

Visual arts

I. Course description and aims

The DP Visual Arts course encourages students to challenge their own creative and cultural expectations and boundaries. It is a thought-provoking course in which students develop analytical skills in problem-solving and divergent thinking, while working towards technical proficiency and confidence as art-makers. In addition to exploring and comparing visual arts from different perspectives and in different contexts, students are expected to engage in, experiment with and critically reflect upon a wide range of contemporary practices and media. The course is designed for students who want to go on to further study of visual arts in higher education as well as for those who are seeking lifelong enrichment through visual arts.

The role of visual arts teachers should be to actively and carefully organize learning experiences for the students, directing their study to enable them to reach their potential and satisfy the demands of the course. Students should be empowered to become autonomous, informed and skilled visual artists.

The aims of the arts subjects are to enable students to:

1. enjoy lifelong engagement with the arts
2. become informed, reflective and critical practitioners in the arts
3. understand the dynamic and changing nature of the arts
4. explore and value the diversity of the arts across time, place and cultures
5. express ideas with confidence and competence
6. develop perceptual and analytical skills.

In addition, the aims of the Higher Level theatre course are to enable students to:

1. make artwork that is influenced by personal and cultural contexts
2. become informed and critical observers and makers of visual culture and media
3. develop skills, techniques and processes in order to communicate concepts and ideas.

II. Curriculum model overview

Visual arts in context

- Examine and compare the work of artists from different cultural contexts.
- Consider the contexts influencing their own work and the work of others.
- Make art through a process of investigation, thinking critically and experimenting with techniques.
- Apply identified techniques to their own developing work.
- Develop an informed response to work and exhibitions they have seen and experienced.
- Begin to formulate personal intentions for creating and displaying their own artworks.

Visual arts methods

- Look at different techniques for making art.
- Investigate and compare how and why different techniques have evolved and the processes involved.
- Experiment with diverse media and explore techniques for making art.
- Develop concepts through processes informed by skills, techniques and media.
- Evaluate how their ongoing work communicates meaning and purpose.
- Consider the nature of “exhibition”, and think about the process of selection and the potential impact of their work on different audiences.

Communicating visual arts

- Explore ways of communicating through visual and written means.
- Make artistic choices about how to most effectively communicate knowledge and understanding.
- Produce a body of artwork through a process of reflection and evaluation, showing a synthesis of skill, media and concept.
- Select and present resolved works for exhibition.
- Explain the ways in which the works are connected.
- Discuss how artistic judgments impact the overall presentation.

Throughout the course students are required to maintain a visual arts journal. Although sections of the journal will be selected, adapted and presented for assessment, the journal itself is not directly assessed or moderated. It is, however, regarded as a fundamental activity of the course.