

ALEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY SUMMER TRANSITION WORK

Observational Photography Practice

Over the summer, you will complete a series of photographs based on **direct observation**. This means capturing images from real life rather than relying on downloaded or heavily staged content. Observational photography is a key skill at A Level and will help you develop your ability to see, compose, and record visually.

What to Photograph

You should produce images exploring:

- **Portraits** – yourself (self-portraits) or others
- **Interiors** – rooms or personal spaces you spend time in
- **Objects** – items that reflect your identity (e.g. belongings, hobbies, meaningful possessions)

How to Approach Your Work

- Take photographs from **real-life situations**
- Spend time considering your composition before taking the shot
- Aim to capture:
 - Composition and framing
 - Light, shadow, and contrast
 - Texture, detail, and focus

Experimentation

Try a range of different approaches:

- Shooting techniques: close-ups, unusual angles, cropping
- Lighting: natural light, low light, strong shadows
- Camera settings (if possible): depth of field, exposure, focus
- Editing: basic adjustments (contrast, brightness, cropping)

Expected Outcome

- Produce **at least 20–30 photographs**
- Show a **range of subjects, compositions, and techniques**
- Present your work digitally or in a printed contact sheet / sketchbook

Key Reminder

Focus on **exploration, not perfection**. Your photographs do not need to be final pieces—what matters is your willingness to experiment, observe, and take creative risks.