

GCSE Photography Practical Exam 2017

Choose **one** of the starting points from the next slides

Produce an A3 portfolio of work which covers:

- **Mind map/mood board** - Annotate examples of photos from the internet which illustrate your ideas and how you will take photos and edit them for the theme you chose
- **Photographer research and analysis** - 1 photo by each of your chosen photographers (minimum of 3 photographers)
- Minimum of **8 Sets** (including **6 - 8 good quality photographs per set**) taken over the 4 month period which show your ideas developing; how well you take photos; how you have experimented with Photoshop...
 - All slides must be annotated
- **A research and planning page for each Photoshop idea** which must be done before you edit any photos
 - A **final set** which shows how you have brought the topic to a conclusion
 - A **research/planning page** for how you will edit/Photoshop the final photo
 - A **final photo** or photos presented in a creative way. Annotate this work.

Websites: [PICKR](#) [DEVIANART](#) [PINTEREST](#)



1) ILLUSION

Magic
Trickery
Deception
Mirage
Fantasy
Imagination
Optical Illusion



3) PERSONAL COLLECTION



Hobbies
Mementos
Favourite things

Pastimes
Interests
Knick knacks
Curiosities
Memories
Materials
Auction
Secrets
Stories

Experiences
Tickets

World wide web personal information

Letters

Sharing

Lost items

Missing pieces

Odd one out

Bottom of the draw

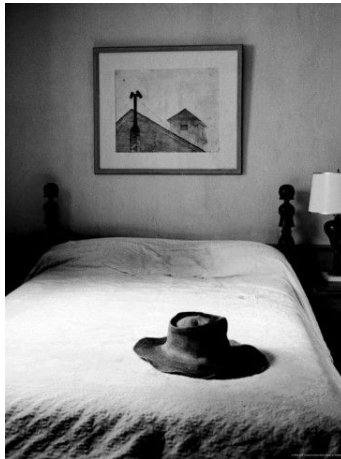
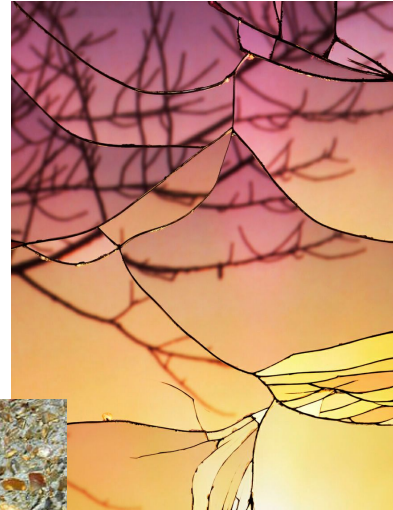
Accidentally collected

Order/disorder



5) SUPERSTITIONS

Imaginary
Fictional
Cultural
Irrational
Illogical
Lucky/unlucky
Lucky charms
Folklore
Myths



6) JEWELLERY

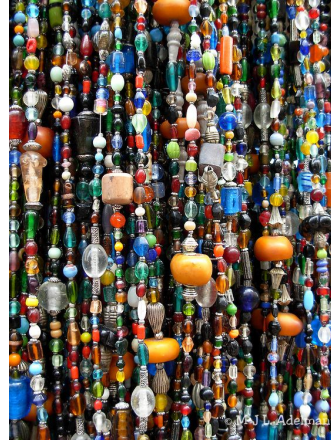
Trinkets

Necklaces, rings, earrings, bracelets

Gems

Costume Jewelry

Ethnic Jewelry



7) EXTREME WEATHER

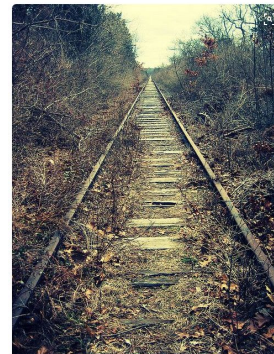
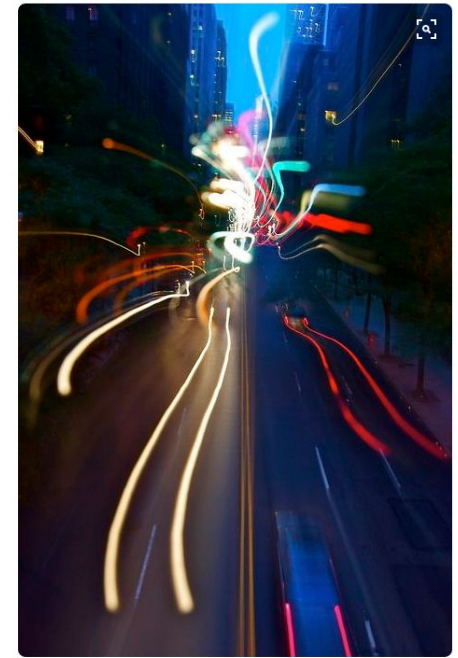
- **Seasons:** summer, spring, autumn, winter
- **Temperature/climate** – hot, cold etc
- **Nature** – how is the natural environment affected by extreme weather
 - Snow, sunshine, rain, wind, puddles, raindrops, snowflakes
 - Reflections, shadows
 - Umbrella, wellies
 - Hats – sunhats, beanies, caps
 - Sunglasses, sunblock, beach stuff
 - Coats, scarves, gloves



8) PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Bus, tube, train, plane

- Airport, bus stop, car park, tube/train station
 - Signs
- Tickets, ticket machines
 - People queuing
 - Speed
 - Perspective
 - Distance
- Advertising, posters
- Drivers, passengers
 - Frustration
 - Boredom
 - Stress
 - Journeys
- Beginning and end
 - Routine
- Bridges / Tunnels
 - Packing
 - Mind the gap
- Underground entrances
 - Unhygienic
 - Patterns
- Movement –slow shutter speed
 - Speed
 - Time
 - Maps
- Own transport on public streets



9) COOKING

Artists, designers and crafter people have often used or represented cookery and people cooking in their work.

<http://smashinghub.com/36-most-popular-print-food-advertisements.htm>



- Chefs
- Equipment
- Kitchen
- Food
- Menu
- Recipe
- Ingredients
- Witches cauldron
- Advertising
- Cook books



<http://alastair27mancoll.blogspot.co.uk/2012/12/food-photographer-marcus-nilsson.html>



<http://blog.photoshelter.com/2012/06/6-questions-with-the-food-network-magazines-deputy-photo-editor/>

<http://www.demilked.com/tag/food-photography/>

The exam portfolio is worth 40% of your end of course grade
These are 4 assessment criteria:

A01:

- Use research from a range of sources to generate ideas
 - Analyse other photographer's images
- Write a research and planning page for any Photoshop images that are book/magazine covers, adverts, posters, greeting cards etc
 - Evaluate all Photoshop images (from list above)
 - Annotation of your own work

A02:

- Refine your ideas = plan and take photos then decide how each idea/set of photos can lead onto a new set
 - Experiment with camera and Photoshop techniques and & refine ideas
 - Use other techniques where suitable (art materials, collage etc)

A03:

- Document ideas, observations & experiences = take photos which show creative ideas linked to your theme and how your ideas have developed throughout the portfolio

A04:

- Present personal, meaningful responses = At the end of each set or series of ideas you need a final photo or presentation of images which 'sum up' that set. This can be:
 - a) your best photo from that set
 - b) A Photoshop image you have created (book cover, magazine cover, advert, poster, greeting card etc)
 - c) A collage, diptych or triptych arrangement etc

Choose 6 – 8 successful photos per set to annotate:

- Either put 1 photo per slide if it is really good OR 2 photos on 1 slide if they can be annotated together
 - **Write 2 key words on each slide before you annotate.** That way you won't keep repeating the same words. Remember some key words should be discussed together ie composition and rule of thirds or leading lines and colour
 - **Keep your annotation short and specific – DON'T WAFFLE**
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- **Subject** – describe what the photo is of
 - **Composition** - layout of the photo. what is in the foreground, middle and background
 - **Perspective** - the position the photo has been taken from (above/eye level/below)
 - **Lighting** - natural sunlight or artificial lighting and how this affects the photo. Does the lighting create a mood? (scary, romantic, quiet, lonely, energetic)
 - **Colours** – are the colours bold/bright/vibrant or sombre/pale/natural etc
 - **Textures** - the surface texture of the subjects within the photo and how they feel to touch
 - **Patterns** - describe any patterns, lines, designs, shapes. Shadows create patterns
 - **Leading lines** - how is your eye lead in and around the image
 - **Focus** - what is in focus and out of focus and what effect does this have
 - **Angle** – has the photo been taken at/on an angle or is there an interesting angle within the photo
 - **Rule of Thirds** - describe how the composition has been divided up

Example of annotation for SUBJECT and ANGLE

The subject of this still life photo is the orange toy car. I placed it on a slight angle in the centre of the composition so it looks as though it is moving from the left hand side to the right. I have made the toy look life like and realistic because I took the photo close up which makes the scale of the object appear life size.



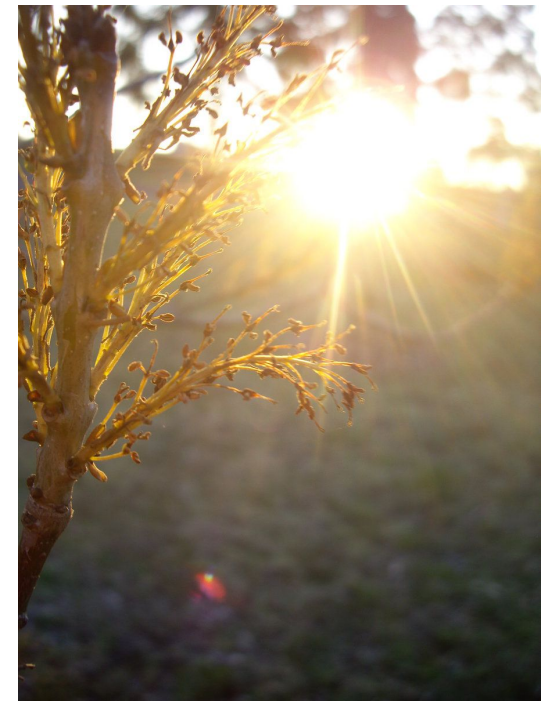
Example of annotation for COMPOSITION, PERSPECTIVE and LEADING LINES

I have composed the high heel shoes in this photo by lining them up perfectly in a straight line so the viewer's eye is lead towards the background. The perspective that I was looking at the arrangement from ensures that each brightly coloured shoe is visible. I positioned each coloured shoe strategically beside each other so they reflect the colours of the rainbow.



Example of annotation for LIGHTING and COLOUR

I captured the sun early in the morning when it was just rising. Because it is in the distance the branch of the tree is in focus and the sun is soft and out of focus. The sun has almost lost it's circular shape because the white and yellow colours are blurring into one. The golden glow of the sun is accentuating the autumn colours of the tree and highlighting the spiky textures.



Example of annotation for TEXTURE and PATTERN

When I looked up at the tree I saw that the branches were covered with white icicles. The sun was shining very brightly which created an abstract pattern against the vivid blue winter sky. The long and short pieces of branch looks as though they are linking together to form a spider's web which the sun has broken through.



FINAL PHOTO

Example of annotation for RULES of THIRDS and FOCUS

This final image is a combination of images I took. The first stage of creating this image was to photograph my friend's eye. I then turned it black and white and then Photoshopped the pupil like a glass marble. The focus is on the centre of the eye. The rule of thirds has been used to compose the main focal point which is the eye ball. I framed it slightly to the right hand side as I wanted it to be off centre as I think that allows more of the black and white tones of the skin to be in focus.

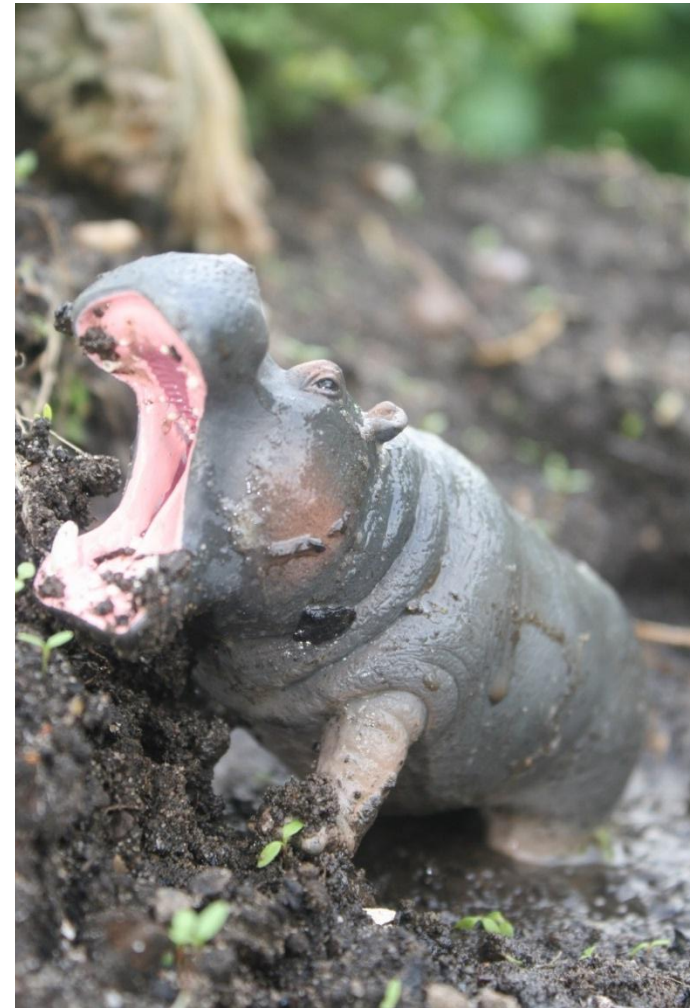
I also took a photo of some winter trees which don't have leaves on them. I used Photoshop to turn them black so they are silhouetted against the vibrant green and blue background.

The effect of doing this is to create a surreal image which makes the viewer question whether the eye has the trees reflected inside it or maybe it is reflecting what the person in the photo is thinking or feeling.



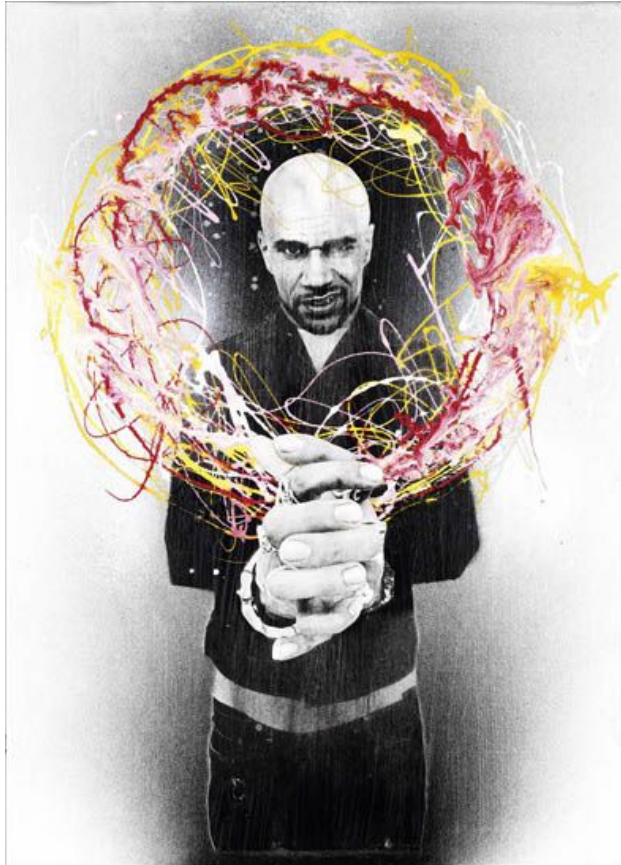
A grade example of annotation

- I decided to place the hippopotamus toy in a muddy puddle as this is a location that reflects the natural environment of the hippo in the wild.
- To create the illusion that the toy appears life size I leaned down to an eye level perspective and captured the hippo so it almost fills the foreground of the composition.
- I have taken this photograph from an eye level perspective so the toy appears to be larger than it is in reality. Capturing a shallow depth of field also draws the viewers attention to the foreground and away from the background creating depth within the composition.
- To create a sense of movement I firstly angled the toy to appear to be walking out of the mud pool and into the foreground of the composition. Furthermore, I rolled the hippo in muddy water, this creates an environment that moves and therefore is convincing as a natural environment for the hippo.
- Whilst I was taking the image I was conscious to crop the frame to capture only what would be convincing as the hippos natural environment.
- Hippopotamuses are infamous for being defensive over their watering holes, I've aimed to tell this story by positioning the toy on the edge of the pool as if it is deterring other water dwellers.
- I have drawn attention to the animals intentions by focusing on the mouth and eye, these help add to the images narrative.



Example of how to analyse a professional photograph

Rankin Analysis



- The **photographer** of this image is Rankin.
- The **title** of this piece is 'Goldie' and this image is taken from Rankin's Destroy series in 2009. In this series celebrities are asked to manipulate a photograph of themselves after the shot was taken by Rankin.
- The **genre** of this photograph is **portraiture**, and this is a portrait of the electronic musician.
- The **props** I can see in this picture are **limited** as there is not much in the image other than Goldie himself. However he is wearing a black outfit and jewellery.
- The **composition** of the photo shows **brightly coloured paint in the foreground** around the black and white image of the singer Goldie. The viewer's eye is **lead** around the photo because of the composition and perspective Rankin has used.
- The **perspective** that Rankin has taken the photo from is **at eye level**. This perspective is effective because **as the viewers we are drawn to the eyes of Goldie where we see him squinting at us**.
- The way Rankin he has achieved this **is by allowing Goldie to place the brightly coloured circle of paint around the main focal point that is his portrait**.
- The photo has been taken from a **short distance**.
- This is so the **face and hands are** the main **focal point** of the image.
- The **hands of Goldie** have been placed in the **foreground**. By doing this the viewer's eyes are **lead to the hands of Goldie**. This creates a **clear focal point** and I interpret this as Goldie is posing as if his hands are in shackles. On closer analysis it appears as if Goldie is wearing handcuffs.
- The photo has been taken **in a studio using artificial lighting**.
- The **light** is placed **on both sides of Goldie** which is creating **bright light on the left and right side of the composition** but leaving a **dark shadow behind the subject**.
- This creates a **threatening atmosphere** because of the **dark black around Goldie's head and the emptiness of the rest of the composition**.
- The image has a **turbulent mood** **as the paint wildly circles the portrait of the singer Goldie**.
- Goldie has successfully created a **story** within this photo.
- He has achieved this by **painting bright colours onto the photograph**, this tells a story of Goldie's first love in the arts which was painting.

EXAMPLE Photographer Analysis Protocol

Optional Props →

- The **photographer** of this image is
- The **title** of this piece is.....(say what the photo's title is and what date it was taken)
- The **genre** of this photograph is(still life/ portraiture/ landscape etc.)
- The **props** I can see in this picture are(state the objects you see.)
- The **composition** of the photo shows (state the objects and say where the objects are placed, foreground, middle ground, background, left, right or central)
- The viewer's eye is **lead** around the photo because of the composition and perspective..... (photographers name) has used.
- The **perspective** that(name of photographer) has taken the photo from is (above, below, at eye level, birds eye view.)
- This perspective is effective because(say what effect the perspective has on the photo.)
- The way he has achieved this is by placing the.....(describe layout and position of objects.)
- The photo has been taken from a **short/long distance** so..... (describe how and what has been cropped out if applicable)
- This is so the is the main **focal point** of the image.
- The(type of objects) have been placed in the(foreground/middle ground/ background) By doing this the viewer's eyes are lead(describe how the different grounds create different focal points and **leading lines**)
- The photo has been taken.....(studio, outside, on a table etc.)using.....(natural sunlight, lamps, artificial light, soft box etc.)
- The **light** is placed (on the left/right/above/below) which is (describe what the light is doing. Highlighting. Reflecting. Creating a shadow.)
- This creates.....**atmosphere** because of (describe how the light effects the image e.g. shadows, reflections, highlights etc.)
- The image has a mood (describe how the mood is created)
-(name of photographer) has successfully created a **story** within this photo.
- He has achieved this by setting a scene which tells the story of(describe what the objects and composition could represent)

Optional mood →

A* grade analysis example

- Jeff Friesen is a Canadian still life ANIMAL REALIST photographer.
- His 'Last Migration' series is aimed at drawing attention to the plight of endangered animals and by photographing toy animals in a realistic way he hopes to remind us that if we don't protect these animals and their environments we will only be left with toys.
- His aim is to bring to life toy animals by photographing them in a realistic way.
- He does this by placing the toys in environments which the real animal would live in.
- He has placed the two toy zebras on a sandy surface so that they appear to be in the desert. By doing this the viewer is immediately tricked into thinking the animals are real.
- By crouching down close to the zebras and cropping out the wider background he has made them appear life size. This is because they are in proportion to the environment.
- The perspective that this photo has been taken at is from above. Friesen has used this perspective to capture the zebras from a bird's eye view which suggests that they were photographed from a plane.
- The photographer has placed the zebras at different angles which helps illustrate that they are real because their positions are very natural.
- The photo has a sense of movement because the animals have their heads in different positions and appear relaxed, as if the zebras were photographed without them being aware of it.
- Friesen has used artificial light to create strong shadows and has created a sense of mood by achieving colours and tones which would be seen at dusk in the desert.
- Friesen has successfully created a story within this photo.
- He has achieved this by setting a scene which tells a story of the two zebras enjoying the warm African sunshine.



Slide 1 Intro page/ detailed mind-map	Slide 2 Analysis of 1 st photographer's image	Slide 3 Set 1 2 photos annotated	Slide 4 Set 1 2 photos annotated	Slide 5 Set 1 2 photos annotated	Slide 6 Set 1 2 photos annotated	Slide 7 Research and plan for final photo Eg. cookbook cover, TFL poster, greeting card Put the original photo on this slide and explain why you are using this for the edited image
THIS PROCESS IS REPEATED FOR 8 SETS or MORE						
Slide 8 Edited final photo evaluated	Slide 9 Large image of final photo	Slide 10 Set 2 2 photos annotated	Slide 11 Set 2 2 photos annotated	Slide 12 Set 2 2 photos annotated	Slide 13 Set 2 2 photos annotated	Slide 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and plan for final photo Eg. cookbook cover, TFL poster,