



A Level Graphic Design Summer Independent Learning Activity

Welcome to the A Level Graphic Design course, please complete the following 5 tasks to start to practice some of the key skills you will need and to prepare for your first day at New College. The summer holidays are an important time for you to start to prepare yourself for starting your new course in September, the below tasks will be submitted to your teacher and marked when you join.

You should spend **at least 10-15 hours** on the compulsory tasks below, if you are really keen then there are also some optional tasks which will give you a head start on some of the work we will do in the first month of the course.

COMPULSORY TASKS

Task 1: If you haven't already got an account on Pinterest, please make one. Then **follow** our Pinterest account for the course as well as our accounts on YouTube and Instagram, you will use all of these throughout the course to find resources, tutorials and inspiration, and will need them to complete these SIL tasks.

Pinterest: https://www.pinterest.co.uk/NCDGraphicDesign/_saved/

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfUZ1vq6MkMur4cgBjQyHdw>

Task 2: You will submit your work in an online **Google Slides** presentation that will be shared with your teacher for marking in September. If you haven't already got an email account on **Gmail** please make one and then click on the link below. Follow the step-by-step instructions to create your own copy of the Slides presentation. You will use this to **upload photos or screenshots of the work you create** for Tasks 3 and 4.

Click this link for the template and further instructions:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1WS61x5Gxd9EsAHYasZ11UE0W4u2TtTBYgtg8nEpFHiM/edit?usp=sharing>

Task 3: Your first project in September will explore the different eras of Graphic Design. **Make a Pinterest board called 'Design 101'** and use the Pinterest boards on our page (listed below) to find a variety of examples for inspiration (save at least 5 images from each):

- Bauhaus
- Swiss Design
- Punk Design
- New Wave/Digital Era
- Grunge/Legibility
- Eclecticism

Inspired by <https://www.instagram.com/36daysoftype/> and this Pinterest board <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/NCDGraphicDesign/36daysoftype/> we would like you to produce a **mind map/ideas page** of themes and ideas for your own illustrated letters inspired by the different eras.

We would like you to attempt to **create 6 letters** which will spell out 'design', each letter should be inspired by a different one of the eras in the list above. Write out a range of ideas for the style, colours, imagery, textures, shapes and anything else you might use in your designs for each letter/era. Roughly sketch out some quick design ideas on your mind map to show your thinking. Photograph or make a screenshot of your mind map and upload it to your Slides presentation (the Slides presentation linked on Task 2 explains how to do this).

The idea is to accompany your letters with illustrations/patterns, or design them in the shape or style of something, that represents one of the design eras, 6 era's = 6 letters. Be as imaginative as possible!

Task 4: Design your final 6 letters! These should be no smaller than A5 and should take **at least 1 hour each** to complete (we are looking for well thought through and well-designed letters that show your skill level).

You must design these using the following media/techniques. You should try to use one of these techniques for each letter.

Felt tip / marker
Fine liner pen.
Collage / Mixed Media
3D Typography (making letters from 3D objects / construction)
Photopea / Photoshop / other digital software.

Go to the NCD Visual Arts Youtube channel to find video tutorials and how-to's to help with these techniques, watch some of these before you start your designs!

OPTIONAL EXTENSION TASKS

Task 1: Go to the **NCD Graphic Design YouTube channel** and find the **Design Theory playlist**, or click the link here: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL_j4SGjW6X8EdHn--xBTKkJ5ku2pUvNnH&si=GeTJ0Q7LDsxoGEgh

Watch videos 1-8; these cover some of the key ideas, concepts and terminology that we will be looking at in lessons when you join. Make some notes, flash cards, or try to quiz yourself on some of the key information from each video.

Task 2: Pick a logo to redesign, this might be your favourite food/restaurant, band/artist, fashion brand, game logo etc. Go to this Pinterest board <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/NCDGraphicDesign/logo-designs/> and watch this video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpCCh5ej_r4&t=426s for inspiration on a variety of different logo styles and ideas.

Sketch out **5-10 different ideas** for a new logo design for your chosen brand. Draw your best one out bigger and neater, if you are feeling brave you can go over it in fineliner, add colour to it or try and create it digitally.