

Year 10 & 11 – Art & Photography GCSE - Colour

Key term	Definition
Hue	A relief printmaking technique where a design is carved into linoleum, inked & printed.
Tone	How light or dark a colour appears, created by adding black or white.
Tint	A lighter version of a colour, made by adding white.
Shade	A darker version of a colour, made by adding black.
Saturation	How pure or intense a colour is; high saturation is vivid, low is muted.
Complementary Colours	Colours opposite each other on the colour wheel, creating high contrast.
Monochrome	Artwork created using only one colour and its tints & shades.
Colour Harmony	Colours that work well together to create a pleasing effect.
Analogous Colours	Colours next to each other on the colour wheel that blend well together.
Symbolism	The use of colour to represent emotions, ideas, or meanings (e.g., red for passion, blue for calm).
Colour Theory & Watercolours	Colour Curiosity



1. What is Colour Theory?

- The study of how colours interact, mix, and create moods.
- Used by artists to create balance, harmony, or contrast in their work.

2. Colour Wheel Basics

- Primary Colours:** Red, Blue, Yellow – cannot be made by mixing.
- Secondary Colours:** Made by mixing primaries (Orange, Green, Purple).

- Tertiary Colours:** Made by mixing a primary and a secondary.

3. Key Colour Schemes

- Complementary:** Opposite on the wheel (high contrast).
- Analogous:** Next to each other (harmonious).
- Triadic:** Three evenly spaced colours (balanced, vibrant).
- Monochromatic:** One colour with tints/tones/shades.

4. Mood & Symbolism (Varies by Culture & History)

- Red:** Passion, danger, love. **Blue:** Calm, sadness, trust.
- Yellow:** Happiness, warning. **Green:** Nature, growth, envy.
- Purple:** Royalty, mystery.

5. Historical Links

- Ancient Egypt:** Used mineral pigments like lapis lazuli for blues, symbolising the heavens.

- Renaissance:** Artists like Leonardo da Vinci studied how light affects colour.

- Impressionists:** Claude Monet used colour to capture light and atmosphere, often avoiding black paint.

- Bauhaus (1920s):** Wassily Kandinsky explored how colour could express



Breakdown:

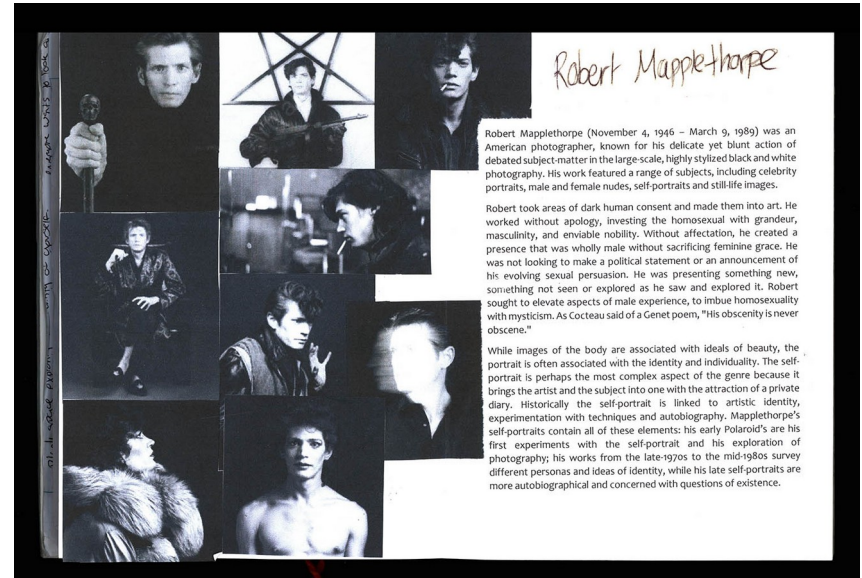
- Draw/paint your own colour wheel.
- Show examples of complementary, analogous, triadic, and monochromatic schemes.
- Include one historical artist and how they used colour in their work.
- Annotate with key vocabulary (contrast, saturation, harmony, temperature).

Year 10 & 11 – Photography - AO1: Develop Ideas

Key term	Definition
Inspiration	Ideas sparked by other work.
White Balance	A camera setting that ensures colours look natural under different lighting.
Saturation	The intensity or purity of a colour in a photograph.
Hue	The base colour perceived in an image, such as red, blue, or yellow
Contrast	The difference between light and dark areas or between colours in an image.
Complementary Colours	Colours opposite each other on the colour wheel that make each other stand out.
Monochrome	A photographic image made with one colour range (often black and white).
Colour Cast	An unwanted tint of colour affecting the whole image, usually caused by lighting.
Colour Balance	Adjusting the intensities of colours in an image to achieve a desired look.
GCSE assessment objectives – Research	Composition & Framing
	Gathering information references.

Key Information:

Research photographers, artists, or cultural influences. Analyse their work and link it to your own ideas. Show understanding of context and use this to create personal, meaningful images.



Tips for Success:

1. Study at least **three photographers** or artists.
2. Write about **subject, composition, lighting, and meaning**.
3. Show how you can take ideas from them for your own photography.
4. Make comparisons between different photographers.
5. Explain how your ideas develop as you work.

Year 10 & 11 – Photography – AO2: Refine Work

Key term	Definition
Experimentation	Trying new photographic & editing methods.
Settings	Camera controls such as aperture, shutter speed, ISO.
Composition	The arrangement of visual elements in a photo.
Editing	Changing an image using software or apps.
Selection	Choosing the strongest images.
Lighting	How light is used or manipulated in a photo.
Quality	The technical & creative standard of your image.
Framing	How the subject is positioned within the image.
Refinement	Improving work to achieve the best result.

Drawing in

Photography



Basics in

Photoshop



Key Information:

Experiment with different camera settings, editing tools, and presentation methods. Choose the most effective and improve your work through careful adjustments.

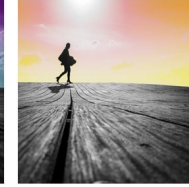
Example of little changes making a big difference!



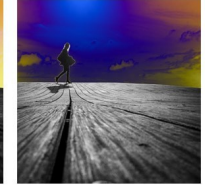
*Original image



Added a purple to blue gradient on a new layer then blended with layer below.



Added an orange to yellow gradient on a new layer then blended on a different setting with layer below.



Changed the layer blend setting on the previous edit – no other changes.



Highlighted the background layer then added a lens blur to blur the clouds.



Changed the blur from lens blur to motion blur to make it look like it's moving.



Removed the blur, rendered the lighting to make it more moody, then added a lens flare to suggest sunlight. LBW

Tips for Success:

1. Test **different camera settings** (aperture, shutter speed, ISO).
2. Experiment with **angles, framing, and lighting**.
3. Try at least **3 editing techniques** (colour grading, cropping, overlays).
4. Annotate your best results and explain why you chose them.
5. Show "before a

Grade 9
Example of reworking one idea with multiple images and colour



experiments

Year 10 & 11 – Photography – AO3: Record Ideas

Key term	Definition
Observation	Capturing what you see through photography.
Primary Source	Images you have taken yourself.
Secondary Source	Images or information from others.
Annotation	Written notes explaining your work.
Reflection	Thinking about what worked & what to improve.
Documentation	Recording processes, shoots, and edits.
Contact Sheet	A grid showing all images from a shoot.
Accuracy	Correct & clear recording of your subject.
Visual	Information shown through
What makes a good photograph?	 ges rather than 'Studio Lighting Setup 

Key Information:

Record observations, thoughts & decisions through photography, contact sheets, annotations, and other visual and written methods. Keep work relevant to your project.



Tips for Success:

1. Use **primary sources** (your own photos) and **secondary sources** for reference.
2. Keep contact sheets and mark your chosen images.
3. Annotate each stage to explain **why** you made decisions.
4. Record in different ways — notes, diagrams, editing screenshots.
5. Make sure evidence is neat and easy to follow.

Year 10 & 11 – Photography – AO4: Present Personal Response

Key term	Definition
Personal	Unique to you and your ideas.
Meaningful	Full of purpose or message.
Outcome	The final photographic piece or series.
Realisation	Bringing your ideas into their final form.
Presentation	How work is displayed or shared.
Intention	The aim or message of your work.
Coherence	Images that work well together as a series.
Influence	Inspiration or ideas from another source.
Resolution	The successful completion of project.
QR Link: Grade 9 GCSE Photograph y Explained	Grade 8 GCSE Photograph y Exam Explained



Key Information:

Produce a final set of images or presentation that is personal, meaningful, and clearly connected to your research and intentions.



Tips for Success:

1. Show clear links between research and your final images.
2. Present a **coherent series** or single strong image.
3. Make work original — not just a copy of another photographer's style.
4. Consider **presentation format** (print, digital, book, exhibition).
5. Explain how the final work meets your intentions.