



# ART: CRITICAL AND CONTEXTUAL STUDIES

## GCSE TO A LEVEL

### SUMMER ASSIGNMENT: Portraiture

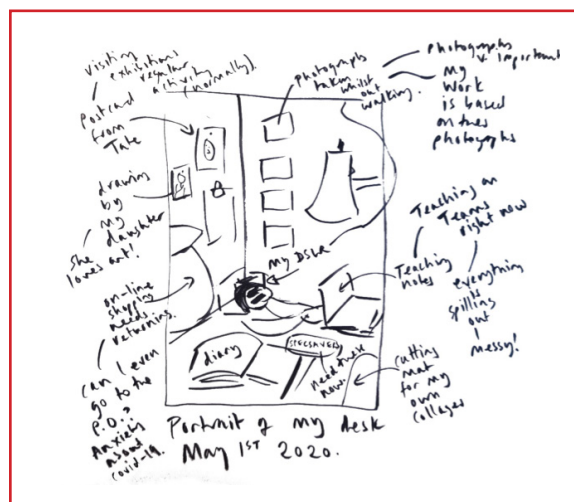
We would like you to explore the appearance and purpose of three portraits.

Please could you try and buy an A5 spiral bound sketchbook for this project, or work on A5 sheets of paper.

A Level Art: Critical and Contextual Studies we need you to approach a work of art like a detective, searching for clues that suggest the meanings behind art works. Of course, these meanings are not fixed. We will never all agree on what a work of art is about, which is why studying art is so much fun. In this assignment we want to hear your voice and your opinions.

### Tasks 1

**Starter-a portrait of a place:** Sketch your work area at home, exactly as it is right now. Or if you'd prefer, take a photograph and print it out. Stick this in your new A5 book or on paper. Put this in the centre of a mind map. What clues are in your work area that tell us all about you, your character, interests, life right now?



### Tasks 1-3

Now choose three very different portraits using the links at the end of this document.

Think about what each of the three works tell us about the people in them. choose the three examples from different periods of time and culture.

### 1. What do the three works look like?

Make a note of the artist, title and date of each example. Sketch and label each of these examples. You could focus on the parts you find particularly interesting. We won't be judging the brilliance of your sketches.



### 2. What do the portraits communicate? (200-400 words x 3)

Without doing any research, note down what each of the works tells you about the person in the portrait. What might the artist be saying about this person? Remember, it might be a self-portrait, in which case, what are they telling us about themselves? Do this separately for each of the three examples.

Think about the following:

**The location** – Where is the person? Why do you think this? What clues does the setting give us about the person's life or character?

**The clothing** – Is the person clothed, are they dressed casually or formally, how might their clothing have been seen in the time or culture of the portrait?



**The pose** – Is the person looking at us, or away from us?  
What is their body language?

Think about your written language, be exciting in your choice of adjectives.

**Use online resources such as:**

<https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/articles/tag/videos>

<https://www.camdenartscentre.org/vivian-suter/>

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/venues/hayward-gallery>

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2020/apr/06/andy-warhol-take-a-virtual-tour-around-the-tate-modern-exhibition>

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/visiting/virtual-tours>

<https://www.npg.org.uk/visit/360-gallery-views/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7irwknBsBHA>

<https://www.hastingscontemporary.org/exhibition/robot-tours/>

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/blog/>

<https://www.timeout.com/london/news/you-can-do-virtual-tours-of-almost-every-major-london-museum-and-gallery-032520>

[www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)

**3. What do these three portraits have in common?**

It is interesting to think about what ideas are shared across art works from very different times and cultures. List the things you feel are shared across your three examples. Or you could present your ideas as a mind map.