

GCSE

These statements refer to the areas your child will cover over years 9, 10 and 11, depending on the length of their course. They relate directly to the four assessment objectives on which your child is assessed at the end of the course. The statements included here are not exhaustive and not all of them may relate to your child. The words we have used are those on the Pearson Edexcel exam board's taxonomy form below. The taxonomy is the marking grid we use to mark your child at the end of their GCSE.

Performance Levels	BELOW GCSE LEVEL (0)	Level 1 LIMITED	LIMITED/BASIC	Level 2 BASIC	BASIC/EMERGING COMPETENT	Level 3 EMERGING COMPETENT	EMERGING COMPETENT / COMPETENT & CONSISTENT	Level 4 COMPETENT & CONSISTENT	COMPETENT & CONSISTENT / CONFIDENT & ASSURED	Level 5 CONFIDENT & ASSURED	CONFIDENT & ASSURED / EXCEPTIONAL	Level 6 EXCEPTIONAL
Consider the keyword descriptions to the right carefully. Have you achieved all, most or some of the descriptors?	No rewardable material	Unstructured Clumsy Disjointed Minimal Elementary	The candidate has achieved all the keyword descriptors in the lower level and some of those above.	Deliberate Methodical Superficial Unrefined Simplistic Tentative	The candidate has achieved all the keyword descriptors in the lower level and some of those above.	Reflective Predictable Growing control Broadening Endeavour Safe	The candidate has achieved all the keyword descriptors in the lower level and some of those above.	Informed Purposeful Secure Engaged Skilful Thoughtful Cohesive	The candidate has achieved all the keyword descriptors in the lower level and some of those above.	Advance Convincing Comprehensive Focused Perceptive Refined Resolved Risk-taking	The candidate has achieved all the keyword descriptors in the lower level and some of those above.	Accomplished Inspired Intuitive Insightful Powerful Extraordinary Unexpected Outstanding
	0 Marks	1-12 marks	13 14 15 Marks	16-24 marks	25 26 27 marks	28-36 marks	37 38 39 marks	40-48 marks	49 50 51 marks	52-60 marks	61 62 63 marks	64-72 marks

123

Limited

- A limited ability to collect basic information about an artist or photographer and their work.**
Assessment objective 1

Your digital research pages will have an elementary title using a basic font and/or a font that does not reflect the photographer's/artist's style, and/or images of the photographer's/artist's work that have been clumsily placed on the page without considering the overall composition. The page as a whole may look disjointed and unstructured with minimal effort put into the finished result. In some cases, your research pages will not have been completed at all.
- A limited ability to use a range of photographic processes.**
Assessment objective 2.

You will have used minimal Photoshop and/or camera explorations in your digital book that you may only have elementary understanding of. There may be one or two that you know and can use without assistance. You will have explored Photoshop techniques but they may look clumsy when you apply them to your photographs.
- A limited ability to record using the photographic process.**
Assessment objective 3.

Your photographs may lack an understanding of composition and they may look disjointed and elementary. Minimal effort will have been applied when taking photographs and as such the composition is likely to need cropping in order to improve its appearance.
- A limited ability to create final outcomes with partial recognition of the links to visual and historical research.**
Assessment objective 4.

Your final outcomes will be unstructured and partially finished and/or finished with minimal attention to detail. You may have looked at a photographer/artist to help inspire your final outcome, but you most likely will not have incorporated any of their visual style when planning your outcome. You will have used some Photoshop techniques but they will most likely look elementary and disjointed.

234

Basic

- ***A basic ability to find out information about an artist or photographer that is relevant to your project.***

Assessment objective 1

Your digital research pages will likely have a simplistic title using a basic font and/or a font that does not reflect the photographer's/artist's style. Images of the artist's work may not have been placed on the page with a consideration to composition. There may be a photographic personal response, but it will be superficial with little or no obvious connection to the artists you are looking at. There may be two sentences on the artist but this will be taken from the internet and will not include your opinion of their work. Both your photographic and written responses may be superficial and simplistic and your pages as a whole will look unrefined. In some cases, your artist research page/s will not have been completed at all.

- ***A basic ability to use a range of photographic processes.***

Assessment objective 2.

You will have used some Photoshop and/or camera explorations in your digital book but they may look unrefined. There may be two or three that you tentatively think you can use without assistance. You will have explored Photoshop techniques but your approach may be methodical; relying on techniques you are familiar with, resulting in superficial developments.

- ***A basic ability to record using the photographic process.***

Assessment objective 3.

Your photographs may lack a full understanding of composition and they may look simplistic and unrefined. Superficial effort will have been given when taking photographs and as such the subject matter may lack breadth and depth and some photographs may need to be cropped in order to improve their appearance.

- ***A basic ability to create work from visual and historical research. Assessment objective 4.***

Your final outcomes will be finished but with superficial attention to detail and an unrefined composition/design. You may have looked at a photographer or artist to help inspire your final outcome, but evidence of their influence on your outcome will be superficial. You will have a methodical use of Photoshop but will lack experimentation. The final outcome will look deliberate and methodical and may lack individuality.

345

Emerging Competent

- ***An emerging competent ability to collect ideas and information about photographers, artists and designers and use it in your work.***

Assessment objective 1

Your digital research pages will have a safe title using a font that begins to reflect the photographer's/artist's style. Images of the artist's work will have been set out in your digital book with evidence that you have reflected on the best area to place them. There may be a photographic personal response, with some small visual connection to the artists you are looking at that shows a growing control. There may be one predictable paragraph on the artist although this will most likely be taken directly from the internet rather than your own opinion.

- ***Emerging competence in your ability to use a range of photographic processes.***

Assessment objective 2

You will have used some Photoshop and/or camera explorations in your digital book and will be beginning to show a growing control of most of these, although your explorations will often be safe and lack creative exploration. There may be two or three that you have a broadening understanding of and can use without assistance. You will approach them with a sense of endeavour and as such will experience growing control with them. You will begin to show a broadening control of Photoshop as you work through the year.

- ***Emerging competence in your ability to record using the photographic process.***

Assessment objective 3

Your photographs will begin to take on more consideration of composition. They will show your broadening understanding of photography but the finer details such as depth of field and appropriate

lighting will not always be present. More effort will have been given when taking photographs and there will be evidence of a growing control.

- ***Emerging competence in your ability to create work from visual and historical research showing growing independence.***

Assessment Objective 4.

Your final outcomes will be finished and will show some sense of endeavour, with a growing attention to detail and composition. You may have reflected on a photographer or artist to help inspire your final outcome, but there may be a predictable use of their technique whereby your work copies their style rather than is inspired by their work. You will have independently selected and used Photoshop techniques but these may not always be suited to your intentions. You will be able to show a broadening understanding of composition although the final execution may look safe and predictable.

456

Competent

- ***A competent ability to collect ideas and information about photographers, artists and designers and use it in your work. Assessment objective 1***

Your digital research pages will likely have a thoughtful title using a font that begins to reflect the photographer's/artist's style. Images of the artist's work will have been set out in your digital book with evidence that you have an informed opinion of the best area to place them. Your personal response will be skilful with growing control and there will be evidence of the photographer's/artist's use of style and composition. There may be one or two informed paragraphs on the artist although, this will most likely be taken directly from the internet rather than your own opinion.

- ***A competent ability to use a widening range of photographic processes.***

Assessment objective 2

You will have used a number of Photoshop and/or camera explorations in your digital book and will be beginning to show informed and secure levels of understanding with most of these, although there will still be some that you are not completely familiar with and are unable to use without assistance.

Those you are competent with, you will begin to use skilfully and will have a broadening understanding of how they can be used to enhance and develop your work.

- ***A competent ability to record using the photographic process.***

Assessment objective 3

Your photographs will start to become more purposeful as you have more consideration for composition, style, lighting and subject matter. They will show your growing control of photography and Photoshop and you will be developing a secure control of both.

- ***A competent ability to create work independently from visual and historical research.***

Assessment objective 4

Your final outcomes will begin to show an informed development as well as some purposeful attention to detail and composition. You will have looked at a photographer or artist to help inspire your final outcome, and there may be a thoughtful but predictable use of their technique whereby you will have only partially incorporated their influence into your own emerging style. You will have started to thoughtfully select and use a variety of Photoshop techniques and you will be beginning to show an engaged application of them in your final outcome. You will be beginning to show a safe and informed use of composition and colour.

567

Competent and consistent

- ***Competent and consistent research into photographers, artists and designers that relate to your work. Assessment objective 1***

Your digital research pages will have a thoughtful title using a font that reflects and/or enhances the artist's style. Images of the photographer's/artist's work will have been set out in your digital book with evidence that you have a secure knowledge of the best area to place them. Your personal response will be clearly informed by the photographers/artists you're studying. There may be two or more cohesive paragraphs on the photographer/artist although, this will most likely be taken from the

internet and put into your own words. You will include an informed sentence or two of your opinion of the photographer's/artist's work.

- ***A competent and consistent ability to use a widening range of photographic processes.***

Assessment objective 2

You will have skilful Photoshop and/or camera explorations in your digital book and will be showing informed levels of control of these, although there will still be some that you are still mastering. Those you are competent with, you will engage with fully and will be able to execute with success.

- ***A competent and consistent ability to record using the photographic process.***

Assessment objective 3

Your photographs will start to become more skilful as you have more consideration for composition, style, lighting and subject matter. You will demonstrate purposeful intentions with photography and Photoshop and you will become more thoughtful in photographs you take and the developments you make.

- ***A competent and consistent ability to create final outcome from visual and historical research showing independence. Assessment objective 4***

Your final outcomes will be informed through research, independently developed and will show thoughtful attention to detail and composition. You will have engaged with historical influences to help inspire your final outcome, and there will be a subtle but purposeful influence carried into your own outcome. You will have a cohesively selected and used techniques and media and you will be showing secure control and confidence with them. You will be able to show an informed understanding of composition and colour.

678

Confident and Assured

- ***Confident and assured research into photographers, artists and designers that relate to your work.***

Assessment objective 1

Your digital research pages will have a thoughtful title using a font that reflects and/or enhances the photographer's/artist's style. Images of the photographer's/artist's work will have been placed onto your research page with a refined understanding of composition. Your personal response will have a convincing likeness to the artist's work you're studying. You will have 3 paragraphs of comprehensive writing, in your own words, using information taken from the internet and peppered with your own opinion. The overall presentation of your page will be resolved with a perceptive understanding of composition.

- ***A confident and assured ability to use a widening range of photographic processes.***

Assessment Objective 2

You will have used the full range of Photoshop and/or camera explorations that you have been introduced to in your digital book and will be showing advanced levels of control of these. You will be risk-taking with the development of your ideas through these processes and the developments you make will be comprehensive and in-depth.

- ***A confident and assured ability to record using the photographic process.***

Assessment objective 3

You will be able to convincingly photograph a range of subject matter in a range of conditions. You will have a perceptive understanding of the fundamentals of photography and your ideas will be focussed and resolved. You will have advanced skills with the camera and will understand how to structure a successful composition through the lens.

- ***A confident and assured ability to independently create a final outcome from visual and historical research.***

Assessment objective 4.

Your final outcomes will be perceptively informed and developed, drawing on investigations throughout the project. They will be risk taking and will show a comprehensive attention to detail and composition. You will have looked at a number of photographers and artists to help inspire your final outcome, and there will be a perceptive and focused influence carried into your own outcome

from the research you have done. You will have convincingly selected and used techniques and media and you will be showing an advanced control and confidence with them. You will be able to show a refined understanding of composition and colour and this will be evident in your outcome which will be fully resolved.

789

Exceptional

- ***An exceptional depth of research into the work of photographers /artists/designers/movements which has considered influences on your work in some way.***

Assessment objective 1.

Your digital research pages will have a title that has been mapped out using a font that reflects and/or enhances the photographers/artist's style and will have an insightful visual reference to the artist's style. Images of the photographer's/artist's work will have been placed onto your research page with an intuitive understanding of composition. Your personal response will have an extraordinary likeness to the artist's work you're studying. You will have 3 paragraphs of inspired writing, in your own words, that combines information you have researched with your own opinion of the artist's work and working practice. The overall presentation of your page will be resolved with a perceptive understanding of composition.

- ***An exceptional ability to use a widening range of photographic processes with control and skill.***

Assessment objective 2

You will have used the full range of Photoshop and/or camera explorations that you have been introduced to in your digital book and will be showing extraordinary levels of control with these. You will be insightful with the development of your ideas through these processes and the developments you make will be outstanding.

- ***An exceptional ability to record using the photographic process.***

Assessment objective 3

You will be able to intuitively photograph a range of subject matter in a range of conditions. You will have an extraordinary understanding of the fundamentals of photography and your ideas will be creatively unexpected and daring and always outstanding. You will have accomplished skills with the camera and will understand how to structure a successful composition through the lens.

- ***An exceptional ability to independently create a highly skilled final outcome that shows clear connections to your visual and historical research.***

Assessment objective 4

Your final outcomes will be insightfully informed and inspired, drawing on investigations you have made throughout the project. They may be unexpected, with imaginative leaps taken at appropriate times, and will show an extraordinary attention to detail and composition. You will have looked at a number of photographers/artists to help inspire your final outcome, and there will be an insightful and inspirational influence carried into your own outcome from the research you have done. You will have intuitively selected and used techniques and media, that are perfectly suited to your intentions, and you will be showing an outstanding control and confidence with them. You will be able to show an extraordinary understanding of composition and colour and this will be evident in your outcome which will be fully accomplished.