



PREPARING FOR A-LEVEL

ART

Success in A Level Art requires a combination of practical skills, creativity and independence. Strong drawing skills are essential and these can be developed best by regularly working from observation rather than from photographs. Please complete the work set out below. This is an essential start to your A-level Art course.

Week one

Please complete at least one fully executed well-observed drawing. Please use pencil only but drawings should be thoroughly developed using tone (shading). Choose from the following options:

- Kitchen or bath taps.
- Reflective surfaces e.g. kettles, spoons, mirrors etc.
- Close ups of fastenings e.g. partially open zips, buttons and button holes.
- Collections of objects e.g. on a dressing table, a messy corner of a bedroom, contents of a shed etc.
- Hands in different positions e.g. finger pointing, fingers curled, holding an object etc.
- Scrunched up packaging or newspapers

Week two

Complete at least one pen drawing using different types of mark making (e.g. cross-hatching) to create tone. You could use biro or fine liners or a combination of both. Please choose from the following options:

- Tools e.g. hammer, pliers, scissors etc.
- Kitchen utensils
- Parts of bicycles e.g. close up of wheels, cogs, chains etc.
- Shells
- Plants
- Clothing on hangers or draped over a chair, showing folds

- Close ups of scrunched up bags
- Partially open drawers, bags or cupboards with items showing e.g. clothes spilling out
- A pencil case or make-up bag with contents spilling out

Week three

Please create an observation study, using colour, preferably paint but you may use coloured pencil, pastels, oil pastel etc.

- Shoes and boots.
- Food e.g. plate of food, cakes etc.
- Sections of gardens
- Garden tools
- Close ups of handles, padlocks etc.
- Close ups of peeling posters or rusting objects

Review the work you have completed so far. Hopefully you will be able to see progression in your observation skills.

Week Four

Try the following.

Create a self-portrait using pencil only. You must work from direct observation using a mirror and not from a photograph.

Sketch a member of your family sitting reading, sewing or watching TV. You can use pencil or biro for this study.

Sketch a self-portrait and include a background e.g. part your garden, interior or a collection of your favourite belongings, place, food, hobbies etc. Start working into this piece using materials of your choice.

Useful Links

[Empty Kingdom](#)

[Sketch Book](#)

[SkoolTate](#)

[Student Art Guide: Sketchbook Ideas](#)

[Student Art Guide: Find a Voice – A-Level Art](#)

[Pinterest: Still Life Drawing](#)

[Pinterest: Biro Drawing](#)