



Higher
Course
Specification



Higher Art and Design Course Specification (C704 76)

Valid from August 2014

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Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Course Specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

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Course outline

Course title: Higher Art and Design

SCQF: level 6 (24 SCQF credit points)

Course code: C704 76

Mandatory Units

The Course consists of two mandatory Units, and the Course assessment.

H202 76 Art and Design: Expressive Activity (Higher) 9 SCQF credit points

Or

H6NL 76 Art and Design: Expressive Activity with a Scottish Context (Higher)* 9 SCQF credit points

And either:

H204 76 Art and Design: Design Activity (Higher) 9 SCQF credit points

Or

H6NM 76 Art and Design: Design Activity with a Scottish Context (Higher)* 9 SCQF credit points

and

Course assessment 6 SCQF credit points

This Course includes six SCQF credit points to allow additional time for preparation for Course assessment. The Course assessment covers the added value of the Course. Further information on the Course assessment is provided in the Assessment section.

*Scottish Studies Award contributing Unit: This Course Specification should be read in conjunction with the relevant Scottish Studies Unit Specification on the [Scottish Studies Award web page](#).

Recommended entry

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ National 5 Art and Design Course or relevant component Units

Progression

This Course or its Units may provide progression to:

- ◆ other qualifications in art and design or related areas
- ◆ further study, employment and/or training

Further details are provided in the Rationale section.

Equality and inclusion

This Course Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. For further information, please refer to the *Course Support Notes*.

Rationale

All new and revised National Courses reflect Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles. They offer flexibility, provide more time for learning, more focus on skills and applying learning, and scope for personalisation and choice.

In this Course, and its component Units, there will be an emphasis on skills development and the application of those skills. Assessment approaches will be proportionate, fit for purpose and will promote best practice, enabling learners to achieve the highest standards they can.

This Course provides learners with opportunities to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities, as well as skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

All Courses provide opportunities for learners to develop breadth, challenge and application, but the focus and balance of the assessment will be appropriate for the subject area.

Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles

The Course is practical and experiential and the key focus is creativity. Learning in the Course will develop knowledge of art and design practice and a range of practical media handling skills in both expressive and design contexts. At this level, learners will show increasing personal autonomy and creative decision making when agreeing the content and context of their work.

The Course encourages learners to exercise imagination and creativity. It helps learners to be creative and to express themselves confidently in different ways. Learning in the Course will include active involvement in creative activities and the use of a range of art and design materials, techniques and/or technology. Learning through art and design also develops learners' ability to critically appreciate aesthetic and cultural values, identities and ideas.

The Course allows learners to broaden and deepen their skills base, to widen their horizons regarding a range of vocations and careers and to develop attributes and capabilities of the four capacities. Throughout the Course, learners will develop perseverance, independence and resilience as they take increasing responsibility for directing their learning, thus enhancing their self-confidence and enterprise skills.

Purpose and aims of the Course

The purpose of the Course is to provide a broad practical experience of art and design and related critical activity. The Course provides opportunities for learners to be inspired and creatively challenged as they explore how to visually represent and communicate their personal thoughts, ideas and feelings through their work.

Learners will analyse the factors influencing artists' and designers' work and practice. They will use this understanding when developing and producing their own creative and personal expressive art and design work.

The skills that learners gain by successfully completing the Course will be valuable for learning, life and work. Learners will investigate and analyse how artists and designers have used materials, techniques and/or technology in their work. Learners will then experiment, using art and design materials, techniques and/or technology to develop their ideas for creative and expressive impact.

They will develop creativity and complex problem solving skills when experimenting with materials, techniques and/or technology and experiment with different ways to realise their creative ideas. Learners will also develop their critical thinking and reflective skills when reviewing and refining their work.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ communicate personal thoughts, feelings and ideas through the creative use of art and design materials, techniques and/or technology
- ◆ analyse a range of art and design practice and critically reflect on the impact of external factors on artists and designers and their work
- ◆ plan, develop, produce and present creative art and design work
- ◆ develop personal creativity, using problem solving, critical thinking and reflective practice skills

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course is a broad-based qualification. It is suitable for learners with a general interest in art and design, and for those wanting to progress onto higher levels of study. This qualification will allow learners to consolidate and extend their creativity and art and design skills.

The Course is learner-centred and includes practical and experiential learning opportunities. The learning experiences in the Course are flexible and adaptable. There are opportunities for personalisation and choice in both expressive and design contexts. This makes it highly flexible, as it can be contextualised to suit a diverse range of learners' needs and aspirations.

On completing the Course, learners will have developed skills in planning, producing and presenting creative art and design work. They will have used art and design materials, techniques and/or technology in creative and expressive ways when developing and refining their ideas and work. They will also have developed understanding of artists and designers as creative practitioners, who produce their work by responding to stimuli and a variety of external factors.

Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

The Course has an integrated approach to learning, and includes a mix of practical learning and analysis of art and design practice.

In the Course learners will draw upon their detailed understanding of art and design work and practice as they experiment with using a range of selected art and design materials, techniques and/or technology to develop their own creative ideas. Learners will develop a range of complex problem solving skills, and a critical understanding of the impact of social, cultural and other external factors on artists' and designers' work and practice.

Units are statements of standards for assessment and not programmes of learning and teaching. They can be delivered in a number of ways.

The Course consists of two mandatory Units, and the Course assessment.

Both Units are designed to provide progression to the related Units at Advanced Higher.

Art and Design: Expressive Activity (Higher)

This Unit helps learners to develop their personal thoughts and ideas in visual form. In the Unit, learners will develop critical understanding of artists' working practices and the social and cultural influences impacting their work. They will select stimuli and produce investigative drawings and studies. They will develop and refine their expressive ideas and art work, experimenting with and using a range of materials, techniques and/or technology in 2D and/or 3D formats in response to the stimuli.

Art and Design: Design Activity (Higher)

In this Unit learners will plan, research and develop creative design work in response to a design brief. They will develop their creativity, problem solving and critical thinking skills as they consider complex design opportunities, and work to resolve design issues and constraints. In the Unit, learners will develop critical understanding of designers' working practices and the social and cultural influences impacting their work. They will develop and refine their design ideas by experimenting with and using a range of materials techniques and/or technology in 2D and/or 3D formats.

Conditions of award

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all of the Units as well as the Course assessment. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

Skills, knowledge and understanding

Further information on the assessment of the skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course is given in the *Course Assessment Specification*. A broad overview of the mandatory subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be assessed in the Course is given in this section. These are:

- ◆ producing analytical drawings and investigative studies in response to stimuli
- ◆ using visual elements expressively, showing clear understanding of the subject matter
- ◆ producing focused investigative studies and market research for a complex design activity
- ◆ skills in using a range of art and design materials, techniques and/or technology creatively and expressively
- ◆ developing and progressively refining a variety of personal and creative ideas for art and design work in 2D and/or 3D formats
- ◆ analysing and critically reflecting on artists' and designers' use of materials, techniques and/or technology
- ◆ analysing the impact of social, cultural and other influences on artists' and designers' work and practice
- ◆ using a range of complex problem solving, planning and self-evaluation skills within the creative process

Skills, knowledge and understanding to be included in the Course will be appropriate to the SCQF level of the Course. The SCQF level descriptors give further information on characteristics and expected performance at each SCQF level (www.sqa.org.uk/scqf).

Assessment

Information about assessment for the Course is included in the *Course Assessment Specification*, which provides full details including advice on how a learner's overall attainment for the Course will be determined.

Unit assessment

All Units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in the *Unit Specification*.

They can be assessed on a Unit-by-Unit basis or by combined assessment.

They will be assessed on a pass/fail basis within centres. SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgments are consistent and meet national standards.

The assessment of the Units in this Course will be as follows.

Art and Design: Expressive Activity (Higher)

In this Unit, evidence will be required to show that the learner can produce a range of creative ideas and art work in response to stimuli. Learners will produce a range of analytical drawings, studies and expressive development work showing visual continuity and the creative development of the stimuli. Knowledge and understanding of expressive artists and art practice will also be assessed.

Art and Design: Design Activity (Higher)

In this Unit, evidence will be required to show that the learner can produce a range of creative design ideas in response to a design brief. Learners will produce investigative studies and market research and will use this when developing and refining a range of design ideas. Knowledge and understanding of designers and design practice will also be assessed.

Course assessment

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of [added value](#)¹. At National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, the added value will be assessed in the Course assessment. The added value for the Course must address the key purposes and aims of the Course as defined in the Course Rationale. It will do this by addressing one or more of breadth, challenge or application.

In the Higher Art and Design Course, added value will focus on:

- ◆ challenge
- ◆ application

¹ Definitions can be found here: www.sqa.org.uk/jargonbuster

The learner will draw on, extend and apply the skills they have learned during the Course. This will be assessed through a portfolio and a [question paper](#)².

In the portfolio, learners will produce one piece of expressive art work and one design solution. The portfolio will be sufficiently open and flexible to allow for personalisation and choice and will focus on both the process and products of learning.

The question paper adds value by requiring integration and application of skills, knowledge and understanding of art and design practice from across the Units.

Definitions can be found here: www.sqa.org.uk/jargonbuster

² See link above for definition.

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

It is expected that learners will develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Course are based on SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Course where there are appropriate opportunities.

3 Health and wellbeing

3.1 Personal learning

5 Thinking skills

5.4 Analysing and evaluating

5.5 Creating

Amplification of these skills is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills will be appropriate to the level of the Course. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work for the Course is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Administrative information

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History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
	1.1	Page 5 — Unit descriptors: 'affecting' changed to 'impacting' to match wording of Assessment Standard 1.3. Page 7 — Art and Design: Design Activity Unit assessment description: 'complex' removed.	Qualifications Development Manager	April 2014
	1.2	Scottish Studies Award Unit contributing information added. No other changes made to document content.		September 2014

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