

Art History



at RHB Sixth Form



A Level Art History

Art History is a dynamic and intellectually rich A Level that combines visual analysis with academic rigour. If you have ever been fascinated by works of art – the cultural context, the visual language and the techniques used then this is the course for you. It is open to all students — you do not need to have studied History or Art at GCSE to excel — and it pairs well with a wide range of other subjects. For students with a more creative portfolio, it adds a weighty essay-based subject, while for students with humanities or language A Levels it introduces a fresh perspective through its global and visual focus.

COURSE OUTLINE

Examined by Pearson Edexcel, the course is assessed entirely by two written papers, each three hours long and taken at the end of Year 13. Critical evaluation, independent research, and the ability to construct clear, well-supported arguments are at the heart of the subject.

Paper 1: Visual Analysis and Themes – 50%

Section A focuses on unseen visual analysis, developing your ability to describe, analyse and interpret works of art. Section B is a thematic study — we currently propose T2: War and T3: Identities — exploring 24 works across a variety of media and historical contexts.

Paper 2: Periods – 50%

In this paper you will study two historical periods in depth, focusing on the social, cultural and political factors that shaped the art and architecture of the time. Proposed topics include C2: Power and Persuasion — the Baroque in Catholic Europe, and C4: Brave New World — Modernism in Europe (1900–39) or C5: British and American Contemporary Art and Architecture. A total of 36 works will be explored across these two periods.

An AS option is available and consists of sitting Paper 1 only at the end of Year 12.

HEAD OF SUBJECT

Dr Anna Jenkin

EXAM BOARD

Pearson Edexcel

Where could this course take me?

Art History is a subject where girls continue to excel and dominate, with many progressing to leading universities — for example, the University of Cambridge undergraduate Art History cohort is 85% from independent girls' schools. This A Level can lead to university courses such as History of Art, Architecture, Archaeology, Classics, English, Anthropology, Philosophy, Museum Studies, and Cultural Heritage Management.

Careers linked to Art History include curating, art consultancy, auction houses, museum work, art journalism, marketing, urban planning, and the commercial and public art sectors. The visual analysis and critical thinking skills you develop are also highly valued in fields such as law, business, media, and the humanities.

ENRICHMENT

This course draws on Bath's rich cultural heritage and is ably supported by the school's existing Art Library. Students will have opportunities to collaborate with the Holburne Museum, Victoria Art Gallery, and arts organisations in Bristol, as well as to participate in trips nationally and internationally. There are also opportunities to enter national competitions such as the ARTiculation public speaking prize. Work experience can be arranged through local connections and our network of alumnae and parents working in the arts.

Art History is not currently offered by any other sixth form in Bath, making it a unique and distinctive option you can take here which will help you to stand out in a subject where girls thrive.



ROYAL HIGH
BATH

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

For Girls. *For Life.*

