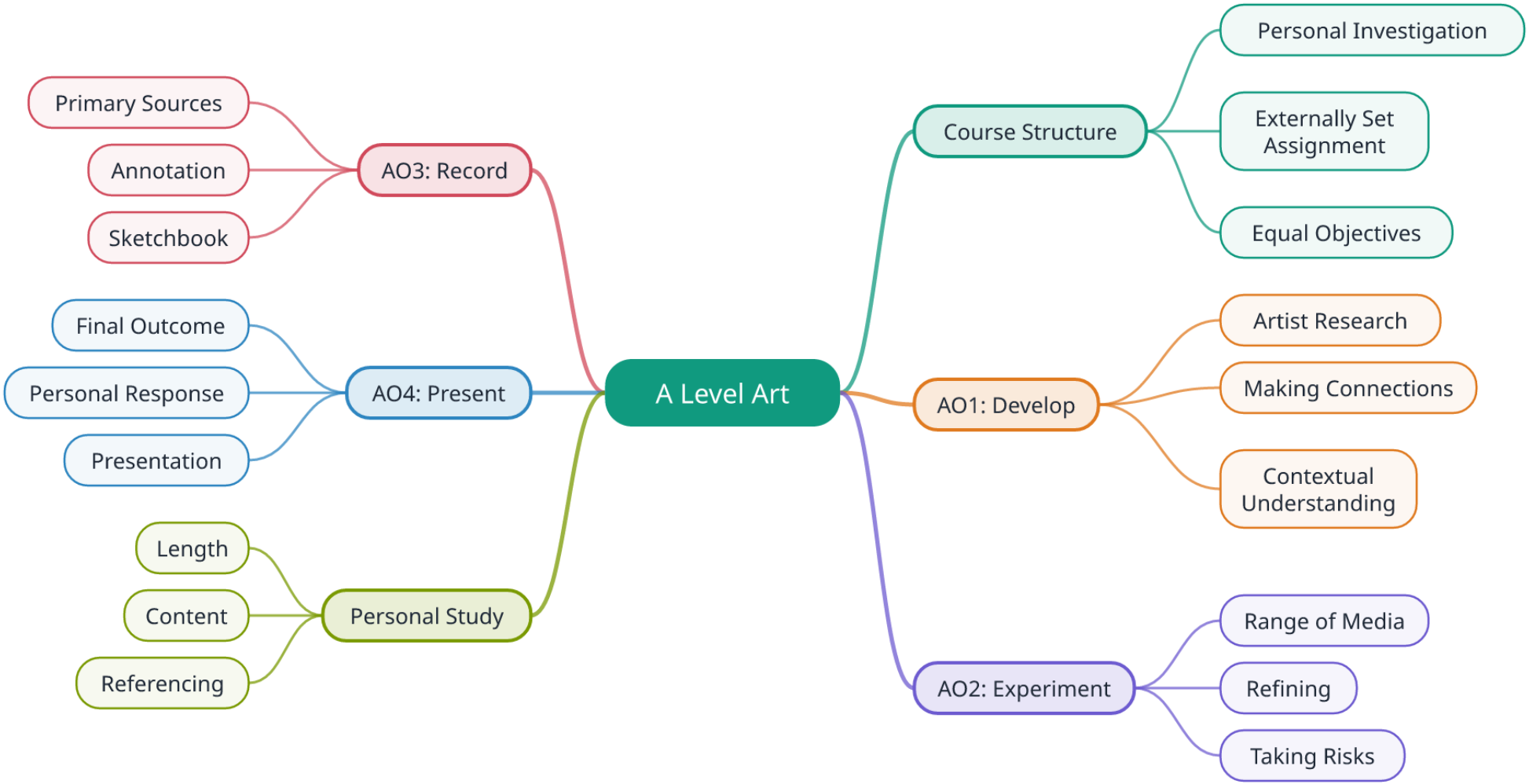
A Level Art Coursework Mind Map

A level · Art and Design · mindmapi.ai/mind-maps/a-level-art-coursework



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A Level Art Coursework mind map explained

Course Structure

Two components, both marked by your teachers and moderated by the exam board.

Personal Investigation

Component 1, worth 60%. A sustained project on a theme you choose, with practical work and a written personal study.

Externally Set Assignment

Component 2, worth 40%. The exam board releases a paper of starting points on 1 February. You prepare, then make your final outcome in 15 hours of supervised time.

Equal Objectives

Each of the four assessment objectives is worth 25% of the marks, in both components.

AO1: Develop

Develop ideas through investigations, informed by contextual and other sources, showing analytical and critical understanding.

Artist Research

Study artists, designers and craftspeople linked to your theme. Analyse how and why they work, rather than copying images and biographies.

Making Connections

Show how each source influences your own ideas and next steps.

Contextual Understanding

Consider the historical, cultural and social context of the work you study.

AO2: Experiment

Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as the work develops.

Range of Media

Try different materials and processes, such as paint, print, photography, collage, clay and digital media.

Refining

Develop the most successful experiments further, showing how each one improves on the last.

Taking Risks

Experiments that do not work still earn credit if you reflect on them and show what you learned.

AO3: Record

Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to your intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress.

Primary Sources

Draw and photograph from direct observation: these carry more weight than images found online.

Annotation

Write reflective notes explaining your decisions, what works, what does not and why.

Sketchbook

Your sketchbook should show a clear journey from first ideas to final piece.

AO4: Present

Present a personal and meaningful response that realises your intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.

Final Outcome

A resolved piece, or pieces, that clearly grows out of your research and experiments.

Personal Response

Your own voice and ideas should be visible, not just a skilled copy of another artist's style.

Presentation

Present the whole investigation clearly, so a moderator can follow your journey.

Personal Study

The written part of the personal investigation.

Length

AQA requires 1,000 to 3,000 words of continuous prose; Edexcel requires at least 1,000 words.

Content

A critical and contextual study linked to your practical work, using the vocabulary of art and design.

Referencing

Include a bibliography and reference your sources, for example with the Harvard system.

How to revise with this mind map

1. Plan around the four assessment objectives. For each stage of your project, check which objective it shows, and make sure all four are equally strong.

2. Annotate as you go, not at the end. Reflective notes written while you work show genuine thinking and are much more convincing.

3. Use primary sources wherever you can: your own drawings and photographs, taken from life, carry more weight than images from the internet.

4. Make your journey visible. Every experiment should lead to the next, so a moderator can trace how your final piece came about.

5. Make it yours. Plan your personal investigation as a map in Mindmapi, with branches for artists, experiments and ideas, and ask the AI to suggest artists linked to your theme. The suggestions are saved into that branch's notes.