

Graphic Communication & Fine Art

Transition Task 2025 – Manchester Museum

Visit Manchester Museum, explore its diverse collections, and develop a series of art studies inspired by selected objects or artifacts.

Use observation, experimentation, and personal interpretation to prepare for your A Level Fine Art journey.

1. Select Your Focus

Choose at least 10 objects or artifacts from the Manchester Museum collections that inspire you. These could be from natural history, archaeology, ancient cultures, or ethnography—anything that sparks your curiosity and creativity. The fossil and dinosaur exhibition are a favourite of mine! (2hours in museum)

2. Produce a Mood Board

Using photographs that you took yourself at the museum arrange these in your book to create a visual 'mood board'. (1hour)

3. Annotate

Write a short explanation (approx. 150–200 words) outlining why you chose the object(s), what interests you about it, and how you plan to explore it artistically. Consider questions like: What stories does it tell? What textures, shapes, or colours stand out? How might you reinterpret it through your art? (45mins)

5. Photography Challenge

- Take at least 30 photographs at the museum that relate to your chosen object(s) and theme.
- Experiment with composition, lighting, focus, and filters (you can use free apps like Photopea, Snapseed, or Instagram). (1 hour)
- Print and present your best 5 photo manipulations. (1hour)

6. Drawing Studies Complete **6 detailed drawing studies** (A5 to A4 size) of your chosen object(s) or related elements, using different media. (1 hour per study) These can include:

- Pencil, charcoal, ink, coloured pencils, watercolour, or mixed media
- Focus on capturing texture, 3D form, light and shadow, and intricate details
- Show mark-making experimentation and colour blending where possible

Presentation & Submission

Organise all your work neatly on your first day back: You can work in a sketchbook of any size or on sheets- look in the Range for reasonable sketchbooks.

- Mood board
- Annotated explanation
- Printed photographs
- Drawings
- Consider your presentation carefully—neat, clear, and visually engaging.