



Media (National 5)

Draft National Course Specification



Valid from August 2013

This edition: April 2011, draft version 1.0

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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: Media (National 5)
SCQF: level 5 (24 SCQF credit points)
Course code: to be advised

Mandatory Units

Analysing Media Content (National 5) **9 SCQF credit points**

Creating Media Content (National 5) **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.

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:

- ◆ Media (National 4) 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 will be given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Progression

This Course or its components may provide progression to

- ◆ other SQA qualifications in Media or related areas
- ◆ further study, employment 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* and the *Course Assessment Specification*.

Rationale

All new and revised National Courses reflect the 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 and fit for purpose and they 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 enables learners to analyse and create media content.¹ Learners think critically about the media and its role in everyday life and develop an appreciation of media content in a cultural context and in the context of the media industry. Through analysing and creating media content, learners develop skills that enable them to engage more fully in society and in learning.

This Course provides learners with the opportunity to use different media effectively for learning and communication; to be creative and express themselves in different ways; and to use creative and critical thinking to synthesise ideas and arguments.

The Course also provides learners with the opportunity to experience enjoyment and contribute to other people's enjoyment through creative and expressive presentation; to develop critical literacy skills and personal, interpersonal and team working skills; to develop independent learning; and to enhance their enjoyment and their understanding of their own and other cultures.

Learners encounter a wide range of different types of texts in different media. Building on the four capacities, this Course enables learners to communicate, be critical thinkers, develop cultural awareness, and be creative.

¹ Media content refers to all media texts and products.

Purpose and aims of the Course

The main purpose of this Course is to analyse and create media content. The Course enables learners to understand and develop their media literacy skills and appreciate the opportunities and challenges that occur within the media industry. The Course provides learners with opportunities to develop both theoretical knowledge of the media and the ability to create media content.

This Course offers learners opportunities to develop and extend a wide range of skills, including communication, independent learning, critical literacy, personal, interpersonal and team working, and creative thinking. In particular, this Course aims to enable learners to develop:

- ◆ the ability to analyse and create media content, appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- ◆ knowledge and understanding of the role of media within society
- ◆ the ability to apply media literacy concepts and terminology
- ◆ the ability to plan and research when creating media content, appropriate to purpose, audience and context
- ◆ the ability to evaluate the learner's own practice and that of others

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course provides flexibility, personalisation and choice to enable learners to achieve in different ways and at a different pace.

This Course also provides opportunities for learners to build on prior learning experienced in the broad general education or in Media qualifications at a lower SCQF level.

The Course is designed to be accessible. The structure of the Course provides a purposeful connection between theoretical knowledge of the media and the ability to create media content.

Progression includes opportunities for vertical and lateral progression to:

- ◆ Media (Higher)
- ◆ Skills for Work: Creative Digital Media (SCQF level 5) (available from August 2011)
- ◆ NC in Media (SCQF level 6)
- ◆ NPA in Journalism (SCQF level 6)
- ◆ NPA in Digital Production Skills (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ NPA in Radio Broadcasting (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ NPA in Television Production (SCQF level 5)

and ultimately, for some, to employment.

Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

This Course is made up of two mandatory Units.

The two Units, taken together, include the skills of analysing and creating media content. This Course provides the opportunity to integrate these skills because analysis and creation are inextricably linked. Each Unit also offers opportunities for learners to focus on particular skills.

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

Analysing Media Content (National 5)

The purpose of this Unit is to develop the skills needed to analyse media content in familiar contexts. This Unit provides learners with the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of the concepts and terminology central to the detailed analysis of media content.

Creating Media Content (National 5)

The purpose of this Unit is to develop the skills needed to create media content in familiar contexts. This Unit provides learners with the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of media concepts and terminology central to creating detailed media content.

Conditions of award

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.

Skills and knowledge

Full skills and knowledge for the Course will be 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.

This Course enables learners to communicate, be critical thinkers, develop cultural awareness, and be creative. The following summarises the skills, knowledge and understanding from the mandatory content of the Course:

- ◆ analysing and creating media content, appropriate to purpose and audience, in familiar contexts: moving image, still image, print, audio, web-based or other digital media
- ◆ knowledge and understanding of detailed media literacy concepts and terminology
- ◆ a range of routine evaluation skills when reflecting upon learners' own work and that of others
- ◆ knowledge and understanding of the role of media within society

successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen, effective contributor

- ◆ knowledge and understanding of contextual factors, constraints and freedoms that affect producers of media content

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Assessment

Information about assessment 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 the Unit Specifications.

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

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.

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

Analysing Media Content (National 5)

Learners will be required to provide evidence of the skills that are needed to analyse media content in familiar contexts. Learners will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the concepts and terminology central to the detailed analysis of media content.

Creating Media Content (National 5)

Learners will be required to provide evidence of the skills that are needed to create media content in familiar contexts. Learners will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of media concepts and terminology central to creating detailed media content.

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](#)². 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 and application.

In this Course, added value will focus on challenge and application.

Learners will provide evidence of the ability to analyse and create detailed media content. The Course assessment will take the form of an [assignment](#)³ that focuses on creating media content and a [question paper](#)⁴ that focuses on analysing media content. In the assignment learners will plan, create and evaluate through a chosen topic, allowing them to develop their own skills and personal interests.

² Definitions can be found here: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45528.html

³ See link above for definition.

⁴ See link above for definition

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

(Note: The information given below reflects the initial thinking on significant opportunities for development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. These may be subject to change as the development process progresses.)

It is expected that learners will also develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that are likely to be appropriate for this 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.

1 Literacy

- 1.1 Reading
- 1.3 Listening and talking

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

- 4.3 Working with others
- 4.4 Enterprise
- 4.6 Citizenship

5 Thinking skills

- 5.4 Analysing and evaluating
- 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: April 2011 (version 1.0)

Superclass: to be advised

History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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