



Advanced Higher  
Course  
Specification



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# Advanced Higher Art and Design (Design) Course Specification (C706 77)

**Valid from August 2015**

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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:** Advanced Higher Art and Design (Design)

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

**Course code:** C706 77

### Mandatory Units

**H7W0 77 Art and Design (Design): Design Studies (Advanced Higher)** 8 SCQF credit points

**H7W1 77 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.

### Recommended entry

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ Higher Art and Design Course

### Progression

This Course or its Units may provide progression to:

- ◆ other qualifications in art and design or related areas
- ◆ 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 development of creativity is the main focus of this practical and experiential Course. In this Course, learners will engage in an intensive and personally selected design enquiry. They will investigate and explore the creative opportunities and constraints of a chosen design area, taking account of design opportunities and constraints such as function, target market and aesthetics. They will experiment with using design materials, techniques and/or technology, as appropriate, in sophisticated ways when developing and refining creative design ideas and solutions.

The Course provides opportunities for personalisation and choice in selecting a creative and personally challenging context for self-directed learning. It allows learners to broaden and extend their creativity, design-based problem solving and critical thinking skills and to work independently. This distinct focus on sustained self-directed learning is part of the Course's unique contribution to learners' creative development.

During the Course, learners will develop informed views and personal opinions on designers' work and practice. They will respond in sophisticated and creative ways to the issues, opportunities and constraints of the design area when developing design ideas and solutions and resolving technical and design challenges. They will use their knowledge of design work and practice to inspire them to develop and refine a progressive series of original design ideas and solutions in response to selected design area/design brief/design stimuli.

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 work. They will reach informed creative decisions and manage and self-direct their learning. They will become self-assured and adept at resolving creative and design

challenges and communicating their understanding of the critical aspects of the design area through their design 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, function and aesthetics. This will involve exploring and researching challenging design contexts, issues and opportunities, and evaluating and synthesising visual stimuli and other information from a variety of sources. This depth of personalised study into a selected area of design affords learners a unique opportunity to intellectually engage with the design process and to focus on how to creatively respond to challenging design issues and opportunities.

The Course will provide learners with the opportunity to extend and apply the design skills they may have developed during the Higher Art and Design Course and elsewhere. Learners will also demonstrate personal autonomy and creative decision making when negotiating the design area and stimuli for their work, and when developing and realising their design ideas and solutions.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ experience an independent, self-directed study of design and design practice
- ◆ develop personal autonomy, creativity, independent thinking and evaluative skills when resolving design problems and responding to design area requirements and constraints
- ◆ develop individual creativity and technical skills through the considered exploration and creative use of design materials, equipment, techniques and/or technology
- ◆ develop higher-order thinking skills by analysing, synthesising and responding to designers' work and the external factors which influence the design area
- ◆ develop advanced critical thinking and design-based problem solving skills
- ◆ reach substantiated and informed judgements when refining and presenting lines of design enquiry and development

The Units have a personalised approach to learning. Through completing the Units and the Course assessment, learners will carry out extended and self-directed studies into design practice and will apply this understanding when developing their design ideas and solutions. They will personally respond to their selected design area, design brief and stimuli, exploring how best to translate and realise their design ideas and turn these into effective and sophisticated design solutions that meet the requirements of the design brief.

In the Course, learners will develop skills which are transferable to other areas of study and which they will use in everyday life. At this level, learners will be working with greater independence. They will apply their critical thinking skills when reflecting on their creative options and choices and when deciding how to develop their design ideas. Learners will develop aesthetic discrimination, imagination and critical understanding of the design area when reviewing and refining their design ideas and solutions.

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

This Course is suitable for 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 onto a variety of design-related HNDs or design degrees, including for example product design, fashion design or digital culture. The Course may also 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 learning in a selected design area of personal interest to the learner. 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.

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

# 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 sophisticated and technically refined design ideas and solutions.

In this Course, learners will demonstrate their ability to develop and refine design ideas and realise creative design solution(s). They will select a context and stimuli for the enquiry and produce design ideas and solutions which have been developed and influenced by their in-depth investigation and critical analysis of the design context and design practice.

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 two mandatory Units, and the Course assessment.

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

In this Unit, learners will work in a self-directed manner to research and investigate the working practices and design approaches of others. The research and investigation will be based on a personally chosen design area. Learners will critically analyse designers' work and practice, evaluating and reaching substantiated judgements about the work itself and the contexts which influenced the work.

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

This Unit helps learners to plan, develop and produce developmental lines of enquiry and creative design work in an independent and self-directed manner. Learners will produce a design brief establishing a personal focus to the enquiry, using their understanding of design practice to inspire and influence their design approach and creative choices. They will analyse the impact of their creative decisions and choices, resolving any design issues or challenges. They will experiment with using materials, techniques and/or technology where appropriate, to realise their design ideas in 2D and/or 3D formats and independently evaluate their design work and practice.

## 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.

# Skills, knowledge and understanding

Further information on the assessment of the skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course is 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.

These are:

- ◆ critical analysis and in-depth evaluation of designers' work and practice, showing in-depth understanding of the design area issues, opportunities and constraints
- ◆ analysing and evaluating the impact of external influences on designers' work
- ◆ expressing substantiated personal opinions on their own work and on designers' work and practice
- ◆ applying in-depth understanding of design practice when creatively responding to the design area requirements and developing design ideas and solution(s)
- ◆ producing a range of high-quality pertinent investigative visual and market research for the design enquiry
- ◆ confident and highly assured use of selected design materials, techniques and/or technology, showing sophisticated levels of technical and creative skills
- ◆ developing sustained lines of design enquiry
- ◆ using a range of complex problem solving, planning and evaluation skills when developing, refining and resolving design ideas and solution(s)
- ◆ creating design ideas and solution(s) in 2D and/or 3D formats that meet the design area and design brief requirements in terms of function and which show the sophisticated and creative use of design materials, techniques and/or technology
- ◆ justifying their decisions and resolving complex design issues and technical challenges

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 on characteristics and expected performance at each SCQF level ([www.sqa.org.uk/scqf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/scqf)).

## 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 judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

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

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

In this Unit, evidence is required to show that the learner can research and investigate a design area of personal interest. They will plan the investigation, analysing examples of design work and practice within a chosen design area. They will express substantiated personal judgements about design work and the contexts which influenced the work.

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

In this Unit, evidence is required to show that the learner can plan and carry out a personal design enquiry. Learners will produce a design brief and a variety of visual investigative and market research, before developing and refining developmental ideas and concepts for the design enquiry. They will also analyse their creative choices and decisions and independently evaluate their design work and practice.

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](#)<sup>1</sup>. 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 and application.

The learner will draw on, extend and apply the skills they have learned during the Course. They will be assessed through a portfolio of design work.

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

The portfolio will assess both the process and products of learning. It will include a body of design work, the critical analysis of a single design work or a series of closely related design works and an evaluation of the learner's design work.

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

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

5.4 Analysing and evaluating

5.5 Creating

Amplification of these skills 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

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## History of changes to National Course Specification

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
1.1	<p>Page 3: 'Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles' section — assorted minor revisions.</p> <p>Page 4: 'Purpose and aims of the Course' section — minor revision to wording.</p> <p>Page 6: 'Course structure and conditions of award' section — Unit descriptors revised.</p> <p>Page 7: 'Skills, knowledge and understanding' section — minor changes to bulleted list.</p> <p>Pages 8 and 9: 'Assessment' section — revisions to the Unit assessment and Course assessment descriptions.</p>	Qualifications Development Manager	April 2015

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

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