

Year 13 Graphic Communication AQA

Year 13 students study AQA Graphic Communication at A Level. This document is intended to give you an overview of year 13. Students have access to Teams where there are a range of supportive materials and resources available, as well as exemplar materials from AQA.

NEA means non-exam assessment; the below tables show how the course is assessed. In this document you will see the weekly guide covering NEA 1 & 2. It includes important dates and deadlines. Students have 10 lessons over a 2 week timetable and are expected to complete approximately 5 hours independent study a week.

Component 1: Personal investigation
What's assessed Personal investigation - 7201/C, 7202/C, 7203/C, 7204/C, 7205/C, 7206/C
Assessed • No time limit • 96 marks • 60% of A-level
Non-exam assessment (NEA) set and marked by the centre and moderated by AQA during a visit to the centre. Visits will normally take place in June.

Component 2: Externally set assignment
What's assessed Response to an externally set assignment - 7201/X, 7202/X, 7203/X, 7204/X, 7205/X, 7206/X
Assessed • Preparatory period + 15 hours supervised time • 96 marks • 40% of A-level
Non-exam assessment (NEA) set by AQA, marked by the centre and moderated by AQA during a visit to the centre. Visits will normally take place in June.

AQA states; Graphic communication Students should produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas of study, for example, interactive media (including web, app and game design), advertising, packaging design, design for print, illustration, communication graphics, branding, multimedia, motion graphics, design for film and television. Students can work entirely in digital media or entirely in non-digital media, or in a mixture of both, provided the aims and assessment objectives are met.

NEA 1 includes a written essay, please see the next page for more information.

AQA specification link: [A-level Art and Design Specification Specifications for first teaching in 2015](#)

Key dates and deadlines:

NEA 1 exam days: 21st & 22nd January 2027

NEA 1 hand in 1st February 2027

NEA 2 exam days: 30th April, 4th & 5th May

NEA 1 final hand in 4th May

A Level Graphics Communication Agenda NEA 1		60% Personal Investigation
A level Graphics requires students to be independent in their exploration of a topic. When aiming for Grades A*-B students will actively explore materials and ideas outside the classroom. It is important that you keep up to date with work set and are seeking ideas and experimenting with media all the time. Ensure that annotation supports your experiments, documents your thoughts and explains your decision making. Good grammar and the correct spelling and use of technical language and keywords are essential. All classwork must be kept up-to-date including independent Study which should be approximately 5 hours minimum per week. Make use of ADT Department at lunchtimes and during non-contact periods. Make sure you read your feedback, use the covey chart, keep notes and respond to it. Ask questions if you are unsure, look at other students work for ideas. Play to your strengths but don't be afraid to take risks and make mistakes. Those aiming for A* to B this year need to make sure they are thorough in all AOs making clear and detailed analysis of experiments and contextual influences. There must be consistency and a highly developed understanding of why you are doing what you are doing, justification and reflection. If you need any help with any of the tasks, you don't have a printer or would like to submit your annotation by email please use the following addresses: rmcdonnell@bournemouth-school.org hchessher@bournemouth-school.org		Assessment Objectives: AO1 Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding. AO2 Experiment with and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes reviewing and refining their ideas as their work develops. AO3 Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress. AO4 Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements. Personal Study 1000-3000 words - Written material should be critical, analytical, evaluative and reflective - Written material should be no less than 1000 and no more than 3000 words. - Sources should be identified and a bibliography and list of relevant visits should be included Please use the recourses available in Teams to support you with all aspects of the course
Week	Objectives/Outcomes – a weekly overview, individuals with have specific focus related to their project	Independent Study 5 hours independent study per week
September Wk 1 & 2 4/9 - 7/9	Welcome back - Share summer work with the class, look at essay progress with teacher. Set initial targets for first 4 weeks on covey chart. Approx. 25 slides	Review your PPT after the class discussion Annotations and presentation
Wk 3 14/9	Developments – experiments - annotations. Intervention sessions after school will be put in place for those who are behind.	Focus on individual targets set in class by your teacher. See Teams covey chart
Wk 4 21/9	Developments – review – refine Look at the AQA examples in Teams, where do you think you are? Prepare your work for feedback next week.	Demonstrate clear direction and purpose through focused experiments
Wk 5 28/9	Teacher feedback this week - Practical work will show designer influence experiments, new visual research and a chosen project direction. Individual Covey chart checklist up to date. All verbal feedback responded to so far. Approx. 45 slides	Make sure your PPT is up to date ready for the hand in.
Wk 6 5/10	Targets from feedback will be the focus Annotation should be used to explain your choices for materials and ideas. Use bullet points as well as more descriptive and analytical passages. REMEMBER grammar and spelling count!!	Focus on individual targets set in class by your teacher. See Teams covey chart
Wk 7 12/10	Peer review lesson this week - be ready to share your work with the class.	PPT presentation and annotations Essay
Wk 8 19/10	Make sure you are clear about your personal targets and have a list of activities to complete over the holiday. You need to decide what your main direction will be. 23rd October Essay first full draft due - Practical work will show designer influence experiments, new visual research and a chosen project direction. Individual Covey chart checklist up to date. All feedback responded to.	Essay and presentation ready for hand in
Wk9 2/11	Essay feedback this week, Developments – Decide where you want the essay to be read in the context of your project. Continue the development of your project. Approx. 60 slides	Focus on individual targets set in class by your teacher. See Teams covey chart
WK10 9/11	Experimentation – keep reviewing and refining your presentation. Is it going in the direction you want it to? Are your choices purposeful.	Work on the presentation and annotation of your PPT

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Wk11 16/11	Annotation focus this week – are you analysing your work, Is there too much description, have you explained choices and made links with your artists/designers? Make sure you understand the Assessment objectives AO1-4 – ask questions, discuss ideas with your peers, do they understand your 'journey'?	<i>Essay, work on your second draft including the references, images and bibliography</i>
Wk12 23/11	Developing - Consider how successful your work has been so far? What do you need to do next to deepen your understanding of a technique or research a new angle that will give you more direction that is specific? 27th November 2nd draft of essay	<i>Work on the presentation and annotation of your PPT</i>
Wk13 30/11	Teacher feedback this week - Recording and evaluating - Respond to covey chart targets set Look at the AO's below and make sure you are addressing them all in your work? Are you clear in your intensions and choices? Have you explained your 'journey'? Check your spelling. Approx. 75 slides	<i>Respond to feedback and address points made about your essay.</i>
Wk14 7/12	Development and reflection of work so far. Look back through the whole presentation, does it all make sense? Do you need some slides to show off design work on a larger scale, could you add a 'so far what's next' slide?	<i>Work on the presentation and annotation of your PPT</i>
Wk15 14/12	Over the Christmas holidays review your progress and finish any outstanding experiments, research or practical work. Don't forget about your essay too!	<i>Essay finalization Review your presentation, where are the gaps? Show it to someone else</i>
Wk16 4/1	Year 13 formal assessment this week 6-13 Jan 2027 Hand in all coursework to date for feedback Working on your individual targets - 4 weeks left 8th Jan hand in essay - Essay's should be complete and in a finished format including a title page, word count and bibliography.	<i>Revision/Exams Final draft of essay to include the title page word count and bibliography.</i>
Wk17 11/1	Work on your targets – make sure you are planning time carefully. You must use annotation to explain and evaluate your project. Tie up loose ends. Approx. 100 slides	<i>Exams</i>
Wk18 18/1	CW Exam Days: 21st & 22nd Jan 27. This is where you will complete your personal investigation outcome. Bring all your work for a group critique at the start of the week Respond to individual feedback – use afterschool, lunchtimes, study periods. Keep talking to your teachers, refer to your covey chart.	<i>Complete all outstanding work and double check you PPT presentation.</i>
Wk19 25/1	Make sure all your annotation is up to date Hand in ALL COURSEWORK 1st February 2027	<i>5 hours independent study per week Study periods can be used</i>

Useful websites for research:

[Illustration Agency Australia, Top Illustration Talent- IllustrationX](#)

[Colossal: Explore contemporary art, craft, photography, and the natural world.](#)

[BOOOOOOOM - CREATE * INSPIRE * COMMUNITY * ART * DESIGN * MUSIC * FILM * PHOTO * PROJECTS](#)

[Pinterest](#)

[Collections — Google Arts & Culture](#)

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Exam NEA 2 Exam worth 40% of the final grade		
Date	Activity related to your chosen theme Use the AQA examples in Teams>student resource to see exam example projects	Independent Study 5 hrs a week
Week 1 1/2	Mind map questions as a group and discuss possible ideas. Mind map exam question/s and creatively present Collect a range of inspiring images related to your chosen question/s ready to make a moodboard	Complete any work from this week that is not done in lessons If applicable = Start to take photos related to your questions – create doodles or sketches.
Week 2 8/2	Research Designers/artists suggested, use books and the internet – this should include critical and contextual information. Mind map/moodboard– this should include evaluative and analytical comments. Responses to designers studied either by creating a piece of work or by analysing them – a slide each as a minimum	Complete the moodboard Complete evaluative and analytical annotation. Take photos related to your questions if relevant. Contact sheet to be used.
Week 3 15/2	Half Term Holiday February – Independent Study <i>All previous tasks must be up-to-date</i> <i>You must have clear direction and focus and should have started to try out a range of initial ideas</i> <i>Annotation: Try not to be too descriptive and more analytical- use help sheets.</i> Continue to use Photography, where appropriate, to record ideas	
Week 4 22/3	Min 2 designer responses – why is this helpful, what have you learnt, how will you use this going forward? Make visual connections to their work in yours. Explain how you will use the techniques or style of your researched designers. Start to set out your intentions for the brief – or write the brief if you have not done so yet.	Complete analysis at home/study periods Set out your intentions for your first set of experiments – be clear about your intentions.
Week 5 1/3	Continue experimenting and developing ideas – recording the process with lots of screen shots and notes. Make sure that clear links are being made with your critical and contextual studies Parents evening 4th March	Respond to teacher feedback Complete unfinished slides Make sure experiments are shown from start to finish.
Week 6 8/3	Continue experimenting – recording the process. Mind map or do an 'ideas so far slide' – show all stages of and experiment. Keep reviewing your progress and introducing new designers or materials if needed. If an idea is not working change direction.	Ensure that you have at least 25 slides Go back and ensure any gaps are completed and visual links made clear.
Week 7 15/3	Peer review - Make sure that clear links are being made with your critical and contextual studies Respond to teacher feedback	Presentation – filling in gaps – making both visual and written links throughout the project. Analytical not descriptive.
Week 8 22/3	Start to develop 2 ideas min Make links with your experiments and artist/designers researched Try out mini versions of your ideas – use notes	Presentation – making both visual and written links throughout the project. Adding screen shots of the development of your ideas.
Weeks 9–10 29/3	Easter Holidays – review, refine, evaluate and mount all exam preparation work so far! Respond to your feedback – email us if you get stuck! Talk to each other too. Do not stick your head in the sand. We are here to help if you need us.	

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Week 11 & 12 12/4 19/4	Clear development of ideas, experimentation and annotation – create a slide where you put all you have learnt together and explain how you will now take it forward into the 15hr exam. Aim for at least 30 slides. At least 2 ideas explored before choosing the best one. Make a clear plan of your intended 15hr exam piece. Consider a time plan. Add the placeholder slide to show where the exam started. The teacher will provide this.	
Week 13 26/4	30/4/27 NEA 2 exam day 1 4/5/27 NEA 2 exam day 2 5/5/27 NEA 2 exam day 3	There will be no extension to the exam time under any circumstances