# Year 11 Photography Unit 2 Artist Research Assignment

***Write an essay that compares and contrast the cultural/historical contexts and the working practices of two artists from different cultures and times, and explain how these have influenced their works.***

Research:

Decide on the two photographic artists and answer the following questions. Make sure you include copies of the artworks in your assignment.

1. When was your chosen photographer born?
2. Where was your chosen photographer born?
3. Describe the place where your photographer began their career and discuss some of the significant events of that time.
4. Discuss some of your artist’s influences: personal, artistic, technological, cultural…
5. Describe the general characteristics of your artist’s style of photography.
6. What themes or interests are reflected in their work?
7. Describe their working practices. (How do they actually make their photographs – what do they actually do? What materials and techniques do they use?)
8. Choose 4 artworks (label them with the **title**, **year** of production and **size** of work) and comment on the following for each photograph:

* Format: landscape, macro or portrait
* Composition
* Type of photograph- colour, B&W or digital
* Lighting
* Depth of field
* Control of movement
* Shot type: close-up, medium shot, long shot
* Formal Elements:
* Line
* Shape
* Tone
* Colour
* Texture

**Essay Plan**

### Introduction

* Introduce the topic – *The culture and time period in which an artist works influences their works.*
* Introduce the photographers
* Outline the main points you will cover - *The materials and technology of the time, the current art movements, cultural attitudes, social issues and even personal situations all affect the ways in which artists produce their works.*

**Introduce the photographers**

* Introduce the photographers
* Outline the time, and place in which they worked and any other events which might be relevant. .
* Briefly outline the type of work the photographers produce.

**Influences – Cultural, historical, personal and artistic**

Discuss the influencing factors on your artists and how these affected the development of their work. How have the influences been interpreted? How has the artist used these influences?

* **T**opic sentence
* **E**xplain – the influences that have affected one photographer’s work.
* **E**xamples – Give examples of the influences that have affected the artist. What can we see in their work?
* **L**ink to the question or next paragraph
* **T**opic sentence –
* **E**xplain – the influences that have affected the other photographer’s work. What can we see in their work?
* **E**xamples – Give examples of the influences that have affected the artist.
* **L**ink to the question or next paragraph

**Working Practices – materials, techniques and processes**

Discuss the working method of your artists - include their use of materials, techniques and processes.

* **T**opic sentence
* **E** Explain the affect the materials and techniques had on the working practices of the first artist
* **E** Examples – illustrate your point by referring to works by the artist
* **L** Link to the question or next paragraph
* **T**opic sentence-
* **E** Explain the affect the materials and techniques had on the working practices of the other artist
* **E** Examples – illustrate your point by referring to works by the artist
* **L** Link to the question or next paragraph

**Distinctive Style**

Discuss the style and approach to subject matter of your artists. Describe the subject matter and identify the style that the first artists’ works reflect. What are the distinguishing features evident in their work? What aesthetic qualities have been achieved in their work?

* **T**opic sentence-
* **E** Explain the distinguishing features and aesthetic qualities evident in their work
* **E** Discuss examples of the artists’ work in relation to these features and aesthetic qualities
* **L** Link to the question or next paragraph
* **T**opic sentence-
* **E** Explain the distinguishing features and aesthetic qualities evident in their work
* **E** Discuss examples of the artists’ work in relation to these features and aesthetic qualities
* **L** Link to the question or next paragraph

**Communication of ideas and meaning**

Discuss the artistic intentions of the artists. What did they attempt to communicate?

* **T**opic sentence
* **E** Explain the themes and ideas that the artist intends to communicate in their work
* **E** Illustrate your points by referring to the effect of the aesthetic qualities evident in one work. (Comment on formal elements: composition, lighting, depth of field, control of movement, framing, shot type, angle of view and the size of the photographs.)
* **L** Link to the question
* **T**opic sentence
* **E** Explain the themes and ideas that the artist intends to communicate in their work
* **E** Illustrate your points by referring to the effect of the aesthetic qualities evident in one work. (Comment on formal elements: composition, lighting, depth of field, control of movement, framing, shot type, angle of view and the size of the photographs.)
* **L** Link to the question

**Conclusion**

* Restate your contention – i.e. that the time and place in which an artist is born influences their artistic works in varying ways.
* Summarise the distinctive style of each artist
* Restate the ways in which the influences have been reflected in their works.