

National Qualifications Review

Craft and Design

Investigation Report Executive summary

This report is the outcome of an investigation into how to implement the agreed actions, which were detailed in the Craft and Design Subject Review Report, published in May 2002.

The main concerns identified in the Review of Craft and Design were:

- ◆ the structure of the Course (two x 40-hour Units and two x 20-hour Units) is causing problems with delivery and assessment
- ◆ the volume and complexity of internal assessment
- ◆ the volume and complexity of external assessment
- ◆ the title of the Course
- ◆ lack of clarity on the purpose and focus of the Course, including the possible overlap between Craft and Design and Practical Craft Skills
- ◆ the amount of content in the Course
- ◆ progression from Standard Grade

The consultation process, carried out between January and March 2003, involved:

- ◆ semi-structured telephone interviews with selected centres
- ◆ posting the interview questionnaire on SQA's website
- ◆ a meeting of the Craft and Design Subject Advisory Group
- ◆ two meetings of a working group
- ◆ interviews with candidates
- ◆ meetings with higher education, further education, teacher training representatives and groups of teachers
- ◆ two meetings of the Subject Assessment Panel

The responses to the consultation indicated that:

- ◆ The Course title is inappropriate.
- ◆ The introduction of Practical Craft Skills had provided an alternative route for candidates. This alternative practical route has clarified the design focus of Craft and Design – no action is necessary at present.
- ◆ Respondents were generally happy with Standard Grade Craft and Design. Some centres have changed the delivery of Standard Grade to make it easier for candidates to progress to the NQ Courses – minor changes will be made, but these are outside the scope of the NQ Review.
- ◆ Respondents feel that Courses in Craft and Design and Practical Craft Skills meet the needs of different types of candidates, and extension of both Courses to further levels would be helpful.
- ◆ The amount of content in the Courses was not a major issue – no action is necessary at present.
- ◆ The Course Units do not fit together well. This has resulted in centres re-organising the Unit content to make delivery of the Course more efficient.
- ◆ Internal assessment is no longer a major issue due to changes already made by SQA to reduce the volume of assessment.
- ◆ The main concern with external assessment is the design assignment that is used to assess design ability.

The following recommendations are made in this report:

- ◆ A title which reflects the content of the Course should be chosen.
- ◆ The Course structure should be based on three mandatory Units at Intermediate 2 and Higher. No changes are planned for the Advanced Higher.
- ◆ The need for Courses at additional levels in Craft and Design and Practical Craft Skills should be monitored in the light of the impact of changes to the existing Courses, and the impact of any future changes in the use of Standard Grade. If a business case can be made, the following new clusters/Courses could be developed:
 - Access and Intermediate 1 Craft and Design
 - Access Practical Craft Skills
 - Higher Practical Craft Skills: Woodworking Skills

The design assignment should be modified. Design ability should be assessed with a shorter and more controlled coursework assignment. The weighting of marks awarded to design ability should be reduced from 60% to reflect the balance of knowledge, understanding and skills of the new Courses. Further development work will determine the exact weighting.

The full version of the investigation report is available on the appropriate NQ subject page of the Scottish Qualifications Authority website - www.sqa.org.uk

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