



Advanced Higher
Course
Specification



Advanced Higher Art and Design (Expressive) Course Specification

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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 (Expressive)

SCQF: level 7 (32 SCQF credit points)

Course code: to be advised

Mandatory Units

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

**Art and Design (Expressive):
Expressive 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

In this Course, learners will engage in a creative and personally selected expressive enquiry. They will explore the creative potential of their selected expressive stimuli and experiment with using materials, advanced techniques and/or technology to communicate and express their ideas in 2D and/or 3D formats.

The Course provides opportunities for personalisation and choice by allowing learners to select creative and challenging contexts for self-directed learning. It allows learners to broaden and extend their creativity and critical thinking skills and to work independently in an area of personal interest. This distinct focus on sustained self-directed learning is part of the Course's unique contribution to the learner's creative expressive development.

During the Course, learners will develop and refine a series of original and creative ideas and expressive artwork. Throughout their learning, they will have opportunities to develop informed views and personal opinions on artists' work and expressive art practice. They will demonstrate critical understanding of art practice and will research and investigate how specific artists develop and create expressive art work in response to external stimuli including the environment, their surroundings and world events and/or social issues. They will use their knowledge of art practice to inspire their own expressive art work when expressing and communicating their thoughts, feelings and ideas, and responding in a personal and creative way to their stimuli, using art materials, techniques and/or technology to creatively communicate meaning through their work.

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 develop and refine their ideas and artwork. They will reach informed creative decisions and manage and self-direct their learning. The Course allows learners opportunities to become highly creative, self-assured expressive artists.

Purpose and aims of the Course

The Course provides opportunities for learners to develop their creativity, visual awareness and aesthetic understanding while exploring how to communicate their personal thoughts, ideas and opinions through their expressive artwork. This will involve visually exploring and responding in an individual way to their stimuli, researching challenging expressive art contexts and the ways that artists respond creatively to stimuli, and evaluating and synthesising visual and other information from a variety of sources. This depth of personalised study affords learners a unique opportunity to intellectually engage with the visual arts.

The Course will provide learners with the opportunity to extend and apply the expressive art skills they may have developed in the Higher Art and Design Course and elsewhere, and to consider how artists' work impacts on communities' surroundings and communities' perceptions, shaping our understanding of the world that surrounds us. Learners will also demonstrate personal autonomy and creative decision making when negotiating the context and stimuli for their work and when developing and realising their creative ideas.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ experience an independent, self-directed study of expressive art and art practice
- ◆ develop personal autonomy, creativity, independent thinking and evaluative skills when responding to stimuli and creating their own expressive art work
- ◆ develop individual self-expression and creativity through their considered exploration and use of art materials, equipment, techniques and/or technology
- ◆ develop the higher-order thinking skills required to analyse, synthesise, and critically respond to and understand the impact of expressive art work
- ◆ develop advanced critical thinking skills, reaching substantiated informed judgements when refining and presenting lines of visual enquiry and development

The Units have an integrated approach to learning. Through completing the Units and the Course assessment, learners will carry out extended and self-directed studies into artists and expressive art practice, and will apply their insights when developing their own compositions and expressive artwork. They will personally respond to their stimuli, and experiment with using art materials, composition and the visual elements to express and communicate sophisticated ideas through their artwork.

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. Learners will develop aesthetic discrimination, imagination and creative insight when reviewing and refining their expressive art work.

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course is suitable for learners with an interest in developing and extending their applied art skills and critical understanding of art practice. It would be suitable for those progressing from the Higher Art and Design Course onto a range of art and design-related HNDs or onto a variety of degrees in, for example, fine art, sculpture, printmaking or environmental art.

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 and experiential learning. 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 in 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 art and art practice when producing their expressive art work.

During this Course, learners will demonstrate their ability to develop and realise creative expressive lines of visual enquiry. They will select a context and stimuli for learning and produce a range of expressive art work which has been developed and influenced by their in-depth investigation and critical analysis of art and art 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 (Expressive): Expressive Studies (Advanced Higher)

In this Unit, learners will work in a self-directed manner to investigate the working practices and creative approaches of others. They will analyse artists' work and practice, analysing and evaluating the impact of external factors on their creative work. They will communicate informed and supported personal views, opinions and judgements on the artists' work.

Art and Design (Expressive): Expressive Enquiry (Advanced Higher)

This Unit helps learners to work independently in a self-directed manner to plan, develop and produce a range of related development lines of creative enquiry and expressive art work. Learners' expressive art work will be inspired and influenced by their investigative research into expressive art practice. Learners will experiment with and creatively explore how materials, equipment, techniques, composition and/or technology can be used. They will use these in sophisticated and expressive ways to communicate and realise their ideas in 2D and/or 3D formats.

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 artists' work and practice and their personal expressive responses to stimuli
- ◆ analysing and evaluating the impact of external influences on the artists' work
- ◆ expressing substantiated personal opinions on their own work and on artists' work and practice
- ◆ applying in-depth understanding of artists' work and practice when personally responding to their expressive stimuli
- ◆ producing sophisticated expressive investigative drawings and studies, demonstrating an individual and personalised response to their stimuli
- ◆ confident and highly assured use of a variety of art materials, equipment, advanced techniques and/or technology for expressive effect
- ◆ developing visually coherent, progressive lines of expressive enquiry
- ◆ using advanced visual problem solving, planning and evaluation skills within the creative process
- ◆ creating highly refined original and creative compositions and artwork in 2D and/or 3D
- ◆ justifying their creative decisions and resolving complex creative issues and 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).

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 (Expressive): Expressive Studies (Advanced Higher)

In this Unit, evidence is required to show that the learner can investigate, analyse and evaluate the work and practice of artists working within their selected context for learning. They will express substantiated personal opinions on the artists' work and practice.

Art and Design (Expressive): Expressive Enquiry (Advanced Higher)

In this Unit, evidence is required to show that the learner can produce and refine creative and expressive investigative visual research and development ideas for a personally challenging creative enquiry. They will show considered exploration, visual coherence and continuity throughout the development process, and understanding of the expressive potential of composition and the visual elements in their work.

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](#)¹. 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 (Expressive) 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. This will be assessed through a portfolio of art work.

The portfolio will assess both the process and products of learning, and will include evidence of supporting contextual research and evaluation.

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

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

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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