

**Presenting your photos…**

**Always maintain a neat sketchbook**. This doesn’t mean fancy, decorative pages, although there may be times where this is appropriate. Use the following tips to ensure excellent presentation:

* **Don’t miss pages**. You will easily fill a book for each project.
* Keep your **pages in order**. Eg. If you have to do an artist research page, your own version of their work and then a task where you apply these skills, present them in this order so that a) it makes sense, and b) you show the development of your skills clearly.
* NEVER use scissors for cutting straight lines! Use the **guillotine** to cut out your photos.
* **Border your photographs** with contrasting coloured paper. If your photo is quite dark- use a light colour, if it is light – use black. If you are presenting lots of photos, it might be easier to stick an A4 piece of coloured paper into your book rather than mounting each photo individually.
* If you run out of room on your page, **add folds of paper** off the page to keep tasks together where possible.
* Always **title** your pages clearly.
* Try to **hide your writing** if you can. Eg. Glue in a photo on a ‘fold’ and write on the back of it.
* If your writing is big or scruffy, or your spellings aren’t great, please make notes and **write up on the computer** (in your own time) to help presentation.

**Miss Wilson’s guide to BTEC Level 3 Photography**

**For the highest grades…**

The students that get the distinctions are the students that go above and beyond what we do in lessons.

* Complete **extra photo shoots** outside of lessons in **interesting locations** which apply the skills we learn in lessons independently
* Carry out **further research** of techniques and photographers to gain further ideas and inspiration to use in lessons.
* Don’t just say, ‘I would improve this by…’ but **actually do it!** Then present the improved version alongside the original to show your **progress**.
* **Complete all missions**. This isn’t optional but the students who do them properly will almost certainly improve their grades.
* **Be creative**. You will all pass if you complete the tasks we do in lessons, and most of you will hopefully achieve merits. To get distinctions you need to be creative with your approach to photography.

**Preparation for your portfolio…**

There is a chance that some of you may want to take photography further after sixth form. Just in case, prepare for this by starting a folder on your computer area called ‘**Photography Portfolio**’. Save all of your **best photos and final outcomes** into this folder so that they are easy to find if you needed to put together a portfolio for a university interview.

**When taking photographs…**

* **Plan ahead**. Think about what you are aiming to **capture and represent** through your photo.
* Choose **interesting subjects** (the thing you are photographing) and **locations**. The more creative you are, the higher your marks will be.
* Make **creative use of the formal elements** when taking each photo:
	+ Composition
	+ Angle
	+ colour and contrast
	+ framing
	+ background
	+ focal point
	+ mood
* Take **lots of photos** then pick the best to submit. Keep all photos and print them as a **contact sheet**, even if you don’t like them as they show **development and refinement**, and help you get the higher marks. Always **annotate** the contact sheet with notes on strengths and weaknesses.

**Key Words**

**Camera settings**

Macro, fast or slow shutter speed, zoom, focus, panoramic,

**Ways of taking a photograph**

Digital (DSLR), traditional (SLR), wet film photography, darkroom, pinhole, photogram, Tripod, flash, light reader

**Formal elements**

Shape, Texture (natural or man made), Pattern (natural or man made, Line, Tone (shadows), Lighting (see highlights on something, eg. shine), Colour (Bright, dull, contrasting, monotone), Composition (centred, off centre, to the side of the photo), viewpoint, Framing (line up edges of photo with edges of subject)

**Viewpoints**

Distance, perspective, angles, distorted, birds eye, aerial, forced perspective, illusion, close up, macro

**Photoshop**

Brightness, contrast, hue and saturation, layers, filters, curves, colour splash, de-saturate, crop, select, magic wand tool, levels, erase, alter, manipulate, enhance, change, develop, correct

**Darkroom process**

Aperture, enlarger, exposure timing, negatives, developer, stop bath, fixer, wash, under exposed, over exposed, focus, blur

**Portraiture**

Traditional, environmental, candid, lifestyle, surreal, conceptual, abstract, emotion, mood, facial expression, eye contact, gaze, pose, position, interaction, engaging the viewer, character, close up, full length, head shot

**Talking about your photographs…**

All of your work should have a **brief explanation**. You do not need to write about every photograph, and you should **NOT write pages and pages**! However you should include the following for each task:

* **What was the task: what skills did you develop and how did you apply them?**
* **If we linked to a photographer: which photographer inspired you and how?**
* **Explain the photography techniques: which formal elements, camera settings, and editing techniques did you use? How and why?**
* **Reflect on the strengths: what works well and why?**
* **Suggest ways of improving: what would you do differently next time? How would the photo improve as a result?**

**Researching photographers…**

You will regularly have to **carry out independent research** into photography techniques, styles or specific artists and photographers. To ensure that you are successful, use the following to help you:

* Find a **photographer that inspires you**. Select the photo that gives you the most ideas and print it out ready to present in your book. Write down the name of the photographer and if you can find it, make note of the title of the image.
* See if the photographer says anything about their **style, influences or photography technique** – if they do, print this to help you later.
* **Analyse** don’t describe. Use some of these questions to help you, and always use key words to achieve merit or above:
* **How has the photographer taken the photo?**
* **What camera settings and photography techniques have they used?**
* **What formal elements have they used and how?**
* **What effect does this have on the image?**
* **Have they edited the photo?**
* **How does this affect the way you view it?**
* **What do you like about it? Be specific and explain your answer.**
* **How does this photograph give you ideas for your own work? How will you take inspiration from this photographer?**
* Always **create your own version** of photographers work where possible as this is the best way to demonstrate an understanding of their technique. **Don’t just copy though**, make it your own in some way in order to get the higher marks.