



National 2  
Course  
Specification



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# National 2 Creative Arts Course Specification (C717 72)

**Valid from August 2013**

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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:** National 2 Creative Arts

**SCQF:** level 2 (18 SCQF credit points)

**Course code:** C717 72

### Mandatory Units

**Developing Skills in Creative Arts (National 2) 6 SCQF credit points**

### Optional Units

The Course comprises the following optional Units:

**Working with Images, Graphics and Sound (National 2) 6 SCQF credit points**

Or

**Working with Images, Graphics and Sound a Scottish Context (National 2)\* 6 SCQF credit points**

and either

**Working with Textiles (National 2) 6 SCQF credit points**

or

**Working with Textiles with a Scottish Context (National 2)\* 6 SCQF credit points**

and either

**Creating Materials for Performance (National 2) 6 SCQF credit points**

or

**Creating Materials for Performance with a Scottish Context (National 2)\* 6 SCQF credit points**

and either

**Creating Materials for Display (National 2) 6 SCQF credit points**

Or

**Creating Materials for Display with a Scottish Context (National 2)\* 6 SCQF credit points**

The Course comprises one mandatory Unit and two optional Units from the list above.

\*Scottish Studies Award contributing Unit: This Course Specification should be read in conjunction with the relevant Scottish Studies Unit Specification on the [Scottish Studies Award web page](#).

### Recommended entry

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, relevant experiences and outcomes may also provide an appropriate basis for doing this Course.

## **Progression**

This Course or its Units may provide progression to:

- ◆ other qualifications in creative arts or related areas
- ◆ further study, employment and/or training

## **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 National 2 Creative Arts Course builds on the principles and practice and experiences and outcomes of the expressive arts curriculum area. The expressive arts are rich and stimulating, with the capacity to engage and fascinate learners of all ages and skill levels. The expressive arts also play an important role in supporting learners to recognise and value the variety and vitality of culture locally, nationally and globally.

This Course encourages learners to be creative and to express themselves in different ways through active involvement in creative arts activities (which can include drawing, painting, video, film, sound, music, creative writing, poetry, stage sets, scenery, and props). Learning through the creative arts helps learners to develop an awareness of artistic and cultural values, identities and ideas by working imaginatively and communicating thoughts and ideas creatively.

This Course provides opportunities for learners to apply their creative skills to produce pieces of work and to recognise creativity and skill in the work of others. Learners will also be encouraged to demonstrate skills and confidence in their work and to show enjoyment of the arts, through their own work and that of others.

This Course also allows learners to develop skills, knowledge and capacities that are complementary for other areas of study such as health and wellbeing, performance arts, practical craft skills and ICT as well as skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

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

The Course provides an opportunity for learners to experience a range of creative art forms and to explore and express personal thoughts and ideas through creative work.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ demonstrate an awareness of the range of creative arts
- ◆ work imaginatively and develop individual creativity
- ◆ communicate thoughts, meaning and ideas through creative work
- ◆ demonstrate skills in using techniques, processes, materials and media to produce creative work
- ◆ use media and technology as part of the creative process

Course activities also provide opportunities for learners to develop generic and transferable skills in planning, problem solving, communication and literacy. The Course also provides opportunities for learners to work independently as well as to collaborate and work with others.

The integrative design of the Course will foster learners' understanding of the creative arts, helping them experience the links between ideas, creativity, use of techniques, processes, materials, media and technology, and the final creative work produced.

The Course will also help learners to develop important skills, attitudes and attributes related to the creative arts that are transferable to other contexts.

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

This Course is suitable for all learners with an interest in the creative arts. It is suitable for learners with a general interest in the subject and for those wanting to progress to higher levels of study.

This Course may also be suitable for those wishing to work towards a qualification in creative arts for the first time.

This qualification will allow learners to consolidate and further extend their creative arts skills by building on the experiences and outcomes for the expressive arts curriculum area.

The Course takes account of the needs of all learners by providing sufficient flexibility to enable learners to achieve in different ways and at a different pace.

On completing the Course, learners will have developed an awareness of different creative art forms, of how to work imaginatively and to communicate thoughts and ideas through creative activities.

The skills developed within the National 2 Creative Arts Course can be applied to learning in other subject areas. Skills developed in this Course also support progression in other curriculum areas, as well as in the National 2 Personal Achievement Award and the National 2 Personal Development Award.

# Course structure and conditions of award

## Course structure

This Course consists of a combination of mandatory and optional Units. Learners who complete the mandatory Unit and any combination of optional Units will be able to demonstrate their ability in the same skills. The mandatory Unit provides breadth by introducing learners to the range of skills and contexts available within creative arts. The optional Units provide depth, with scope for personalisation and choice, and provide learners with opportunities to further explore, develop and practise these skills in different contexts.

Some learners may choose to complete additional optional Units from the Course. Learners will benefit from this opportunity to extend their learning.

This Course enables learners to use the creative arts to develop skills in the following areas: demonstrating an awareness of the creative arts; individual creativity; communicating thoughts, meaning and ideas; and using techniques, processes, materials, media and technology.

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

## Mandatory Units

### Developing Skills in Creative Arts (National 2)

The general aim of this Unit is to introduce the learner to a range of creative arts and to help them develop their thoughts and ideas. The learner will also develop an awareness of how appropriate media, materials, processes and techniques are used in producing creative work. The Unit is designed to enable the learner to develop an awareness of the subject through participation in a range of creative activities such as ceramics, collage, creative writing, drawing, film, jewellery, modelling, music, painting, photography, poetry, printmaking, and sculpture.

### Optional Units — any two from the following four Units

#### Working with Images, Graphics and Sound (National 2)

The general aim of this Unit is to develop the learner's skills in using images, graphics and sound such as photographs, film, lettering, cartoons, music, sound and computer-aided design (CAD) creatively, including how to communicate their thoughts, intentions and ideas through creative work. The learner will be encouraged to use media and technologies when developing their ideas and producing their work.

#### Working with Textiles (National 2)

The general aim of this Unit is to develop the skills and knowledge which support fashion and textile-related activity such as weaving, collage, knitting, crochet, and items for drama and dance.

#### Creating Materials for Performance (National 2)

The general aim of this Unit is to develop skills in creating original work which could subsequently be used for performance such as creative writing, poetry, drama, music,

song, comedy, set design, stage props, and scenery by using a variety of techniques and processes.

### **Creating Materials for Display (National 2)**

The general aim of this Unit is to develop skills in producing creative work for display such as painting, drawing, ceramics, jewellery, sculpture, modelling, and make-up by using a variety of materials, techniques and processes.

### **Conditions of award**

To achieve the National 2 Creative Arts Course, learners must pass all of the required Units. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section.

National 2 Courses are not graded.

## **Skills, knowledge and understanding**

Full skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course will be given in the *Course Support Notes*. A broad overview of the subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be covered in the Course is given in this section. These include:

- ◆ demonstrating an awareness of the range of creative arts
- ◆ ability to respond to a range of stimuli
- ◆ ability to participate in creative arts activities
- ◆ ability to use skills, techniques, processes and materials to produce creative work

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

Further information about assessment for the Course is included in the *Course Support Notes*.

## Unit assessment

All Units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in the *Unit Specification*.

They can be assessed on an individual Unit basis or by using other approaches which combine the assessment for more than one Unit.

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:

### **Developing Skills in Creative Arts (National 2)**

For this Unit, learners will be able to:

- ◆ demonstrate an awareness of how creative work is produced
- ◆ participate in creative activity in response to given stimuli

### **Working with Images, Graphics and Sound (National 2)**

For this Unit, learners will be able to:

- ◆ demonstrate skills in using images, graphics and sound creatively
- ◆ use images, graphics and sound to produce creative work

### **Working with Textiles (National 2)**

For this Unit, learners will be able to:

- ◆ demonstrate skills and knowledge in working creatively with textiles
- ◆ produce a creative textile item

### **Creating Materials for Performance (National 2)**

For this Unit, learners will be able to:

- ◆ demonstrate skills and knowledge across a range of techniques and processes used to create materials which could be used in a performance
- ◆ create original work which could be used in a performance

### **Creating Materials for Display (National 2)**

For this Unit, learners will be able to:

- ◆ demonstrate skills and knowledge across a range of techniques, processes and materials used to produce creative work for display
- ◆ produce and display original creative 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.

## **1 Literacy**

1.3 Listening and talking

## **3 Health and wellbeing**

3.1 Personal learning

3.2 Emotional wellbeing

## **5 Thinking skills**

5.1 Remembering

5.3 Applying

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

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
	1.1	Scottish Studies Award Unit contributing information added. No other changes made to document content.	Qualifications Manager	September 2014

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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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