

A-LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

HANDBOOK & SUMMER TASKS

Student Name:



Deadline to submit this completed booklet:
Tuesday 3rd September 2020

Who should I hand this booklet into?
Mrs A Wheaton (Head of 6th Form)

Who do I contact if I have any questions about this booklet?
Mrs S Costello (scostello@rodingvalley.net)

To study A-Level Photography, you **must** have:

- 1) A Grade 6 or above in either GCSE Photography, Art or Media
- 2) Your own DSLR camera
- 3) Completion of all the tasks in this booklet

Contents Page

You must complete all of the tasks in this booklet before you start the course.

Additional resources to support you in completing each task can be found on Google Classroom which you can join using the code 2qdfx7v

<i>TASK</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION OF TASK</i>
1	<i>Why I chose to study A-Level Photography</i>
2	<i>Portfolio</i>
3	<i>Getting to know my camera</i>
4	<i>How a digital SLR camera works</i>
5	<i>How a film SLR camera works</i>
6	<i>The Exposure Triangle: Aperture, ISO and Shutter Speed</i>
7	<i>Depth of Field and practical task</i>
8	<i>Rule of thirds and practical task</i>
9	<i>History of Photography</i>
10	<i>Genres of Photography</i>
11	<i>Keywords and Terminology</i>
12	<i>How to analyse a photograph</i>
13	<i>My 3 favourite photographers</i>

At the end of this booklet, you will find a selection of recommended documentaries to watch and a reading list as well as a PLC personalised learning checklist outlining what will be covered during this course.

Task 1: Why I chose to study A-Level Photography

Write a 500+ word piece on why you have chosen to study A-Level Photography.

- *What interests do you have in photography?*
- *Why is photography important to you?*
- *How would you describe your current skills as a photographer?*
- *What are your strengths as a photographer?*
- *What are your weaknesses as a photographer?*
- *What do you hope to learn by doing this course?*
- *What qualities do you think are important to succeed on this course?*
- *You can include images if you wish such as photos of your own work*

Present your written piece on PowerPoint or Google Slides.

Please read through your work and check your spelling and grammar.

Submit your work via email to Mrs S Costello (scostello@rodingvalley.net) or hand in a printed copy with this booklet.

Tick ONE option below:

☐ I have handed in a printed copy of my Task 1 work with this booklet

☐ I have emailed Mrs Costello with a copy of my Task 1 work

Task 2: Portfolio

Carefully select 5 photographs you have taken which demonstrate your skills and ability as a photographer.

Present your 5 photographs as a PowerPoint or Google Slides (1 photograph per slide).

Include a paragraph of information with each photograph which should include:

- *Where you took the photograph*
- *What the image is about*
- *Any editing techniques you used to enhance the image*
- *Why this image is a good example of your skills and abilities as a photographer*

Submit your portfolio via email to Mrs S Costello (scostello@rodingvalley.net) or hand in a printed copy of your portfolio with this booklet.

Tick ONE option below:

- ☐ I have handed in a printed copy of my portfolio with this booklet
- ☐ I have emailed Mrs Costello with a copy of my portfolio

Task 3: Getting to know my camera

You will need your own DSLR camera to do A-Level Photography.

Using PowerPoint or Google Slides, create a presentation (4 slides maximum) on your camera. Include:

- *The make/model of your camera (e.g., Nikon D3400 Digital SLR camera)*
- *A picture of your camera*
- *Technical features about your camera:*
- *Lens (e.g., 18-55mm)*
- *Megapixels (e.g., 24 megapixels means size of each photo)*
- *ISO*
- *Shutter Speed*
- *Memory Card Format*
- *Any other specifications*
- *The mode dial on your camera and what each 'mode' means (Google images: 'camera dial mode symbols')*
- *Who gave you your camera? How often do you use it? What settings do you normally use? Which settings would you like to learn how to use on your camera?*

Think carefully about your layout and presentation – be creative!

Present your work as a PowerPoint or Google Slides which you can either email to Mrs Costello (scostello@rodingvalley.net) or print out a copy to hand in with this booklet.

Tick ONE option below:

- ☐ I have handed in a printed copy of my Task 3 work with this booklet
- ☐ I have emailed Mrs Costello with a copy of my Task 3 work

Task 4: How a digital SLR camera works

You must show that you understand how a digital SLR camera works. You need to have your own DSLR camera to do this course.

Using PowerPoint or Google Slides, create a presentation (4 slides maximum) explaining how a digital SLR camera works. Include:

- *A diagram of how light enters a DSLR camera*
- *How the camera stores/records images*
- *What the different parts of the camera does*

Think carefully about your layout and presentation – be creative!

Present your work as a PowerPoint or Google Slides which you can either email to Mrs Costello (scostello@rodingvalley.net) or print out a copy to hand in with this booklet.

Tick ONE option below:

☐ I have handed in a printed copy of my Task 4 work with this booklet

☐ I have emailed Mrs Costello with a copy of my Task 4 work

Task 5: How a film SLR camera works

You must show that you understand how a 35mm film SLR camera works

Using PowerPoint or Google Slides, create a presentation (4 slides maximum) explaining how a 35mm film SLR camera works. Include:

- *A diagram of how light enters a 35mm film SLR camera*
- *How a film camera records images onto 35mm film*
- *What the different parts of the camera does*
- *What the main differences are between a film and digital SLR camera*
- *What are the pros and cons of a film SLR camera*

Think carefully about your layout and presentation – be creative!

Present your work as a PowerPoint or Google Slides which you can either email to Mrs Costello (scostello@rodingvalley.net) or print out a copy to hand in with this booklet.

Tick ONE option below:

☐ I have handed in a printed copy of my Task 5 work with this booklet

☐ I have emailed Mrs Costello with a copy of my Task 5 work

Task 6: The Exposure Triangle: Aperture, ISO and Shutter Speed

The exposure triangle explains the 3 essential settings to adjust on your camera to take the perfect photo: aperture, ISO and shutter speed

Research the exposure triangle and create a presentation explaining each element of the exposure triangle.
Include images and written work in your presentation.

- Use PowerPoint or Google slides
- 6 slides maximum
- Think carefully about your layout and presentation – be creative!

Present your work as a PowerPoint which you can either email to Mrs Costello (scostello@rodingvalley.net) or print out a copy to hand in with this booklet.

Tick ONE option below:

- ☐ I have handed in a printed copy of my Task 6 work with this booklet
- ☐ I have emailed Mrs Costello with a copy of my Task 6 work

Task 7: Depth of Field

Depth of Field is the proportion of an image which is in focus. Depth of Field is controlled by the aperture and lens focal length.

1. Create a powerpoint presentation explaining what depth of field is, how it is controlled by the aperture and diagrams explaining this (1-2 slides)
2. Take 4 of your own photos showing depth of field – 2 examples of a shallow depth of field and 2 examples of a wider depth of field.

You do not need to leave the house to do this task and could use items around your home but think carefully about your set up, lighting and background – it still needs to be an interesting photo!

Present the images over 4 powerpoint slides, one slide per photo. Include a written description with each photo explaining:

- What aperture setting you used
- Whether it shows a shallow depth of field or a wider depth of field
- Where you took the photo
- If you enhanced the photo through photo editing

Present your work as a PowerPoint/Google Slides which you can either email to Mrs Costello (scostello@rodingvalley.net) or print out a copy to hand in with this booklet.

Tick ONE option below:

- ☐ I have handed in a printed copy of my Task 7 work with this booklet
- ☐ I have emailed Mrs Costello with a copy of my Task 7 work

Task 8: Rule of thirds

In photography, the rule of thirds refers to the composition and framing within a photograph. The image is divided evenly into thirds. This creates a more pleasing and visually appealing photograph.

1. Create a powerpoint presentation explaining what rule of thirds is and diagrams/pictures explaining this (1-2 slides)

2. Take 3 of your own photos showing rule of thirds

You do not need to leave the house to do this task and could use items around your home but think carefully about your set up, lighting and background – it still needs to be an interesting photo!

Present the images over 3 powerpoint slides, one slide per photo. Include a written description with each photo explaining:

- What camera settings you used
- Where you took the photo
- If you enhanced the photo through photo editing

Present your work as a PowerPoint/Google Slides which you can either email to Mrs Costello (scostello@rodingvalley.net) or print out a copy to hand in with this booklet.

Tick ONE option below:

☐ I have handed in a printed copy of my Task 8 work with this booklet

☐ I have emailed Mrs Costello with a copy of my Task 8 work

Task 9: History of Photography

Since the invention of the first camera over 100 years ago, cameras have changed dramatically over the years from the first camera obscura to today's digital SLR cameras. Many important inventors and photographers had a part to play in the history of photography.

Research the history of photography and create a presentation about your findings. You could present it like a timeline. Include images and written work in your presentation.

- Use PowerPoint or Google slides (8 slides maximum)
- Include different types of cameras, inventors and photographers important to the history of photography
- Present your research in chronological order
- Think carefully about your layout and presentation – be creative!

Present your work as a PowerPoint which you can either email to Mrs Costello (scostello@rodingvalley.net) or print out a copy to hand in with this booklet.

Tick ONE option below:

☐ I have handed in a printed copy of my history of photography work with this booklet

☐ I have emailed Mrs Costello with a copy of my history of photography work

Task 10: Genres of Photography

The word 'genre' means a style or category of art

Genres of photography include styles such as fashion, landscape, fine art, etc.

Research 10 different 'genres' or styles/types of photography:

- Explain the definition of each genre
- Include examples of 3 photographers for each genre
- Include a photograph by each of these photographers as an example for each genre

Present your work as a PowerPoint/Google Slides which you can either email to Mrs Costello (scostello@rodingvalley.net) or print out a copy to hand in with this booklet.

Tick ONE option below:

☐ I have handed in a printed copy of my genres of photography work with this booklet

☐ I have emailed Mrs Costello with a copy of my genres of photography work

Task 11: Keywords and Terminology

Find out the definitions of the following keywords and terminology in relation to photography. Where possible, include an image to explain each term.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Depth of Field | 11. RAW file |
| 2. Rule of Thirds | 12. JPEG file |
| 3. Shutter Speed | 13. Exposure |
| 4. Aperture | 14. F-stop |
| 5. ISO | 15. Golden Hour |
| 6. SLR | 16. Panning |
| 7. DSLR | 17. Saturation |
| 8. Composition | 18. Sharpening |
| 9. Ambient Light | 19. White Balance |
| 10. Bokeh | |

Present your work as a PowerPoint/Google Slides which you can either email to Mrs Costello (scostello@rodingvalley.net) or print out a copy to hand in with this booklet.

Tick ONE option below:

- ☐ I have handed in a printed copy of my Task 11 work with this booklet
- ☐ I have emailed Mrs Costello with a copy of my Task 11 work

Task 12: How to analyse a photograph

Analysing a photograph means looking very carefully at a single image and explaining what you understand and see in the image and what it could mean.

Analyse one of the following photographs:

- Erwin Blumenfeld, 'Lisa Fonssagrives', 1939
- Don McCullin, 'Hue, Vietnam', 1968
- Jean Gaumy, 'Iran's Chadoed Warriors', 1986
- Jeff Widener, 'Tank man, Tiananmen Square', 1989
- Diane Arbus, 'Child with Toy Hand Grenade', 1962
- Robert Frank, 'Charleston, South Carolina, 1955
- Tom Hunter, 'Woman Reading Possession Order', 1998

Use the worksheet on the next page to help you with your written work and include a copy of the image you have analysed. Present your work as a PowerPoint/Google Slides which you can either email to Mrs Costello (scostello@rodingvalley.net) or print out a copy to hand in with this booklet.

Tick ONE option below:

- ☐ I have handed in a printed copy of my Task 12 work with this booklet
- ☐ I have emailed Mrs Costello with a copy of my Task 12 work

HOW TO ANALYSE A PHOTOGRAPH – WORKSHEET

Remember.

Recall what you already know about photography.

Remind yourself of key terms and concepts.

Understand.

What do you see in this photograph?

What words would you use to describe this photograph?

How would you describe this photograph to a person who could not see it?

What things do you recognise in this photograph? What things seem new to you?

What is the genre of this photograph? (still life, portrait, landscape, documentary, architecture, abstract, conceptual etc.)

Apply.

What does this photograph remind you of?

Is this a naturalistic or abstract image?

Was this photograph made with or without a camera? How can you tell?

Which Formal Elements seem important? How would you describe the lines in this picture? The shapes/forms?

The colours/tones? The textures and patterns?

How has the photographer captured the play of light in this image?

How is space represented in this photograph (foreground, middle ground, background)?

What is in or out of focus? How has the subject been framed/cropped?

What equipment, techniques and processes have been used to make the image? How does this affect the way we view it?

How is this picture different from real life?

Analyse.

Which part of the photograph strikes you as most interesting - captivating, surprising, puzzling, mysterious?

Why?

How has the photographer dealt with space and time?

How has the flattening of space (3D to 2D) affected our view of the subject?

What questions would you ask the artist about this work, if s/he were here?

What can you discover about this image and the work of this artist through research? How does this new knowledge affect your understanding of the work?

Interpret.

What title would you give to this photograph? What made you decide on that title? What other titles could we give it?

What do you think this photograph is about (its themes or big ideas)? How did you decide?

Pretend you are inside this photograph. What does it feel like?

What do you think it would be like to live in this photograph? What makes you think that?

Why do you suppose the artist made this photograph? What makes you think that?

Does this photograph remind you of other photographs/images that you know?

Evaluate and Create.

What do you think is effective about this photograph? What doesn't work so well?

What do you think other people would say about this work? Why do you think that?

What do you think is worth remembering about this photograph?

Create a photographic response to this image. What did you choose to create and why? How does it compare to the original stimulus?

What have you learned from exploring this work of art?

Task 13: My 3 favourite photographers

This is your opportunity to tell me about your 3 favourite photographers!

They could be classic, famous well known photographers in the art world or someone you have discovered on Pinterest or Instagram.

Create a presentation on either PowerPoint or Google slides (6 slides maximum) on your 3 favourite photographers. Your presentation must include:

- A biography about the photographer
- Examples of their work
- What do you like about the work
- How did you discover this photographer
- If you could ask the photographer a question what would it be
- Include a list of any websites you have used to do your research

Present your work as a PowerPoint/Google Slides which you can either email to Mrs Costello (scostello@rodingvalley.net) or print out a copy to hand in with this booklet.

Tick ONE option below:

☐ I have handed in a printed copy of my Task 13 work with this booklet

☐ I have emailed Mrs Costello with a copy of my Task 13 work

DOCUMENTARIES TO WATCH

'Age of the Image', Series 1, 4 episodes (2020) BBC iPlayer,
4 part documentary series about the importance of images and photography in the modern age

'Finding Vivian Maier' (2013), Netflix and Amazon Prime Video

Documentary film about the discovery of the unknown photographer Vivian Maier

READING LIST

The Beginner's Photography Guide: The Ultimate Step-by-Step Manual for Getting the Most from your Digital Camera

Chris Gatcum (DK)

ISBN-10: 0241241278




ISBN-13: 978-0241241271

The Photography Book

Ian Jeffrey (Phaidon)

ISBN-10: 0714867381

ISBN-13: 978-0714867380

A-Level Photography PLC (Personalised Learning Checklist)			
AO1: Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding			
Creatively present research on artists and photographers who link with my theme			
Write in depth and thoughtful comments/annotations around the artists' work as well as my own ideas and practical work			
Include a range of different ideas for my project and explain my ideas in relation to relevant artists and contextual references			
Use correct photography keywords and terminology			
Regularly attend photography and art exhibitions relevant to my theme and write exhibition reviews			
AO2: Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops			
Experiment with different processes, materials and techniques (darkroom, film, digital, photoshop, studio lighting, camera settings, collage, etc)			
Evaluate the successes and pitfalls of my experimentation processes			
Refine and improve my practical work			
Make appropriate choices when experimenting with my photographs in relation to my theme and artist research			
Annotating my thumbnails and making informed choices when selecting images from my thumbnails			
AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress			
Evidencing strong basic photography skills (framing, composition, lighting, depth of field, aperture, shutter speed, angle, perspective, etc)			
Drawings and basic sketches documenting ideas, plans, photo shoot set ups, behind the scenes, diagrams etc			
Annotation and written work is honest and reflective (WWW, EBI) and links back to artists and themes			
Lots of photos on my thumbnails, showing a variety of angles, set ups, poses, etc			
AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements			
Linking outcomes to development work, artists and resources			
Creating a final piece and images leading up to a final piece			
Final piece clearly links to development and journey of your whole project			
Include evidence of how my ideas have developed from the start of my project to the end, with evidence of how it has helped me to look at others' work			
Using visual language skills effectively			