



# **Advanced Higher Art and Design (Design) — draft Course rationale and summary**



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Draft

# Course rationale

## Background

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 development of creativity is the main focus of this practical and experiential Course. In this Course, learners will engage in a sustained, intensive and personally selected design enquiry. They will investigate and explore the creative potential of their design area and will experiment with and explore how materials, techniques and/or technology can be used when creating and developing their design ideas.

The Course provides opportunities for personalisation and choice in selecting a context for self-directed learning. It allows learners to broaden and extend their creativity and critical thinking skills and to work independently.

Throughout their learning, they will express themselves in imaginative and creative ways. During the Course, learners will develop a variety of original design ideas. They will demonstrate critical understanding of their design area and individual creativity by responding to and resolving design issues and challenges and when sustaining progressive creative lines of development.

The Course also provides opportunities to continue developing the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities. Learners will develop perseverance, independence and resilience as they draw on their critical understanding of aesthetics and design when developing and refining their design ideas. They will reach informed creative decisions and manage and direct their learning. They will become more creative, self-assured and adept at expressing and communicating their ideas through their work.

## **Purpose and aims of the Course**

The Course provides opportunities for learners to develop their creativity and to apply their understanding of design practice and aesthetics through a sustained design enquiry. Learners will demonstrate personal autonomy and creative decision making when negotiating the context of their work and realising their creative ideas.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ communicate personal thoughts, feelings and ideas through their creative use of design materials, techniques and/or technology
- ◆ develop critical thinking skills, reaching substantiated informed judgements about their own work and the work of other designers
- ◆ plan, develop, refine and present sustained lines of visual enquiry and development
- ◆ develop personal autonomy, creativity, independent thinking and evaluative skills

Learners will develop their ideas and design work by personally responding to their selected design context. They will explore and investigate the creative potential of their design area and will use this knowledge when developing their

creative ideas and design solutions. The skills that learners gain by successfully completing the Course will be valuable for learning, life and work.

At this level, learners will be working with greater independence. They will apply their critical thinking skills when reflecting on their own creative options and choices. They will apply aesthetic discrimination and creative insight when reviewing and refining their work.

## **Information about typical learners who might do the Course**

This Course is suitable for all learners with an interest in developing and extending their applied design skills and critical understanding of design practice. It would be suitable for learners progressing from the Higher Art and Design Course, or may be studied as part of a general education, for vocational reasons or for personal interest.

The qualification is learner-centred. In this Course, learners will develop personal autonomy and independence when engaging in self-directed practical and experiential learning. The Course is flexible and adaptable, with opportunities for personalisation and choice in determining suitably challenging and stimulating contexts for learning. This makes the qualification highly accessible, as it can be adapted to suit a diverse range of learners' interests and aspirations.

The Course also provides opportunities for learners to build self-confidence and to enhance many generic and transferable skills, including literacy, planning and organising, and communication.

Depending on the scope of the personal enquiry, this Course would provide opportunities for progression to a variety of other qualifications or careers in the visual arts, design or other related fields, including:

- ◆ degrees in Fashion and Textiles, Product Design or Digital Culture
- ◆ HND Art and Design, HND Contemporary Art Practice or HND Visual Communication

## **Course summary**

**Course title: Advanced Higher Art and Design (Design)**

**SCQF level 7 (32 SCQF credit points)**

### **Course outline**

#### **Mandatory Units**

The Course comprises the following mandatory Units:

**Art and Design (Design):**

**Design Studies (Advanced Higher)**

**8 SCQF credit points**

**Art and Design (Design):**

**Design Enquiry (Advanced Higher)**

**16 SCQF credit points**

#### **Course assessment**

**8 SCQF credit points**

This Course includes eight 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.

# Course structure and conditions of award

## Course structure

The Course has an integrated, personal enquiry-based approach to learning. The Units allow learners to respond creatively and to investigate and apply their critical understanding of design and design practice when producing creative design ideas and solutions.

During this Course, learners will demonstrate their ability to sustain, develop and realise creative lines of visual enquiry. They will select a context for learning and produce a range of creative design work which has been developed and influenced by in-depth investigation and critical analysis of design and design practice.

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

### **Art and Design (Design): Design Studies (Advanced Higher)**

In this Unit, learners will investigate the working practices and creative approaches of others. Their investigative research will inform the development of their own creative work. They will critically analyse designers' work and practice, evaluating the impact of external factors on their creative work. They will communicate informed supported personal views, opinions and judgements on the designers' work.

### **Art and Design (Design): Design Enquiry (Advanced Higher)**

This Unit helps learners to plan, develop and produce a range of related development lines of personal enquiry and creative design work. Learners will use their understanding of design practice to inform and influence their own creative approaches. Learners will working imaginatively to resolve any design issues or challenges and will experiment with and explore how materials, techniques and/or technology can be used to communicate and realise their design ideas in 2D and/or 3D form.

## 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.

# 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.

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

## Course assessment

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of added value. 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 Advanced Higher Art and Design (Design) Course, added value will focus on:

- ◆ challenge
- ◆ application

Learners will produce:

- ◆ a portfolio of practical design work
- ◆ supporting contextual research and evaluation