Arrangements for:

National Progression Awards in

Art and Design: Digital Media at SCQF level 5

Group Award Code: G96V 45

and

Art and Design: Digital Media at SCQF level 6

Group Award Code: G96W 46

Validation date: December 2008

Date of original publication: March 2009

Version: 02 (October 2010)

Acknowledgement

History of changes

It is anticipated that changes will take place during the life of the qualification, and this section will record these changes. This document is the latest version and incorporates the changes summarised below.

Version number	Description	Date	Authorised by
02	Amends to Group Award codes on front page — from G96V 11 to **G96V 45** and from G96W 12 to **G96W 46** — typographical error.	27/10/10	Lynn Wallwork

Contents

1   Introduction

This is the Arrangements Document for the new National Progression Awards in Art and Design: Digital Media, at SCQF levels 5 and 6, which was validated in December 2008. This document includes: background information on the development of the Group Awards, its aims, guidance on access, details of the Group Award structures, and guidance on delivery.

The National Progression Awards are designed to equip candidates with the knowledge, understanding and skills required for success in current and future employment within the art and design based creative industries sector or for progression to further academic qualifications.

The National Progression Award in Art and Design: Digital Media at SCQF level 5 consists of 3 SQA Unit credits and has a credit value of 18 SCQF credit points*.

Group Award Classification	SCQF level	SCQF credit points
Intermediate 2	5	18

The National Progression Award in Art and Design: Digital Media at SCQF level 6 consists of 3 SQA Unit credits and has a credit value of 18 SCQF credit points*.

Group Award Classification	SCQF level	SCQF credit points
Higher	6	18

SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.

2   Rationale for the development of the Group Award

The rationale for the development of the National Progression Awards in Art and Design: Digital Media at SCQF levels 5 and 6 is based on a detailed sector scoping analysis and through consultation with the art and design based creative industries and education sectors with the purpose of improving learners applied skills in creative ICT based applications within an art and design context.

National Progression Awards are designed to:

♦ mainly be used in post-compulsory education
♦ be followed part-time for those already in work; or for those who have a desire to enter employment in the art and design based creative industries sector
♦ assess and certificate a defined set of skills and knowledge in the specialist vocational area of art and design based digital media

The National Progression Awards and the progressive Unit content across SCQF levels 5 and 6 are intended to provide candidates with the necessary skills and knowledge to develop applied skills in digital media within an art and design context.

These National Progression Awards are designed for individuals who are currently working in or desire to work in the art and design based creative industries sector or candidates who want to develop applied skills in the contemporary uses and applications of digital media in art and design.

Establishing the level of the awards

The level of the National Progression Awards were influenced by a number of factors:

♦ The characteristics and IT abilities of candidates attracted into the non advanced art and design based programmes (digital natives)
♦ The destinations and progression routes for candidates completing these awards (HND Visual Communication, HND Computer Arts and Design)
♦ The lack of suitable existing Unit and course provision at SCQF level 5 and SCQF level 6 that supports the development of digital media skills for art and design applications

3 Aims of the Group Awards

SCQF level 5

The general aims of the NPA at SCQF level 5 are to:

♦ provide a structured award that recognises existing skills and competences within the art and design based creative industries sector (for those currently in employment) or
♦ develop a range of introductory practical skills, competences and understanding of art and design based digital media applications

- allow candidates to develop expertise and benefit from practical experience of developing technologies in digital media for art and design, developing skills and knowledge that can support and develop future career aspirations within the creative industries sector

The specific aims of this NPA at SCQF level 5 is to:

- encourage candidates to take ownership of their own learning and development
- provide a range of learning and assessment styles to motivate candidates to achieve their full potential
- provide candidates with knowledge and skills which are directly relevant to current and/or future practice in the area of art and design based digital media
- provide opportunities for the individual development of skills and aptitudes which will improve candidates' employment potential and career development within the art and design sector

SCQF level 6

The general aims of the NPA at SCQF level 6 are to:

- provide a structured award that further develops existing skills and competences in an applied context for the art and design based creative industries sector
- allow candidates to develop a range of applied practical skills, competences and understanding of the creative potential and uses of digital media for art and design

The specific aims of this NPA at SCQF level 6 is to:

- provide a structured award that uses problem based learning approaches to develop creative skills and competences for art and design based digital media and/or contemporary art and design practice
- develop a range of creative critical problem solving and project management skills for art and design based digital media

4 Nature and purpose of the awards

The National Progression Awards in Art and Design: Digital Media at SCQF levels 5 and 6 are designed as a creative art and design based skills development programme which aims to provide candidates with a range of complementary digital media based art and design skills. The award structure is designed to meet the needs of the creative industries sector including a focus on the development of animation sequences, video and web based digital media content for art and design applications. The award structure and Unit content provides a coherent and progressive curriculum which creates and promotes effective articulation and transition into further and higher education, whilst simultaneously recognising and supporting skills for industry and future employment.

5 Target groups

The National Progression Awards are progressive and sequential in nature and are intended for candidates who want to develop working skills in the applied use of digital media for art and design, or candidates who have a desire to develop specific expertise in this expanding area of contemporary digital media related art and design practice.

The National Progression Awards are suitable for school pupils, school leavers and adult returners seeking formal recognition of both existing and new skills. However it is recommended that centres ensure that candidates have the necessary underpinning levels of ICT experience and creative skills before progressing onto the NPA at SCQF level 6.
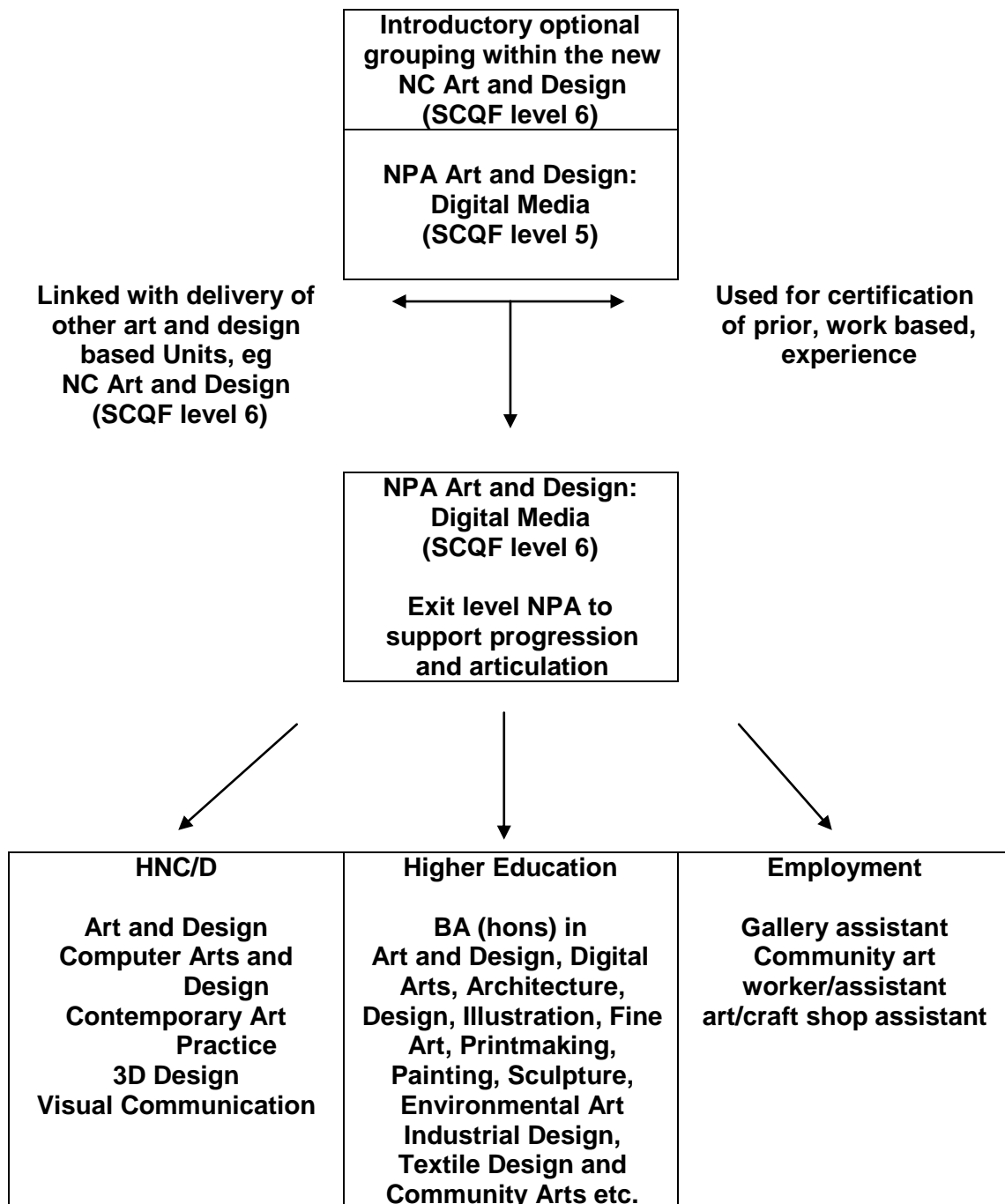
6 Progression routes

The National Progression Award in Art and Design: Digital Media at SCQF level 5 provides learners with introductory practical skills in art and design based digital media applications. The level 5 NPA is designed as an introductory short course for candidates without prior experience of digital media, and is likely to be used by centres with a specialism in graphic or computer based design.

The National Progression Award in Art and Design: Digital Media at SCQF level 6 provides candidates at the end of an NC award with a transitional short course to support articulation and progression into relevant HN awards or art school study. The two awards can also be used for recognition of formal, work based, experiential learning.

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The diagram illustrates how the award can be used to support a variety of progression opportunities.

	Introductory optional grouping within the new NC Art and Design (SCQF level 6)	
	NPA Art and Design: Digital Media (SCQF level 5)	
Linked with delivery of other art and design based Units, eg NC Art and Design (SCQF level 6)	← → ↓	**Used for certification of prior, work based, experience**

NPA Art and Design: Digital Media (SCQF level 6)

Exit level NPA to support progression and articulation

HNC/D	Higher Education	Employment
Art and Design Computer Arts and Design Contemporary Art Practice 3D Design Visual Communication	**BA (hons) in Art and Design, Digital Arts, Architecture, Design, Illustration, Fine Art, Printmaking, Painting, Sculpture, Environmental Art Industrial Design, Textile Design and Community Arts etc.**	**Gallery assistant Community art worker/assistant art/craft shop assistant**

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7 Relationship to National Occupational Standards

National Occupational Standards are developed by the key employment sectors of the United Kingdom. These standards set the competences required for job roles within a particular employment sector.

The National Occupational Standards for the Creative Industries sector (Creative and Cultural Skills) and the research on employment by Futureskills Scotland were reviewed before developing the National Progression Awards. This process resulted in the identification of key skills and competences for employability in the creative industries sector including the need to develop learners who:

♦ have developed a range of complementary technical and 'soft' skills
♦ can develop and communicate design ideas
♦ can communicate effectively with others
♦ can develop design responses to meet agreed requirements
♦ can contribute to and can engage in effective team working

Other additional elements related to the National Occupational Standards for Design are reflected in the content of National Progression Award at SCQF level 6. These competencies are based on practices used across the design based creative industries (Design, Textiles etc) and include the ability to:

♦ plan and manage design work
♦ originate, develop, produce and present detailed design solutions
♦ understand and exploit the creative potential of new technologies (digital media)

A mapping against the current Skillset's National Occupational Standards for animation design and production and related design is shown in Appendix 1.

8 Access to the Group Awards

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would normally be expected to have some knowledge, understanding or prior art based IT skills.

It is expected that those completing the SCQF level 5 award will be at a developmental stage and will require further development of practical skills, knowledge and applied understanding.

Candidates beginning the SQCF level 6 award should ideally have working knowledge of both the design process and have a basic grounding in art based IT skills.

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9   Group Award structure

The new qualifications comprise of a framework of three complementary art and design based digital media Units. The three discipline strands are consistent across both levels of the qualification allowing for the progressive development of skills and applied practice. The National Progression Award at SCQF level 6 incorporates a creative project based approach to learning which extends the basic practical experiential learning in the National Progression at SCQF level 5.

NPA in Art and Design: Digital Media (SCQF level 5)

Candidates must complete all three Units in table 1 to achieve the NPA at SCQF level 5.

Table 1

Code	Unit title	SCQF level	Credit(s)
F5BP 11	Art and Design: Web Content	5	1
F5BR 11	Art and Design: Digital Video Skills	5	1
F5BT 11	Art and Design: Animation Skills	5	1

NPA in Art and Design: Digital Media (SCQF level 6)

Candidates must complete all three Units in table 2 to achieve the NPA at SCQF level 6.

Table 2

Code	Unit title	SCQF level	Credit(s)
F5C6 12	Art and Design: Animation Project	6	1
F5C4 12	Art and Design: Video Project	6	1
F5C3 12	Art and Design: Web Project	6	1

10   Core Skills

There are five Core Skills recognised by SQA, which range across levels from Access 2 to Higher. These are:

♦ Communication
♦ Working with Others
♦ Problem Solving
♦ Information and Communication Technology
♦ Numeracy

Research for the National Progression Awards indicated that both employers, university and further education sectors consider that the key skills critical for success in Art and Design focus on:

♦ the development of creative vision
♦ the ability to interpret briefs and meet deadlines
♦ adaptability
♦ Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

The National Progression Awards in Art and Design: Digital Media may offer candidates' the opportunity to develop aspects of a number of Core Skills and these are detailed in Appendix 2.

11   Approaches to delivery and assessment

The delivery of the National Progression Awards is at the discretion of individual centres.

The structure of the qualification allows centres a high degree of flexibility in the delivery. The awards can be offered:

♦ in a practical setting which could either be within the candidate's current place of employment, a placement scenario or within a simulated practical learning.
♦ environment in a presenting centre.
♦ as a full-time short programme, day release, or evening class.
♦ using a combination of delivery styles. For example, students may want to study on a half-day/evening basis or combine evening (or day release) study with some distance learning provision.

Open learning may be feasible for some Outcomes within some Units and in some cases for whole Units. These opportunities are highlighted within the Unit specifications. The great majority of Outcomes rely, however, on developing practical skills. Practical and hands-on activities underpin much of the learning process and so the opportunities for distance learning are limited or constrained and consideration must be given to authentication of candidate assessment evidence produced out with supervised conditions. Centres may, however, find it possible to develop solutions for all or parts of some Units provided all Unit and verification requirements are met in full.

In delivering the awards, centres should look for opportunities for integration of learning and teaching. Assessment Support Packs (ASPs) have been developed for a selection of Units in the National Progression Awards and are listed below.

Available Assessment Support Packs (ASPs)

SCQF level 5

♦ Art and Design: Animation Skills
♦ Art and Design: Web Content

SCQF level 6

♦ Art and Design: Video Project

Centres will be able to download the Assessment Support Packs from the SQA secure website (www.sqa.org.uk/sqasecure). If you require copies of these documents please contact your SQA Co-ordinator for access arrangements in your centre.

Centre devised learning and teaching materials should be accessible and inclusive and where applicable, be used to positively promote equality and cultural diversity. To assist candidates in managing their workload, interim deadlines should be set when using holistic assessment opportunities, to help them plan and manage time effectively. Involvement in regular tutorials either on a one to one, or in group setting, should be used to support the development of critical thinking and evaluation and to help candidates review their progress on an ongoing basis throughout the Units.

Sequence of delivery

Centres can choose the order to teach and assess the Units according to their local market needs and resources. However, recommendations are made in relation to the sequencing of specific Units in the NPAs, as follows:

NPA in Art and Design: Digital Media (SCQF level 5)

It is recommended that the Units be undertaken by candidates in the order specified below:

Art and Design: Animation Skills

This Unit is designed to provide candidates with an overview of the development of animation and an opportunity to reinforce this research based learning with applied practice in the production of basic animation sequences using traditional and computer techniques. As such, it will provide candidates with a good foundation and understanding of the link between traditional and ICT related skills and the knowledge and skills learned within this Unit will be useful to candidates and will be supportive of the other two Units within the NPA.

Art and Design: Digital Video Skills

This Unit is designed to allow the candidate to research the use, storage and creative process behind the development of digital video content for art and design. As such, it provides candidates with the opportunity to plan and create a video sequence, developing applied understanding of camera and filming techniques and basic editing and storage processes. The knowledge and skills previously learned within the *Art and Design: Animation Skills* Unit will be useful to candidates and will support the learning process of skills across the NPA.

Art and Design: Web Content

This Unit is designed to allow candidates to develop and extend their applied understanding of creating web content for art and/or design contexts. As such, it provides candidates with a chance to reinforce earlier research skills in the identification of a range and variety of web based content usage, and provides an opportunity to develop and/or consolidate ICT related skills and knowledge developed within the preceding Units.

NPA in Art and Design: Digital Media (SCQF level 6)

It is recommended that the Units be undertaken by candidates in the order specified below:

Art and Design: Animation Project

The Unit is designed to provide candidates with an opportunity to extend their applied understanding of designing, creating and developing on-line animation within the context of an Art and Design project. As such, it will provide candidates with critical thinking and planning skills in the identification of resources and inspiration for a given brief. This will develop the candidate's awareness and understanding of the creative process as they collate and present a range of creative visuals for an animation with reference to the given requirements of the brief. Knowledge and skills learned will also include the use of appropriate and effective file management in this Unit and this will be useful to candidates and will support the other Units within the NPA.

Art and Design: Video Project

This Unit is designed to allow candidates to develop and extend their applied understanding of the process of creating digital film in response to a given brief. It is similar to the *Art and Design: Animation Project* Unit in that it follows the design process of - plan, develop and produce. In this case the candidate will be involved in the development and production of storyboard(s) before producing and presenting a finished video sequence for assessment. This will reinforce the importance of effective use of ICT and file management developed in the earlier *Art and Design: Animation Project* Unit.

Art and Design: Web Project

This Unit is designed to allow candidates to extend their applied understanding of designing, creating and developing online material within the context of an Art and Design project. The scope of this Unit is potentially wider than the earlier two Units although candidates will still be creating ideas and concepts in response to a given brief. By leaving this Unit to the end of the award, centres can provide appropriate levels of challenge in the focus and scope of the given brief and provide relevance in terms of content that can be better aligned to any individual and/or group aspirations for progression purposes.

12 General information for centres

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* **(www.sqa.org.uk)**.

Internal and external verification

All instruments of assessment used within these Group Awards should be internally verified, using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in *SQA's Guide to Assessment and Quality Assurance for Colleges of Further Education* **(www.sqa.org.uk)**.

13 General information for candidates

The National Progression Awards in Art and Design: Digital Media at SCQF levels 5 and 6 will give you a platform which will allow you to develop contemporary digital media skills that will help you to progress into further education or into employment.

The National Progression Awards in Art and Design: Digital Media each contain three mandatory Units which you need to successfully complete in order to gain the award.

There are no specific entry requirements for the National Progression Awards in Art and Design: Digital Media at SCQF levels 5 and 6, however, it would be beneficial if you had some previous experience of an art or design course or Units and had some basic understanding of the use of IT skills for art and design.

You can discuss your situation with your teacher/lecturer who will be pleased to offer you advice on how the National Progression Awards can be of help to you.

14　Glossary of terms

SCQF: This stands for the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework, which is a new way of speaking about qualifications and how they inter-relate. We use SCQF terminology throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF visit the SCQF website at **www.scqf.org.uk**

SCQF credit points: One SCQF credit point equates to 10 hours of learning. NQ Units at SCQF levels 2–6 are worth 6 SCQF credit points, NQ Units at level 7 are worth 8 SCQF points.

SCQF levels: The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. National Qualification Group Awards are available at SCQF levels 2-6 and will normally be made up of National Units which are available from SCQF levels 2–7.

Dedicated Unit to cover Core Skills: This is a non-subject Unit that is written to cover one or more particular Core Skills.

Embedded Core Skills: This is where the development of a Core Skill is incorporated into the Unit and where the Unit assessment also covers the requirements of Core Skill assessment at a particular level.

Signposted Core Skills: This refers to the opportunities to develop a particular Core Skill at a specified level that lie outwith automatic certification.

Qualification Design Team: The QDT works in conjunction with a Qualification Manager/Development Manager to steer the development of the National Certificate/National Progression Award from its inception/revision through to validation. The group is made up of key stakeholders representing the interests of centres, employers, universities and other relevant organisations.

Consortium-devised National Certificates/National Progression Awards are those developments or revisions undertaken by a group of centres in partnership with SQA.

15　Appendices

Appendix 1: National Occupational Standards Mapping — Production and related Design
Appendix 1: National Occupational Standards Mapping — Animation Design

Appendix 2: Core Skills Development

Appendix 1:   National Occupational Standards Mapping — Production and related Design

Unit title	Determine design requirements which align with the production brief	Communicate the visualisation of the production	DM13 Contribute to the production of designs using IT	BDF3 Choose and use computers and software
Art and Design: Web Content	X	X	X	X
Art and Design: Digital Video Skills	X	X	X	
Art and Design: Animation Skills	X	X	X	X
Art and Design: Web Project	X	X	X	X
Art and Design: Video Project	X	X	X	
Art and Design: Animation Project	X	X	X	X

Appendix 1: National Occupational Standards Mapping — Animation Design

Unit title	ANIM 2 Manage and store assets	ANIM 8 Create designs	ANIM 9 Visualise the script	ANIM 12 Create 2D animation	ANIM 13 Finalise artwork for 2D animation	ANIM 15 Create 3D animation
Art and Design: Web Content						
Art and Design: Digital Video Skills						
Art and Design: Animation Skills	X	X	X	X	X	
Art and Design: Web Project		X				
Art and Design: Video Project						
Art and Design: Animation Project	X	X	X	X	X	X

Appendix 2: Core Skills Development

The mandatory Units provide opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of the following Core Skills:

NPA at SCQF level 5

Core Skill	Developed through
Problem Solving (SCQF level 5)	**Art and Design: Web Content (SCQF level 5)** **Art and Design: Digital Video Skills (SCQF level 5)** **Art and Design: Animation Skills (SCQF level 5)**
Communication (SCQF level 5)	**Art and Design: Web Content (SCQF level 5)** **Art and Design: Digital Video Skills (SCQF level 5)** **Art and Design: Animation Skills (SCQF level 5)**
Information and Communication Technology (SCQF level 5)	**Art and Design: Web Content (SCQF level 5)** **Art and Design: Digital Video Skills (SCQF level 5)** **Art and Design: Animation Skills (SCQF level 5)**

NPA at SCQF level 6

Core Skill	Developed through
Communication (SCQF level 5)	**Art and Design: Animation Project (SCQF level 6)** **Art and Design: Video Project (SCQF level 6)** **Art and Design: Web Project (SCQF level 6)**
Information and Communication Technology (SCQF level 5)	**Art and Design: Animation Project (SCQF level 6)** **Art and Design: Video Project (SCQF level 6)** **Art and Design: Web Project (SCQF level 6)**
Problem Solving (SCQF level 5)	**Art and Design: Video Project (SCQF level 6)** **Art and Design: Web Project (SCQF level 6)**
Problem Solving (SCQF level 6)	**Art and Design: Animation Project (SCQF level 6)**