

## 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 practise some of the key skills you will need for the course and to prepare for your first day at New College. This is your opportunity to show your teacher your passion and skills therefore, aim to complete all tasks to the best of your ability!

**Task 1:** You will submit your work in an online Google Slides presentation that will be shared with your teacher. If you haven't already got an account on Google Mail please make one and then click on the link below.

Google Slides: <https://www.google.co.uk/slides/about/>

This is a google slides presentation and where you will be recording all of your SIL work tasks. You should try designing a layout for your google slides presentation, consider how the tasks you complete can be displayed successfully. Stick to plain coloured backgrounds and simple, block fonts as this will show off your work the best.

Share your new google slides with: [katie.bourke@nclt.ac.uk](mailto:katie.bourke@nclt.ac.uk) (click the yellow share button at the top right of your google slides).

**Task 2:** If you haven't already got an account on Pinterest please make one and create a board (at least 25 pins) with inspiration for handmade and/or digital Typography. Search Pinterest for terms like *type*, *typography*, *lettering* – only pick designs that you like. Have a look at the following pinterest board made by your teacher for further ideas:

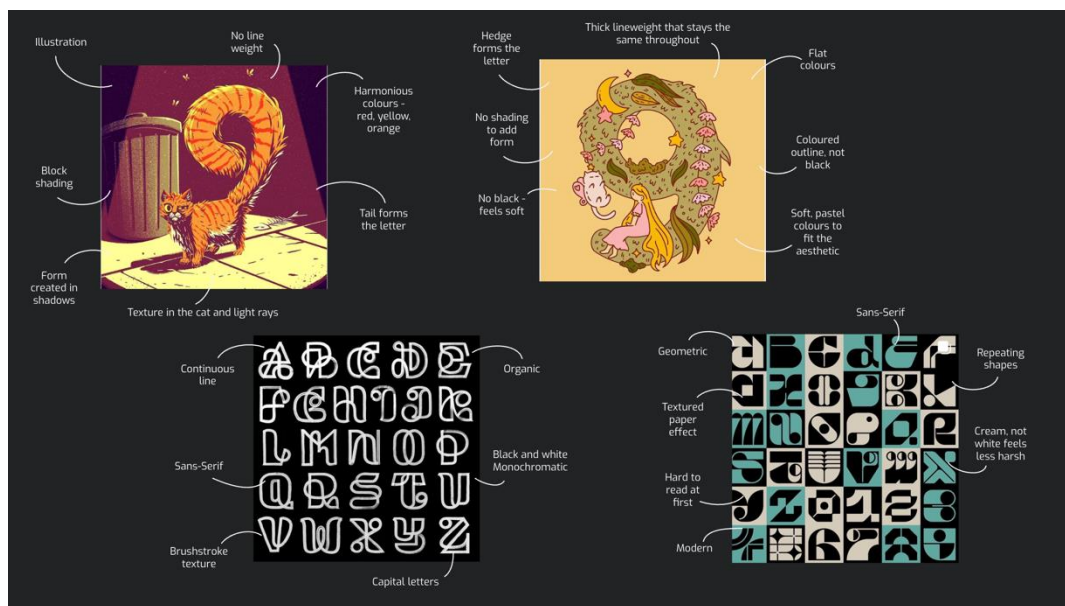
<https://uk.pinterest.com/katiegraphicsnclb/graphics-year-11-summer-independent-learning/>

Add a screenshot and a link to your Pinterest board on your new google slides.



**Task 3: Inspired by <https://www.instagram.com/36daysoftype/>, I would like you to produce your own typographic alphabet.**

To start generating ideas choose at least 4 typography designs (from either Pinterest or the 36 days of type Instagram) and pick out visual elements that the design uses. Consider things such as tone, colour, colour schemes, line, shape, texture, pattern, typography and form. This can be done by labelling the design on your google slides. See below for an example.



**Task 4:** We would like you to produce a **mind map** of themes and ideas for your own illustrated alphabet. We would like you to attempt to **create all the letters of the alphabet A-Z**. The design of these should follow a specific theme or visual style **that represents you in some way**. For example, if you enjoy illustration, you may want to attempt an illustrated alphabet or if you prefer clean, precise design you may want to attempt to create a geometric, blocky typeface. Write out a range of ideas for the theme, style, colours, imagery, textures, shapes and anything else you might use in your designs. Roughly sketch out some quick design ideas on your mind map to show your thinking. The more sketches the better! Photograph or take a screenshot (if created digitally) of your mind map and upload it to your Slides presentation.

**The idea is to accompany your letters with illustrations/patterns, or design them in the shape or style of something, that shows some personal significance.**

Potential ideas could include; favourite foods, favourite animals, objects linking to your hobbies and interests, using your favourite colours, or using a style that represents you as a person. Examples: Dark and grungy, bold and bubbly. Or you could show what kind of design you like in your alphabet – are you a clean geometric graphic designer or an illustrator?

You could also look on <https://www.behance.net/search/projects?search=36daysof type> which is a collection of Graphic Designers who have completed the 36 days of type challenge.

**Remember – not all good design is complex! You could design a simple, clean alphabet or something bold and illustrative. See below for examples of designs.**

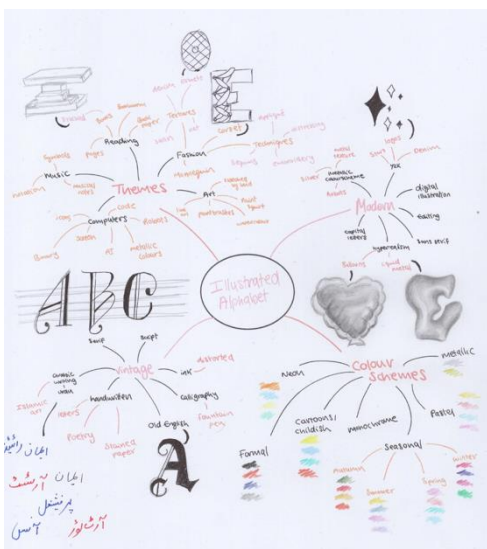


**SIMPLE, CLEAN, GEOMETRIC**

**BOLD, ILLUSTRATIVE**



**MINDMAP EXAMPLES:**



**SIL**

Pinterest Board: <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/juliaStarzak1/graphic-design-typography/>

**Creating alphabet design**

Initial design ideas & experimentation

After my first go, trying to arrange all my ideas into a design, I decided to start a new one with the same ideas but a more consistent theme. However, I still didn't like the design and decided to go in a new direction completely.

More inspiration

To create the designs, I decided to use processes on my iPad as I wanted to achieve a hand-drawn effect.

Colour scheme & Further ideas

Because I had changed the direction of my design I also created a new mind map which included things that I incorporated such as my favorite flower and reading.

**Task 5:** Create your designs! These can be **hand made or digital**, you are demonstrating your creativity and skill so should spend around **at least 20mins on each letter** to get a high-quality outcome. You should also **spread the tasks out over several weeks** up to when you start in September. Try and stick to a consistent style or a selection of colours where possible to make your alphabet fit together as a whole. Photograph, scan or make an export of each letter and upload it to your Slides presentation. This is your opportunity to show us what you can do – make designs you are proud of! If you are photographing any drawings, make sure the photos are clear.

**Aim to make all letters of the alphabet A-Z. Do not use images from the internet as your own letters, you should be designing and making these yourself.**

#### **Some suggestions for creating designs by hand:**

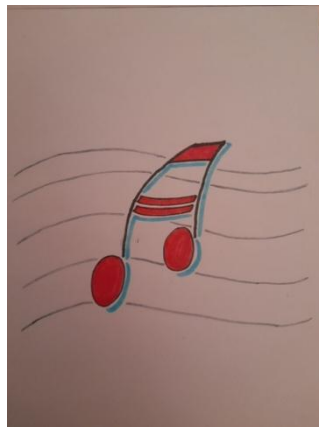
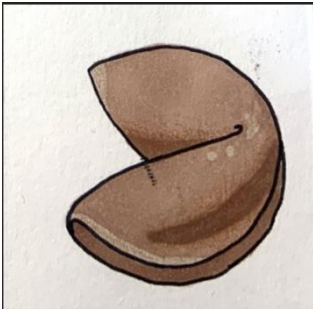
- Sketch in pencil first then go over in fine liner (different thicknesses of fine liner is best!) - Use coloured pencils, colour fine liners, markers or watercolour paint to add colour.
- Choose good quality sketch paper. Don't draw on lined paper!
- You don't just have to draw onto paper – cut into it instead! (Paper-cutting)
- Watch YouTube tutorials for different tips and techniques for particular tools/materials, especially if you are finding it difficult to achieve the effect you want.

#### **Some suggestions for creating designs digitally:**

- Get a free trial of Adobe Illustrator or Photoshop and use Adobe Help for how to tutorials (this will only last for 7 days).
- Try a free alternative such as Gravit Designer (use in web browser, similar to Illustrator) or PhotoPea (use in web browser, similar to Photoshop). If you have access to it, you could use procreate.
- If you are trying to create a geometric, clean, blocky typeface the website FontStruct is great. You make your own typeface using blocks.
- If you are confident using your own software, please use this.
- Watch YouTube tutorials for different tips and techniques for particular software, especially if you are finding it difficult to achieve the effect you want.
- Use a website such as 'Adobe Colour' to test different colour palettes.

**Avoid copying existing designs from the internet – take inspiration from them.**

Examples of previous SIL submissions:



# ABCDEF ABCDEF



36daysotype Follow Message  
 13,243 posts 422K followers 2,218 following

36daysotype  
 36days invites designers, illustrators and artists to share their view on the letters and numbers from the Latin alphabet. by @treintaysestudio  
[www.36daysotype.com/2023-edition](http://www.36daysotype.com/2023-edition)



POSTS REELS GUIDES TAGGED



Good luck! Enjoy the summer and see you in September.

If you have any questions about the tasks, email [katie.bourke@nclt.ac.uk](mailto:katie.bourke@nclt.ac.uk)

