.

ART

OBSERVATIONAL
DRAWING JOURNEY

Y11

1

WEEK 1

ESA LAUNCH & THEME SELECTION

- ☐ Read the **ESA paper** carefully: Choose **one theme only**.
- ☐ Create a **title page** showing your theme.
- ☐ Produce a **mind map** using: words, small drawings, personal links.
- ☐ Write **3–5 short sentences** explaining:
Why you chose this theme | What interests you about it | What you might explore.



REMEMBER

A strong start leads to a strong finish. Be honest, be curious, and make it your own.

2

WEEK 2

ARTIST RESEARCH (CONTEXTUAL STUDY)

- ☐ Choose **Artist 1** linked to your theme and create an artist research page including:
 - Artist background; Meaning; Materials; Visual language; Written analysis; Images of their work.
- ☐ Analyse how their work links to the theme: What materials do they use? What is their work about? How does it link to my theme?
- ☐ Repeat for **Artist 2**.
- ☐ Write 1–2 sentences explaining **how these artists will influence your own work**.



REMEMBER

Good research = strong ideas.
Look closely, think deeply and make clear connections.

3

WEEK 3

ARTIST-INSPIRED PRACTICAL EXPERIMENTS

- ☐ Choose **Artist 1** from your research. Identify **one technique, process, or material** they use. Create **one small practical study** (A5 or A6) inspired by this technique (partial replication not copying).
- ☐ Repeat the steps above for **Artist 2**.
- ☐ (If time allows) Create a **third study** that combines ideas from both artists.
- ☐ **Annotate** each study explaining: What you experimented with; What worked well; Which approach you will take forward and why.



REMEMBER

Experiment. Explore. Take risks. Every small study moves your work forward.



WEEKLY PLANNING

A CLEAR PLAN. CONSISTENT PRACTICE. STRONGER ARTWORK.



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Stay focused, keep improving, and enjoy the journey.

ART

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4

WEEK 4

OBSERVATIONAL RECORDING

- ☐ 1. Plan a photoshoot or **primary source collection** linked to your theme. Take your own photographs (objects, people, places, textures, details).
- ☐ 2. Print or add photos into your sketchbook and label them '**Primary Source**'. Select your **best 2–3 images**.
- ☐ 3. Produce **2–3 observational drawings** from your own photos or real objects. Use pencil, pen, or charcoal to show detail and tone.
- ☐ 4. **Annotate** what you observed and why these images are useful for your final idea.



REMEMBER

Good observations lead to stronger ideas. Look closely, record details, and choose your best references.

5

WEEK 5

EXPLORING MATERIALS & MEDIA

- ☐ 1. Choose **2–3 materials** (paint, collage, mixed media, inks, etc.). Produce experimental samples for each:
 - **Layering**: Paper + paint, paint + pastel, collage over drawing. **Texture**: Smooth, rough, layered, scratched, or splattered. **Colour**: Try different shades or colour combinations.
- ☐ 2. Select **one or two samples** to apply to your own **previous sketches, observational drawings, or artist-inspired studies**.
- ☐ 3. **Annotate** each sample explaining: What you tried; How it works with your own ideas; What you might use in your **final outcome**.



REMEMBER

Experiment freely. Test different materials and techniques to discover what works best for your ideas.

6

WEEK 6

REVIEWING & REFINING IDEAS

- ☐ 1. Review your sketchbook so far: artist research, primary source photos, observational drawings, and material experiments. **Highlight**: **Best artist influence**; **Strongest primary source/observation**; **Most effective material or technique**.
- ☐ 2. Create a **refined mind map** showing the direction you want to take.
- ☐ 3. Draw a **refined idea** from your previous **observational drawings, artist-inspired studies or a merge of both**.
- ☐ 4. Write a **short paragraph** explaining: "My strongest idea so far is... because it combines my own observations, experiments, and artist inspiration."



REMEMBER

Review your work critically and refine your ideas. Strong planning now leads to a successful final piece.



WEEKLY PLANNING

A CLEAR PLAN. CONSISTENT PRACTICE. **STRONGER ARTWORK.**



Tick off each task as you complete it.
Stay focused, keep improving, and enjoy the journey.

ART

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Y11

7

WEEK 7

COMPOSITION DEVELOPMENT

- ☐ 1. Use your refined idea from Week 6 to create **4–6 small thumbnail sketches** of your composition. Experiment with: Cropping, scale, and focal points
- ☐ 2. Select the strongest composition and do a quick **Media Experiment** on a small sheet, **testing the materials and techniques**.
- ☐ 3. Annotate why it works and how it uses your own primary sources, artist inspiration, and material experiments.



REMEMBER

Experiment with composition and media. Strong choices now = stronger final outcome.

8

WEEK 8

REFINING MATERIALS & TECHNIQUE

- ☐ 1. Choose the **material(s)** that worked best in Week 5.
- ☐ 2. Produce a **larger study (A4)** based on your planned composition from Week 7. Focus on: **Accuracy, detail**, and applying **techniques** tested in Week 5.
- ☐ 3. Annotate improvements compared to earlier experiments and explain how this prepares you for the **final outcome**.



REMEMBER

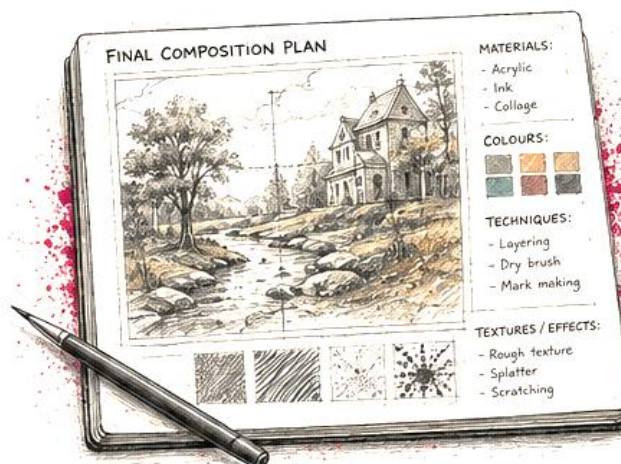
Refine, evaluate, and improve. Small changes now lead to a stronger final piece.

9

WEEK 9

FINAL OUTCOME PLANNING PAGE

- ☐ 1. Draw your **final planned composition** clearly on **A4 paper**.
- ☐ 2. Label: materials, **colours**, techniques, and any textures or effects tested previously.
- ☐ 3. Write 2–3 sentences explaining: How this composition uses your **primary sources** and **observational work**. How it is influenced by your **artist experiments**. How your tested materials and techniques will be applied in the **final outcome**. Final composition choice and how it links to the theme.



REMEMBER

Plan with purpose. A clear plan makes for a confident and successful final piece.



WEEKLY PLANNING

A CLEAR PLAN. CONSISTENT PRACTICE. **STRONGER ARTWORK.**



Tick off each task as you complete it.

Stay focused, keep improving, and enjoy the journey.

ART

OBSERVATIONAL
DRAWING JOURNEY

Y11

10

WEEK 10

REFINING MATERIALS & TECHNIQUE

- ☐ 1. Choose the material(s) that worked best in Week 5.
- ☐ 2. Produce a **larger study (A4)** based on your planned composition from Week 7. Focus on: **Accuracy, detail,** and applying **techniques** tested in Week 5.
- ☐ 3. Annotate improvements compared to earlier experiments and explain how this prepares you for the **final outcome**.



REMEMBER

Refine, evaluate, and improve. Small changes now lead to a stronger final piece.

11

WEEK 11

FINAL OUTCOME PLANNING PAGE

- ☐ 1. Draw your **final planned composition** clearly on A4 paper.
- ☐ 2. Label: materials, colours, techniques, and any textures or effects tested previously.
- ☐ 3. Write 2–3 sentences explaining: How this composition uses your **primary sources** and **observational work**. How it is influenced by your **artist experiments**. How your tested materials and techniques will be applied in the **final outcome**. Final composition choice and how it links to the theme.



REMEMBER

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12

WEEK 12

EXAM PREPARATION & FINAL CHECKS

- ☐ 1. Check your sketchbook includes: Theme title page | Artist research (minimum 2 artists) | Artist-inspired practical studies | Observational drawings | Material experiments | Composition development | Final outcome plan.
- ☐ 2. Ensure: All sketchbook pages are complete and clearly annotated. Artist-inspired studies are linked to your own work. Primary source observations/photos are included and labelled. Material tests and applied experiments are ready to inform the **final piece**.
- ☐ 3. Final composition plan is clear and you are fully prepared to create your **final outcome**.



REMEMBER

Organisation and attention to detail now ensures you enter the exam with confidence and clarity.



NOTES

TEACHER OR STUDENT SPECIFIC

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Date: _____

NOTES

TEACHER OR STUDENT SPECIFIC



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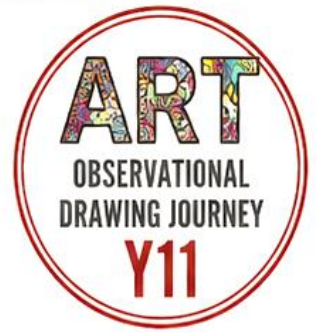




Date: _____

NOTES

TEACHER OR STUDENT SPECIFIC



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