



National 4
Course
Specification



National 4 Art and Design Course Specification (C704 74)

Valid from August 2013

First edition: April 2012
Revised: September 2014, version 1.1

This specification may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged. Additional copies of this Course Specification can be downloaded from SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk.

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

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2014

Course outline

Course title: National 4 Art and Design

SCQF: level 4 (24 SCQF credit points)

Course code: C704 74

Mandatory Units

The Course consists of two mandatory Units and the Added Value Unit:

H202 74 Art and Design: Expressive Activity (National 4) 9 SCQF credit points

Or

**H6NL 74 Art and Design: Expressive Activity
with a Scottish Context (National 4)* 9 SCQF credit points**

H204 74 Art and Design: Design Activity (National 4) 9 SCQF credit points

Or

**H6NM 74 Art and Design: Design Activity
with a Scottish Context (National 4)* 9 SCQF credit points**

and

Added Value Unit

H206 74 Art and Design Practical Activity (National 4) 6 SCQF credit points

This Course includes six SCQF credit points for the assessment of added value in the Added Value Unit. Further information on this Unit 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 and knowledge required by the following or by equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ National 3 Art and Design Course or relevant component Units
- ◆ National 3 Design and Technology Course or relevant component Units
- ◆ National 4 Design and Manufacture Course or relevant component Units

In terms of prior learning and experience, relevant experiences and outcomes may also provide an appropriate basis for doing this Course. Further information on relevant experiences and outcomes is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Progression

This Course or its Units may provide progression to:

- ◆ other qualifications in art and design
- ◆ 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. The Course combines developing knowledge and understanding of artists and designers and their work, with practical learning experiences in both expressive and design contexts.

The Course encourages learners to experiment with using art and design materials, be imaginative; creative; think critically; and apply practical skills in response to art and design activities. It will also develop learners' understanding of artistic and cultural values, identities and ideas. It will help learners gain confidence in their own creative practice and enhance their enjoyment of the arts.

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 creativity, perseverance, independence and resilience.

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 by experimenting with how they can visually represent their personal thoughts and ideas and create imaginative expressive and design work.

In the Course, learners will experiment with using art and design materials, techniques and/or technology in creative and expressive ways. They will develop their critical thinking skills as they develop and produce their own creative work and develop their understanding of art and design practice.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ communicate personal thoughts, feelings and ideas through the imaginative use of art and design materials, techniques and/or technology
- ◆ develop knowledge and understanding of art and design practice
- ◆ plan, develop, produce and present creative art and design work
- ◆ develop understanding of the social and cultural influences on artists and designers and their work
- ◆ develop problem solving, critical thinking and reflective practice skills

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course is a broad-based qualification, suitable for all learners with an interest in art and design. It is suitable for learners with a general interest in the subject, and for those wanting to progress onto higher levels of study. This qualification will allow learners to consolidate and further extend art and design skills developed through the experiences and outcomes for art and design and in other expressive arts subjects.

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

On completing the Course, learners will have developed practical skills in using materials, techniques and/or technology. They will be able to develop and produce creative art and design work. Learners will also have developed an understanding of the social and cultural influences on art and design.

Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

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

In the Course learners will draw upon their understanding of the main factors influencing artists and designers work and practice. They will experiment with and explore how to use art and design materials, techniques and/or technology to develop their art and design work. Learners will use problem solving skills and reflect on their creative choices and decisions when developing their creative ideas.

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 three mandatory Units, including the Added Value Unit. Each of the component Units of the Course is designed to provide progression to the corresponding Units at National 5.

Art and Design: Expressive Activity (National 4)

This Unit helps learners to develop an understanding of the factors that influence and inspire artists' work. They will also consider how artists use art materials, techniques and/or technology in their work. Learners will research and develop their personal thoughts and ideas in 2D and/or 3D formats in response to given stimuli. They will produce observational drawings and studies and develop their expressive ideas and compositions by experimenting with and using art materials, techniques and/or technology in creative and expressive ways.

Art and Design: Design Activity (National 4)

This Unit helps learners to plan, research and develop creative design ideas in response to a given brief. Learners will develop their creativity and problem-solving skills as they consider the design opportunities, issues and constraints of the brief. They will develop their understanding of designers' working practices and the factors that inspire and influence their work. They will also experiment with and develop media handling skills when producing their design ideas in 2D and/or 3D formats.

Art and Design Practical Activity (National 4)

This Unit adds value by introducing challenge and application.

In the *Art and Design Practical Activity*, learners will draw on and extend their knowledge, and apply practical skills when producing art and design work. The practical activity will be sufficiently open and flexible to allow for personalisation and choice and will focus on both the process and products of learning. They will develop problem-solving and reflective practice skills in the context of their expressive and design work.

Conditions of award

To achieve the National 4 Art and Design Course, learners must pass all of the required Units, including the Added Value Unit. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section.

National 4 Courses are not graded.

Skills, knowledge and understanding

Further skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course are given in the *Added Value Unit 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 observational drawings and related investigative studies for given stimuli
- ◆ using visual elements expressively, showing understanding of the subject matter
- ◆ producing focused investigative studies and market research for a design activity
- ◆ skills in using a range of art and design materials, techniques and/or technology creatively and expressively
- ◆ developing a variety of creative ideas for art and design work in 2D and/or 3D
- ◆ describing how artists' and designers' use materials, techniques and/or technology in their work
- ◆ describing the factors that have influenced artists' and designers' work and practice
- ◆ using routine problem solving, planning and reflective 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 or 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 Support Notes* and the *Added Value Unit Specification*.

Unit assessment

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

They can be assessed on an individual Unit basis or by using other approaches which combine the assessment for more than one Unit.

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

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

Art and Design: Expressive Activity (National 4)

For this Unit, evidence will be required to show that the learner can produce observational drawings, studies and expressive development work in 2D and/or 3D formats in response to given stimuli. Knowledge and understanding of expressive artists and art practice will also be assessed.

Art and Design: Design Activity (National 4)

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

Added Value Unit: Art and Design Practical Activity (National 4)

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of [added value](#)¹. At National 4, added value will be assessed in an Added Value Unit. The Added Value Unit will 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 and application.

In the National 4 Art and Design Course, the Added Value Unit will focus on challenge and application.

Learners will draw on, extend and apply the skills they have learned during the Course. This will be assessed through a [practical activity](#)², which involves producing one piece of expressive art and one piece of design work. The practical activity will be sufficiently open and flexible to allow for personalisation and choice and will focus on both the process and products of learning

¹ Definitions can be found here: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58409.html>

² See link above for definition.

Exemplification of possible assessment approaches for Units is provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.

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

It is expected that learners will also develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that learners will be expected to improve 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

5.2 Understanding

5.3 Applying

5.5 Creating

Amplification of these 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

Published: September 2014, (version 1.1)

History of changes to National Course Specification

| Course details | Version | Description of change | Authorised by | Date |
|----------------|---------|---|------------------------|----------------|
| | 1.1 | Scottish Studies Award contributing Unit information added. No other changes made to document content. | Qualifications Manager | September 2014 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

This specification may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged. Additional copies of this specification can be downloaded from SQA's website at www.sqa.org.uk.

Note: You are advised to check SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk) to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of the Course Specification.

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2014