



# Questions and answers

## National 5 Art and Design webinar

### Question paper

**For Question 1a and b and 7a and b, can pupils repeat an answer between part a and part b? e.g. Much style was Art Nouveau then for part b He was influenced by Art Nouveau (pupils would be expanding on those answers thought).**

For the mandatory questions, it is acceptable for candidates to refer to an art movement, such as Art Nouveau, in response to 'style' in part (a), and to use the same art movement as one of the influences in part (b). A style can refer to an art movement, but it can also reflect social and/or cultural influences. An additional 1 mark would be awarded for a correct description of how this influence can be seen in any of the selected artist's or designer's work. Candidates should be clear in their responses if they are referring to an art movement being a style of work, or an influence on the artists or designer.

**Will there ever be a move to more styles of questions? Other subjects have multiple choice and tick box answers etc in which they can gain 1 mark.**

We are in the early stages of planning a programme to reform National Courses and their assessments. The Scottish Government has published a timeline for curriculum, qualifications and assessment reform. This means that no immediate changes will be made to Art and Design assessments until the scope of the reform programme is

fully defined. Once this programme is in place, we will consult widely to understand what is needed for the reformed Art and Design qualifications.

## **For exam techniques, would you recommend using Point Evidence Explanation / What Where Why?**

These techniques can be helpful in supporting candidates to develop their exam responses. However, centres should determine which techniques and approaches are most appropriate for their candidates in preparing for the written exam.

## **Why is the question paper still scaled up to 50?**

From session 2025 onwards, the total marks for the question paper were reduced to 40, following a review of the impact of changes made in 2018 when content from the internally assessed units was added to the exam. Following this review, we reduced the length of the question paper, and the number of marks in the question paper, while ensuring it continues to assess the required skills, knowledge and understanding.

However, to retain the 20% weighting for the question paper within the overall course award, the total marks are scaled up to 50.

## **Is there a list of command words for the unseen question part (b)?**

We do not have a separate list of potential question prompts for part (b) of the optional image questions. However, we will consider creating one for future sessions. The specimen and past papers include all examples of prompts currently used for these questions.

## **The SQA academy looks very helpful. What is the log-in process for this? Is it something which we sign up for individually?**

Teachers and lecturers can create an individual account on the SQA Academy website. A link to the SQA Academy site is provided below, and new users can follow the on-screen instructions to sign up.

**To access the four marks in the Influence questions, should candidates have two different influence evidence examples? e.g. two paintings by the same artist to demonstrate the different influences.**

For part (b) of questions 1 and 7, candidates can describe two influences on one artwork/design, or describe an influence on two different artworks/designs by their chosen artist or designer. Candidates may refer to the same artwork/design used in part (a), or choose different examples.

**National 4 pupils are expected to write about two artists/designers, is this being reviewed to make it fairer for Nat 4 pupils?**

While National 4 candidates refer to two artworks and two designs as part of their unit assessments, National 5 candidates are expected to provide more detailed and in-depth responses about their selected artwork and design in the question paper.

In National 4 Art and Design units, candidates are asked to describe how artists and designers have used materials, techniques and/or technology in the chosen examples. At National 5, candidates respond to specific art and design prompts, such as composition, tone, pattern, shape, materials, mood and atmosphere, and target market, etc. National 5 candidates also complete this work under exam conditions, whereas National 4 candidates can produce their evidence over the course of the year.

Additionally, National 5 candidates are required to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of art and design concepts through their responses to unseen images. We provide the following advice in the National 5 course support notes which promotes the benefits of studying a range of artists and designers and their work:

‘Candidates should investigate and understand how different artists and designers communicate ideas in their work through creative and expressive use of a range of visual and design elements, as well as a variety of materials, techniques and/or technology. Candidates should develop their knowledge and understanding of the

creative process as well as the influences that impact on the work of artists and designers.'

National 4 assessments will be reviewed as part of the wider National Qualifications reform project mentioned above.

**Can I ask if there is a maximum marks available per prompts - for example in 1a, can a candidate say 1 mark for two of the prompts , and 4 marks for the third and still achieve all 6 marks?**

To gain full marks, candidates must provide valid responses to all aspects of the question. The following guidance is available in the specimen question paper:

Mandatory questions, part (a):

- Candidates who give valid responses to only two question prompts can gain a maximum of 5 marks.
- Candidates who give valid responses to only one question prompt can gain a maximum of 4 marks.

Optional questions, part (a):

- Candidates who give valid responses to only two question prompts can gain a maximum of 7 marks.
- Candidates who give valid responses to only one question prompt can gain a maximum of 6 marks.

## Useful links

- [National 5 Art and Design webpage](#)
- [National 5 Art and Design course specification and course support notes](#)
- [National 5 Art and Design specimen question paper](#)
- [National Qualifications past papers and marking instructions](#)
- [SQA Academy Art and Design question paper courses](#)
- [Understanding Standards – question paper examples with commentaries](#)

- [Understanding Standards – audio presentations](#)