



Higher Art and Design — Course rationale and summary

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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 Higher Art and Design Course is practical and experiential. In this Course, learners will continue developing their knowledge of a widening range of art and design practice, and will use this when developing creative and expressive media handling skills in both expressive and design contexts.

In the Course, learners are encouraged to exercise imagination and creativity. They will develop important skills, attitudes and aptitudes. Learning in the Course will include active involvement in creative activities in expressive and design contexts, and raising learners' critical understanding of the social and cultural factors influencing art and design practice.

Learning in the Course will also include the exploratory and creative use of media, techniques and/or technologies; and opportunities to explore and critically reflect on learning.

The Course allows learners to broaden and deepen their skills and knowledge of art and design practice, providing opportunities to further acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities, including: creativity, flexibility and adaptability; perseverance, independence and resilience; responsibility and reliability; and confidence and enterprise.

This Course encourages learners to be creative and critically self-aware and reflective. It also helps learners to express themselves in different ways. Learning through art and design helps learners to develop an appreciation of aesthetics and function, and develops learners' understanding of cultural values, identities and ideas.

Purpose and aims of the Course

The Course encourages learners to be inspired and challenged by exploring and resolving how they can best visually represent their personal feelings and ideas. Learners will continue developing their critical appreciation and understanding of expressive art and design work, and will create individual expressive art and design ideas. The skills that learners gain by successfully completing the Course will be valuable for learning, life and work.

The Course allows learners to broaden and deepen their skills base, and to widen their horizons regarding a range of vocations and careers.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ work imaginatively and further develop individual creativity in art and design

- ◆ visually communicate personal feelings and ideas, developing creative expressive and design ideas in 2D and/or 3D
- ◆ develop a wide range of skills in using media, techniques and/or technology creatively and expressively
- ◆ demonstrate critical awareness and understanding of the social and cultural factors influencing a wide range of art and design practice
- ◆ develop creative and visual problem solving skills in both design and expressive contexts
- ◆ use critical thinking skills and reflective practice in the creative process
- ◆ increase autonomous learning and personal decision making when negotiating the context and the content of their work

This Course helps learners to develop important skills, attitudes and attributes related to art and design, and skills that are transferable to other contexts.

The Course provides opportunities for vertical and lateral progression to National Courses, and to other SQA qualifications in art and design and other related fields.

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course is 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 National 4 and/or National 5 Art and Design Courses.

On completing the Course, learners will be able to: creatively use a broad range of 2D and/or 3D media, techniques and/or technology to visually communicate a variety of personal thoughts, feelings and ideas; plan, produce and present themed first-hand investigative visual research, development ideas and expressive art work; and plan, produce and present investigative research, creative development work and design solutions in response to a design brief.

Learners will also be able to: develop and progressively refine a range of expressive development ideas and design proposals, solving visual expressive art problems and resolving design issues; analyse and evaluate their own work and the work of artists and designers; understand and appreciate the impact of a range of social and cultural influences on art and design practice; and work independently and/or in collaboration with others as part of a creative team.

The learning experiences in the Course are flexible and adaptable, with opportunities for personalisation and choice in a variety of 2D or 3D expressive art and design contexts. This makes the qualification accessible, as it can be contextualised to suit a diverse range of learners' needs and aspirations.

Course summary

Course title: Higher Art and Design

SCQF level 6 (24 SCQF credit points)

Course outline

Mandatory Units

Expressive with Critical Activity (Higher) (9 SCQF credit points)

Design with Critical Activity (Higher) (9 SCQF credit points)

Course assessment

(6 SCQF credit points)

This Course includes six SCQF credit points for 40 additional programmed hours to allow 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

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

Learners will develop a variety of practical skills in 2D and/or 3D, using media, techniques and/or technologies creatively, when developing their ideas in both expressive art and design contexts. Learners will develop creative problem solving skills in the context of both expressive art and design work. They will learn how to visually analyse and appreciate the work of a wide range of artists and designers. They will also develop their critical understanding and appreciation of the social and cultural factors influencing art 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.

Expressive with Critical Activity (Higher)

In this Unit, learners will continue to develop their personal thoughts and ideas in visual form. They will produce first-hand investigative research before experimenting with and developing a variety of media handling skills in 2D and/or 3D. Learners will use a wide range of media and techniques expressively when communicating their personal feelings and ideas through art. Learners will also be encouraged to explore the creative use of technologies when developing their ideas. They will develop a critical understanding and appreciation of artists' working practices. They will also develop detailed knowledge of social and cultural influences on art work.

Design with Critical Activity (Higher)

In this Unit, learners will plan, research and develop creative design proposals in response to a design brief. They will develop their creativity, problem solving and critical thinking skills as they reflect on more complex design opportunities, issues and constraints. They will progressively experiment with a range of 2D and/or 3D media, developing their media handling skills while refining their ideas and design proposals. Learners will also be encouraged to explore the possibilities of using technologies creatively when researching and developing their ideas. They will develop a critical understanding and appreciation of designers' working practices. They will also develop detailed knowledge of social and cultural influences on design work.

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

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all 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 standards for the Course will be included in the *Course Assessment Specification*, which will provide 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 Unit specifications.

They will be assessed pass/fail within centres.

SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

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

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 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 or application.

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

- ◆ challenge
- ◆ application

Learners will draw on, extend and apply the skills they have learned during the Course. This will be assessed through a [project](#)² and a [question paper](#)³.

The project will focus on both the process and products of learning. It will involve producing and presenting one finished piece of expressive art work and one finished piece of design work.

The question paper adds value by requiring integration and application of knowledge and skills of art and design practice from across the Units. Learners will demonstrate informed critical opinions.

¹ Definitions can be found here: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45528.html

² See link above for definitions.

³ See link above for definitions.