## **Supplementary Information**

## Nitrogen-doped carbon dots modified Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>/GO photocatalyst with excellent visible-light-driven photocatalytic performance and mechanism insight

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Sample	Elemental contents			The feeding mass ratios of Ag <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> :
	Ag	С	N	GO: NCDs
	(wt%)	(wt%)	(wt%)	
GO	0	43.48	0	
NCDs	0	40.91	37.74	
Ag <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> /GO/NCDs-2	75.38	0.81	0.35	100:1:1

**Table S1.** The ICP and elemental analysis data and the compositions of the asprepared samples.

## Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometer (GC-MS) Analysis.

The GC-MS analysis was conducted on GC-MS-QP2010Plus. The pre-treatment process was as follows: the reaction solution was centrifuged to remove the remnant photocatalyst and the solution was then extracted with 10 mL of ethyl acetate for three times and the extracted solution was dehydrated using anhydrous sodium sulphate. 1.0 mL of the final sample was injected into GC equipped with Rtx-5MS column. GC condition: inlet: 230°C, oven: start at 50°C, 20°C/min to 250°C, hold 8.5 min. **Table S2.** Identification of the degradation intermediates of RhB by GC/MS.

m/z	Retention time	Identified intermediates	Structural formula	
74	5.411	Propanoic acid	ОН	
102	6.329	4-Methyl-pentan-1-ol	ОН	
146	4.795	Adipic acid	но	
136	2.386	Benzeneacetic acid	но	
98	3.513	Cyclohex-1-enol	но	
278	10.588	Dibutyl phthalate		



**Fig. S1.** The adsorption–desorption and photocatalytic degradation plots of (a) MB, (b) RhB and (c) phenol based on the as-prepared photocatalysts.



Fig. S2. TEM images of the as-prepared NCDs.



Fig. S3. The nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherms of  $Ag_3PO_4$ ,  $Ag_3PO_4/GO$  and  $Ag_3PO_4/GO/NCDs$ .



**Fig. S4.** The photocatalytic degradation of MB with the  $Ag_3PO_4$  and  $Ag_3PO_4/GO$  photocatalysts. The feeding mass ratios of GO to  $Ag_3PO_4$  in  $Ag_3PO_4/GO-0.2$ ,  $Ag_3PO_4/GO-0.5$ ,  $Ag_3PO_4/GO-1$  and  $Ag_3PO_4/GO-2$  are 0.2:100, 0.5:100, 1:100 and 2:100, respectively.



Fig. S5. The rate constants (k) for the photodegradation of (a) MB and (b) RhB with different photocatalysts.



**Fig. S6.** The photocatalytic degradation of MB based on the as-prepared GO, Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>/NCDs, Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>/GO, Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>/GO/CDs and Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>/GO/NCDs photocatalysts.



Fig. S7. (a) XRD pattern and (b) TEM image of  $Ag_3PO_4/GO/NCDs$  after four photocatalytic cycles. The XRD pattern of the fresh  $Ag_3PO_4/GO/NCDs$  sample is also shown in (a) for comparison.



Fig. S8. The photocatalytic degradation pathway of RhB molecules.