

# IB Visual Art Student Handbook



*IB Visual Arts*

***Mr. Baldwin***

This Handbook contains LOADS of  
useful information

# 1. The Basics

Students must declare to the school's IB coordinator within a month of starting the course which option they will follow. Option A is for students who want to concentrate more on studio work. Option B is for students who want to concentrate more on their investigation workbook.

*During the IB course you will produce*

## Studio Work:

graded 60% for Standard Level A (SLA)

40% for Standard Level B (SLB)

Drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures, collages, design work, photography, digital artwork, textiles, mixed media work.....

In May of your final year, students in SLA will present their artwork as a solo art show.

An examiner will visit your art show, to hear you speak about your art, before submitting your grade out of 60%

To have a great art show, your work should show artistic growth and improvement from the beginning of the course. Art making improves with practice, so you are expected to devote extra time to learning the skills you want to acquire.

In addition to artistic growth, your art should be meaningful, and speak of subjects important to you. Many students find it easier to choose subjects for their art when they focus on a theme or related theme.

It is also a good idea to work in a variety of media. This will demonstrate that you are willing to research and learn new methods for making art. Your art must be original and this is best done by being thoughtful and willing to pursue your own artistic direction.

SLA students will choose their best eight to twelve art pieces for the examiner to evaluate. Photographs of these pieces will be attached to your Candidate Record Booklet and sent to Cardiff Wales.

## Investigation Workbooks:

graded 40% for SLA

60% for SLB

This workbook is very, very important! It is crucial to getting a great grade in the studio work. The visiting examiner will want to read your workbook the day before your art show to become familiar with you, your art, and the progression of your work. Examiners view the book as an indicator of what is to come in the show.

For SLA students, I submit the grade out of 40% based on your workbook content.

Investigation workbooks are like art journals, but so much more!

IB has very strict rules about how the workbooks are to be completed, so check out the Investigation Workbook Checklist on my IB website. SLA students at the end of the course will photocopy fifteen to twenty of their best pages from the workbook and send them to Cardiff, Wales for assessment.

## 2. Getting Started

### Art Room

During scheduled class time, you will use the Art Studio facilities (JR124) and equipment. You are also encouraged to use the art room during free periods and lunch hours.

However, much of your work will be done on your own time outside of school at home. For this reason, you should collect a range of art supplies that support the art that you want to make, and/or skills you want to perfect.

### Art Equipment

ESSENTIAL: Get these right away

Black ink pen for writing in the Investigation Workbook  
2B, 4B and 6B sketching pencils (Faber Castell or other artist brand)  
Good quality eraser (kneadable or Staedtler brand)  
Good adhesive for attaching material in your workbook

Recommended as you need them:

Black permanent ink pens (different sizes)  
Colour pencils (any brand)  
Black, blue and red 'gel' or biro pens (Pilot brand)  
Pack of oil pastels (Pentel brand)  
Selection of acrylic paints  
No.5 and No.9 round artist brushes  
1 inch flat artist brush

## Setting up a workspace at home (not essential, but useful!)

It is to your advantage to have a comfortable space at home for creating art. Things can get a bit messy so consider this when choosing your location. You will want a location where you won't be disturbed.

1. An easel – it is much better to work on your art when it is in an upright position.
2. Natural light (outdoor light) is the best light for most art making. Do not use direct sunlight though, but rather indirect, such as ... working outdoors in shadows or indoors adjacent a window. You can also buy 'daylight' bulbs for desk lamps.
3. A mirror for producing self portraits. A full-length mirror would be ideal for figure drawing.

## 3. Develop Your Art Vocabulary

A major component of your evaluation is speaking about your art with the examiner; therefore it is essential that you can speak the artist's language which means understanding the principles and elements of art and being able to use them with ease. You will also need to be fluent in other artistic terms related to whichever medium you choose to use.

Developing your artistic vocabulary will also improve your RWB entries.

## 4. Investigation Workbooks

How do I start?

Put your name and address (or school address) inside the front cover. A phone number or email address is important – you don't want to lose this book! Leave the first page blank, this can be used as a table of contents later. Now number each page. You will be using both sides of ALL the pages.

Great art workbooks are visually pleasing, and like all good books, hold the reader's attention. Yours is a journal that represents you, and all that you have learned and created during this course. Fill it with relevant information about what you are making.

My number one suggestion is to frequently review the ***Investigation Workbook Checklist*** located on my school IB website. Go through the checklist while you complete a major art piece.

Additional suggestions include:

- ***Work in your workbook every single day that you research or create*** – get into the habit. Several good sessions spread throughout the week are always better than hours of rushed work late at night! Remember that drawing and designing your pages is an excellent creative break from other types of academic study – you should enjoy it.
- ***Always use a black pen*** to write in your workbook, and write clearly. You will have to photocopy pages to send to the IB art examiners.
- ***Always add the date*** including the year, when you finish working in your workbook for the day. This is important as it helps the examiner assess your progress throughout the course.
- ***Number all pages!*** This makes it easy to refer back to an idea or thought. “The drawing on p.25 was used to.....see my notes on printing p.46.”
- ***When creating from observation*** write down where you are and why you have chosen your subject. How will it support the art that you are making? Make notes on the weather or light if appropriate. Adding a photograph of the subject can be very useful if you are going to develop the sketch into a painting or sculpture. Always take your camera!
- ***When you research*** a book or the Internet to learn a technique or a style from an artist, always reference your sources in your workbook – Take it from me, you may want to find the information later and this can save you hours of searching. The same idea goes for magazine articles, television programmes and films.
- ***Record everything new you learn.*** You should make notes on which materials and techniques you have used in your studio work. The type of paper, the type of medium, what type of glue gives the best results, etc. These are reference records for future art making. Think of the process as a way of keeping track of what you may want to use in the future.
- ***Include visual samples*** of drawings, colors, patterns, styles and techniques used for each project. Portions of your art piece can be first tried here to discover what you want to use. This is part of the design process.
- ***Your entries should have a purpose.*** They should always be leading towards the goal of creating a finished art piece. The entries should flow logically in that direction. Do not jump from idea to idea without ever making art. No one ever wants to read a novel to discover pages into it that the author has randomly

decided to stop and start a new novel...and then 10 pages later...do it again!

- **Art themes** can comment on your attitudes about life, culture and political themes.
- **Make a connection to your art.** Art is a language in which you visually express your thoughts and ideas. Choosing a theme important to you will make your art making enjoyable.
- **Never ever cut or tear pages** out from your workbook! Don't stick pages together even if you think you have made a mistake or a terrible drawing. The workbook is a record of your progression and mistakes are natural and expected.
- **Maintain a positive tone** in your writing. Do not dwell on what did not work!

## 4. Writing about Art

– Do's and Don'ts

Do	Don't
... note the reason you are looking at an artist's work. Identify what you are observing and how it will be used in your art making? Link your research to your work.	...write an essay on the history of the artist. A few details about relevance to your theme or art are ok, but don't over do it.
...choose to learn from other artists. Practice their styles and techniques with the goal of adding to your art.	...photocopy loads of artwork – you should attempt to recreate what you see. Try to reproduce the colors, shapes, textures, brushstrokes, style.
...think about your research in a visual way.... Use color, pattern, thumbnail drawings, paintings, postcards, newspaper clippings, magazines, photographs to enhance your pages.	...write page after page without including visuals.
...use the correct art vocabulary	...write without confirming facts – make sure you do not make mistakes about media used, style, dates, etc.
...include one or two relevant quotes...with reference to where you heard or found them.	...write about things that are not relevant to your current project. It should relate to what you are doing now, or, in the near future.

As part of your visual note taking you should write about:

- Design – includes research and thumbnail sketches of your ideas for the project.
- Details in your art -- short notes explaining or clarifying a point, or drawing attention to details.
- Composition – type, why used, where learned, did you see it used somewhere else.
- Format – shape and size of art piece.
- Medium used– acrylic painting, pencil, pastel, photography, concrete, etc.
- Pattern – repeating shapes, repeating color, repeating lines, etc
- Color – used, tried, changed, borrowed idea from...inspired by...
- Other artist's work that inspire you (this is a big one), we can learn much from others. There are millions of artists worldwide with varying styles and techniques.
- Art galleries that you have visited. Art seen that will help this piece. Movies, people, events that inspire...
- Content, narrative, meaning: political, social or religious. Is there a story to this art piece? Does it mean something to someone?
- Mood or emotion created.
- Principles and elements of art used.
- Your reflections about your work. What worked, so that it can be used again? What pleased you about making this art piece?

## 5. Your Artist Statement

You will be required at the end of the course to submit a 300 word artist statement to Cardiff, Wales, along with the previous mentioned photocopied pages from your workbook. Your artist statement should be rewritten a number of times throughout the course, with each upgrade attached in your investigation workbook.

## 6. Assessment

Assessment weight depends on which option you choose.

### Standard Level A

Student selects 15 to 20 of their best investigation workbook pages for teacher assessment ..... 40%

Student prepares an art show of their course work. The student selects their best 8 to 12 art pieces for assessment by the examiner....60%

You are also required to submit a **Candidate Record Booklet** to Cardiff, Wales. The Candidate Record booklet must contain the following:

- Your 300 word artist statement.
- A written comment by the Teacher.
- Photographs of your best 8 to 12 art pieces.
- Photocopies of your best 15 to 20 pages from your investigation workbook.

### Standard Level B

Student selects 25 to 30 of their best investigation workbook pages for assessment by the external examiner ..... 60%

Student selects their best 6 to 8 pieces for assessment by the teacher....40%

You are also required to submit a **Candidate Record Booklet** to Cardiff, Wales. The Candidate Record booklet must contain the following:

- Your 300 word artist statement.
- A written comment by the Teacher.
- Photographs of your best 6 to 8 art pieces.
- Photocopies of your best 25 to 30 pages from your investigation workbook