

Subject

History of Art

Option Pool: B

Entry Requirement: 6 in English or History

Qualification

GCE ADVANCED LEVEL

Introduction

History of Art is for any student who is curious about why our world looks the way it does, and is fascinated by the historical and cultural contexts that have shaped the way we see certain paintings, sculptures and buildings. The course is a grand tour of two millennia of art and architecture across the continents and cultures of the globe, spanning European, Middle-Eastern, Asian and African societies. Students will gain the tools to understand how images and objects work to shape our social and political identities, and will enjoy trips to galleries to engage with current debates about representation and curation.

Course overview**YEAR 1**

In the first year, students will study a range of different periods and movements, beginning with the social and intellectual ferment which gave rise to the iconic works of the Italian Renaissance. As the year progresses students will learn to critically assess more recent periods, such as the British and French avant-garde, and how the spirit of the 1848 rebellions infused their work, leading to the art of modernism and pop art, with its increasingly intimate connections to consumerism, fashion, celebrity culture and the internet.

YEAR 2

In the second year, students will undertake close visual study of works of art and architecture by artists such as Antoni Gaudi, Hokusai, Ai Weiwei, Georgia O'Keefe, Frida Kahlo, Picasso and Grayson Perry. They will learn to read artworks in a critical manner, researching artists and critics, and creating substantiated reasoned arguments in clearly structured essays that are fluently expressed.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

There are two exams, each three hours long. They are equally weighted and require extended writing using essay formats.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

History of Art is a prestigious course, well-respected by universities. It can lead to employment in any area which requires combinations of visual and verbal skills, such as publishing, advertising, design, fashion, film and TV, marketing and web-based media, museum curation and heritage management, as well as the wide range of professions available to all humanities students.

Heads of Department

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