



Group Award Specification for:

HNC in Marketing Communications

Group Award Code: GN5H 15

and

HND in Advertising and PR

Group Award Code: GN5G 16

Validation date: November 2017

Date of original publication: January 2018

Version: 08 (June 2023)

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	General	1
1.2	Introduction	1
1.3	Titles of the group awards	1
1.4	Qualification progression pathway	2
2	Qualifications structure	4
2.1	Structures	4
2.1.1	HNC in Marketing Communications	4
2.1.2	HND in Advertising and PR	7
3	Aims of the qualifications	9
3.1	General aims of the qualifications	9
3.2	Specific aims of the qualifications	9
3.3	Graded units	10
4	Recommended entry to the qualifications	10
4.1	Prior qualifications	10
4.2	Work experience	11
4.3	Entry to Year 2 of HND in Advertising and Public Relations	11
4.4	Core Skills entry profile	11
5	Additional benefits of the qualification in meeting employer needs	13
5.1	Mapping of qualification aims to mandatory units	14
5.2	Mapping of National Occupational Standards (NOS) and/or trade body standards to mandatory units	16
5.3	Mapping of Core Skills development opportunities to the mandatory units	19
5.4	Assessment strategy for the qualifications	21
6	Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment	25
6.2	Sequencing/integration of units	25
6.3	Recognition of prior learning	27
6.3.1	Articulation and/or progression	27
6.3.2	Professional recognition	28
6.3.3	Transitional arrangements	29
6.3.4	Credit transfer	29
6.4	Opportunities for e-assessment	30
6.5	Support materials	30
6.6	Resource requirements	30
7	General information for centres	31
8	Glossary of terms	32
9	General information for learners	34
	Appendix 1: Recommended Delivery Schedule — HND Advertising and PR	36

1 Introduction

1.1 General

This document was previously known as the Arrangements document. The purpose of this document is to:

- ◆ assist centres to implement, deliver and manage the qualification.
- ◆ provide a guide for new staff involved in offering the qualification.
- ◆ inform course managers teaching staff, assessors, learners, employers and HEIs of the aims and purpose of the qualification.
- ◆ provide details of the range of learners the qualification is suitable for and progression opportunities.

1.2 Introduction

The two group awards, ie HNC in Marketing Communications and HND in Advertising and PR, will replace the two current awards, entitled HNC in Advertising and Public Relations and HND in Advertising and Public Relations. In response to the scoping and consultation exercise undertaken, these group awards are:

- ◆ The HNC in Marketing Communications which has been designed to provide learners with the relevant knowledge and skills for entry level jobs in marketing, advertising and public relations. It provides a greater focus on practical skills, particularly in the use of professional digital and social media techniques in marketing communications, while still ensuring a solid grounding in the basic marketing theory and practice needed to progress to the HND Award or into introductory level employment in the sector. The focus of the HNC Award is introduction to marketing; marketing research; advertising and the advertising industry; PR; marketing planning; social media; digital marketing communications of website and content development, including use of analytics, SEO, etc. There is a wide range of optional units in marketing, advertising and PR, as well as business-related subjects to allow centres flexibility to meet local needs and demands.
- ◆ HND in Advertising and PR which further develops learners' skills in both traditional and digital areas of marketing research; consumer behaviour; campaign planning in advertising and public relations (PR); media; copywriting and corporate identity. There is a wide range of optional units in advertising, PR and marketing topics, including practical creative and digital aspects of advertising and PR. There are also business-related subjects such as customer care, project management, managing and working with people, sales, financial accounting, etc to allow learners to progress to Higher Education (HE) or enter employment.

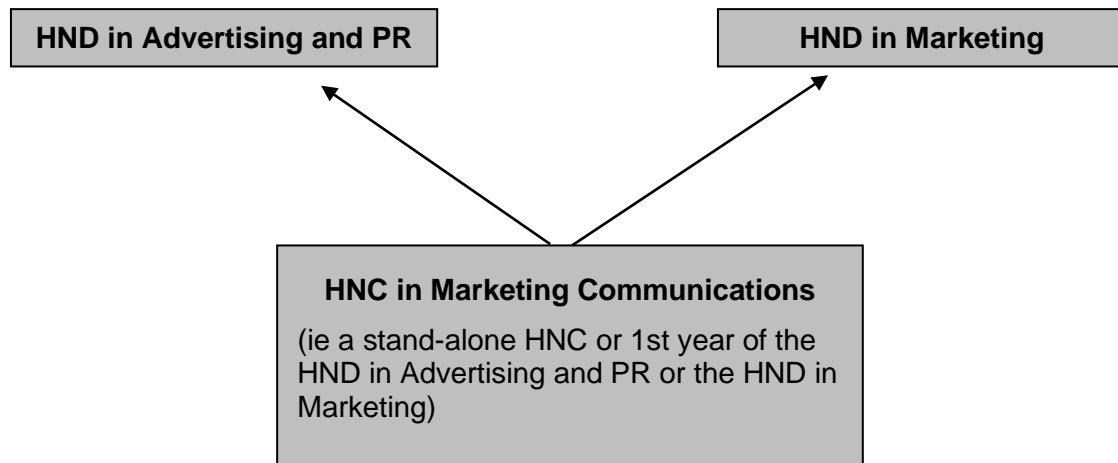
1.3 Titles of the group awards

HNC Award: Consultation was undertaken on the title of this award using a selection of possible titles which reflected the focus of the award. However, when the validation panel considered the proposed title, ie HNC in Marketing Communications (Advertising and PR), it recommended a more appropriate title of **HNC in Marketing Communications** as this more accurately reflects the content of the award.

HND Award: The existing title, HND in Advertising and PR has been retained as it is widely recognised and respected, and reflects the purpose of the group award.

1.4 Qualification progression pathway

The HNC in Marketing Communications is common to both the HND in Advertising and PR and the HND in Marketing as shown below:



The table below highlights progression opportunities to and from the HNC/HND:

SCQF level	NQ	HNC/HND/Degree Programmes	SVQs/Competence qualifications/Professional Body
11		MSc Creative Advertising	CIM Chartered Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing
10		BA(Hons) Communication, Advertising and PR BA (Hons) Public Relations BA (Hons) Marketing BA (Hons) Media BA (Hons) Marketing and Business	CIM Professional Diploma in Marketing CIM Digital Diploma in Professional Marketing
9		BA Communication, Advertising and PR BA Public Relations BA Marketing BA Media BA Marketing and Business	
8		HND Advertising and PR HND in Marketing	CAM Diploma in Digital CIPR Marketing Professional Certificate in Public Relations
7		HNC Marketing Communications	CIM Professional Certificate in Marketing
6	NC Advertising and PR Higher Business Management		CIM Introductory Certificate in Marketing
5	NPA Business and Marketing		
4	NPA Business and Marketing		

2 Qualifications structure

2.1 Structures

2.1.1 HNC in Marketing Communications

The HNC in Marketing Communications has been designed so that it meets SQA's Design Principles, ie it will be achieved on completion of 12 SQA credits/96 SCQF credit points. At least 48 SCQF credit points must be at SCQF level 7 and the mandatory section must contain at least 48 SCQF credit points. The HNC also includes one graded unit (8 SCQF credit points) at SCQF level 7.

Mandatory units — Learners must achieve all mandatory units (ie 8 SQA credits/64 SCQF credits)

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
F7BX	34	Marketing: An Introduction	1	8	7
HK55	34	Advertising: The Advertising Industry	1	8	7
HC2P	34	Public Relations: Principles and Practice	1	8	7
HH9T	34	Marketing Research Theory	1	8	7
HW09	34	Marketing Planning: An Introduction	1	8	7
HX3V	34	Digital Marketing Communications: Website Tools and Techniques	1	8	7
HH6C	34	Digital Marketing Communications: Content Development	1	8	7
HX47	34	Marketing Communications: Graded Unit 1	1	8	7
		Total mandatory credits	8		

Optional units

Learners must achieve optional units totaling 4 SQA credits, 32 SCQF credit points.

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
HP8D	34	Advertising: Media Sales and Buying	1	8	7
J5MA	34*	Consumer Behaviour and the Marketing Process	1	8	7
HP8G	35	Direct Marketing	1	8	8
HC2N	35	Advertising: Media Research	1	8	8
DH4C	34	Media Analysis: Advertisements	1	8	7
FD69	34	Digital Imaging	1	8	7
DX33	35	Digital Imaging Project	1	8	8
HC2R	34	Marketing Communications: An Introduction	2	16	7
DG6W	34	Principles and Practices of Selling	1	8	7
FK8G	35	Sales Planning	1	8	8
DV8P	35	Marketing Relationships	1	8	8
HC4A	35	Marketing: Brand Management	1	8	8
H8PD	34	International Marketing: An Introduction	1	8	7
F7R3	35	International Marketing: The Mix	1	8	8
DV8F	34	Services Marketing	1	8	7
DV8G	35	Contemporary Marketing Issues	1	8	8
DV76	34	Advertising: Research and Planning a Local Campaign	1	8	7
DV74	35	Advertising: Developing a Campaign	1	8	8
DV77	35	Consumer Behaviour: Research and Applications	1	8	8
HW04	35	Marketing Communications: Investigation	2	16	8
H1F0	34	Creating a Culture of Customer Care	1	8	7
		Maximum of one law unit may be selected:	1	8	7
J3J2	34	Law and the Media			
DH8K	34	Law and the Communications Industry			
DV99	34	Commercial Law for Marketing			
J7GH	34*	Media and the Law			
F3HT	34	Personal Enterprise Skills	1	8	7
FF44	35	Creative Industries: Enterprise Activity	1	8	8
J462	34*	Economic Issues: An Introduction	1	8	7
J56G	35*	Economics: Micro and Macro Theory and Application	1	8	8
F1MF	34	Organisations and Management	1	8	7
FK8K	35	Managing Marketing Resources	1	8	8
H1F2	34	Management: Leadership at Work	1	8	7
H358	34	Supply Chain Logistics: An Introduction	1	8	7
H35A	34	Supply Chain Service Levels: Setting the Standards	1	8	7
F1NH	34	Project Management: An Introduction	1	8	7
F93K	34	Financial Accounting Statements: An Introduction	1	8	7
F93H	34	Using Financial Accounting Statements	1	8	7
D7MD	35	European Media: Analysis and Investigation	1	8	8
H8W8*	34	Big Data	1	8	7

HT9W*	34	Social Media	1	8	7
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* Refer to History of Changes for revision changes

2.1.2 HND in Advertising and PR

The HND in Advertising and PR has been designed to meet SQA's Design Principles, ie it will be achieved on completion of 30 SQA credits/240 SCQF credit points. At least 64 SCQF credit points must be at SCQF level 8 and the mandatory section must contain at least 96 SCQF credit points. The HND also includes two graded units, ie 8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7 [*Marketing Communications: Graded Unit 1*] and 16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8 [*Advertising and PR: Graded Unit 2*].

Mandatory units — Learners must achieve all mandatory units, ie 20 SQA credits/160 SCQF credits

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
F7BX	34	Marketing: An Introduction	1	8	7
HK55	34	Advertising: The Advertising Industry	1	8	7
HC2P	34	Public Relations: Principles and Practice	1	8	7
HH9T	34	Marketing Research Theory	1	8	7
HW09	34	Marketing Planning: An Introduction	1	8	7
HX3V	34	Digital Marketing Communications: Website Tools and Techniques	1	8	7
HH6C	34	Digital Marketing Communications: Content Development	1	8	7
HX47	34	Marketing Communications: Graded Unit 1	1	8	7
HP8D	34	Advertising: Media Sales and Buying	1	8	7
J5MA	34*	Consumer Behaviour and the Marketing Process	1	8	7
HP8E	35	Copywriting	1	8	7
HW0A	35	Advertising and PR: Developing a Digital Advertising and PR Campaign	2	16	8
HC49	35	Public Relations: Strategic Analysis, Planning and Application	2	16	8
HW06	35	Marketing Research Applications	1	8	8
HP8F	35	Corporate Identity	1	8	8
HC4A	35	Marketing: Brand Management	1	8	8
HX49	35	Advertising and PR: Graded Unit 2	2	16	8
		Total mandatory credits	20		

Optional units — Learners must achieve optional units totaling 10 SQA credits/80 SCQF credit points

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
HC2N	35	Advertising: Media Research	1	8	8
DH4C	34	Media Analysis: Advertisements	1	8	7
DV76	34	Advertising: Research and Planning a Local Campaign	1	8	7
DV74	35	Advertising: Developing a Campaign	1	8	8
FM0Y	35	Sales Promotion	1	8	8
DG6W	34	Principles and Practices of Selling	1	8	7
HW05	35	Professional Sales: Principles and Practices	1	8	8
FK8G	35	Sales Planning	1	8	8
DV8P	35	Marketing Relationships	1	8	8
H8PD	34	International Marketing: An Introduction	1	8	7
F7R3	35	International Marketing: The Mix	1	8	8
DV77	35	Consumer Behaviour: Research and Applications	1	8	8
HW04	35	Marketing Communications: Investigation	2	16	8
HP8G	35	Direct Marketing	1	8	8
HC2R	34	Marketing Communications: An Introduction	2	16	7
FD69	34	Digital Imaging	1	8	7
DX33	35	Digital Imaging Project	1	8	8
H1F0	34	Creating a Culture of Customer Care	1	8	7
		Max of one law unit may be selected:	1	8	7
J3J2	34	Law and the Media			
DH8K	34	Law and the Communications Industry			
DV99	34	Commercial Law for Marketing			
J7GH	34*	Media and the Law			
F3HT	34	Personal Enterprise Skills	1	8	7
FF44	35	Creative Industries: Enterprise Activity	1	8	8
J462	34*	Economic Issues: An Introduction	1	8	7
J56G	35*	Economics: Micro and Macro Theory and Application	1	8	8
F1MF	34	Organisations and Management	1	8	7
H1F2	34	Management: Leadership at Work	1	8	7
H358	34	Supply Chain Logistics: An Introduction	1	8	7
H35A	34	Supply Chain Service Levels: Setting the Standards	1	8	7
F1NH	34	Project Management: An Introduction	1	8	7
F93K	34	Financial Accounting Statements: An Introduction	1	8	7
F93H	34	Using Financial Accounting Statements	1	8	7
D7MD	35	European Media: Analysis and Investigation	1	8	8
DV8G*	35	Contemporary Marketing Issues	1	8	8
HT9W*	34	Social Media	1	8	7
H8W8*	34	Big Data	1	8	7

*Refer to History of Changes for revision changes

3 Aims of the qualifications

The HNC in Marketing Communications and the HND in Advertising and PR are designed to provide learners with the skills and competences which will allow them to pursue a range of opportunities in employment, HE and professional development.

3.1 General aims of the qualifications

The HNC in Marketing Communications and HND in Advertising and PR have the following **general** aims to:

- 1 enable learners to develop a range of Core Skills in *Communication, Problem Solving; Working with Others; Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* and *Numeracy* as required by employers and for progression in higher/professional education.
- 2 develop an individual personally and vocationally within the SCQF.
- 3 offer individual learners the opportunity to acquire up to date and transferable skills in marketing, advertising and PR.
- 4 develop independent study and research skills.
- 5 provide a degree of choice for learners to enable them to pursue a range of different employment opportunities and HE pathways within the field of marketing, advertising, PR and business.

3.2 Specific aims of the qualifications

For the HNC in Marketing Communications: the group award and individual units provide the opportunity to:

- 6 prepare learners for employment in marketing, advertising, PR and media roles at a junior/introductory level across private and public sector agencies, consultancies and industry.
- 7 develop the learner's knowledge and skills in marketing communications with specific reference to digital and traditional techniques for marketing, advertising and PR.
- 8 prepare learners for progression to further studies in marketing at HND level or to 1st or 2nd year entry of HE or professional qualifications in either marketing or advertising, PR, or non-related qualifications.

For the HND in Advertising and PR: the group award and individual units provide the opportunity to:

- 9 prepare learners for employment in a range of advertising, PR and media roles at a trainee manager or executive level across private and public sector agencies, consultancies and industry.
- 10 provide learners with a range of contemporary vocational skills in advertising, PR and media, as well as practical skills in areas such as market research, copywriting, creative technologies and digital and social media.
- 11 prepare learners for progression to 2nd or 3rd year entry to HE in advertising, PR, marketing or non-related qualifications.
- 12 prepare learners for progression to advanced professional qualifications in either advertising, PR, marketing and communications.

3.3 Graded units

Graded units are designed to assess the learner's ability to retain the knowledge and/or skills gained in the units of the group awards; to grade the learner's achievement and to meet the key aims of the group awards.

Both graded units for these group awards are project-based units (practical assignments) as it is felt that the skills developed in planning, developing and evaluating projects are best suited for learners entering the various career paths in marketing, advertising and PR and therefore meet the aims of both awards.

As required by the HN Design Principles, the HNC in Marketing Communications and the HND in Advertising and PR contain two graded units, which learners must achieve:

- ◆ For the HNC Award, learners must achieve the *Marketing Communications: Graded Unit 1* which is one single credit graded unit at SCQF level 7.
- ◆ For the HND Award, learners must achieve the *Advertising and PR: Graded Unit 2* which is a double credit (16 SCQF credit points) graded unit at SCQF level 8; together with the *Marketing Communications: Graded Unit 1* from the HNC Award.

These graded units reflect the structures of the awards. Assessment exemplars for the graded units will be available and the case studies will clearly reflect the differences in the SCQF level of the unit specifications, as well as the input required by learners.

4 Recommended entry to the qualifications

Entry to the qualifications is at the discretion of the centre. The following information on prior knowledge, skills, experience or qualifications that provide suitable preparation for this qualification has been provided by the Qualification Design Team (QDT) as guidance only.

Learners would benefit from having attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by one or more of the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

4.1 Prior qualifications

- ◆ Relevant National Qualifications or National Qualification Group Awards at SCQF level 5 or 6.
- ◆ Any two National Qualifications at Higher level (preferably including Higher English) together with three National 5 passes.
- ◆ Appropriate groupings of National Units, for example those focussing on marketing, market research, advertising, media studies or general business studies.
- ◆ An SVQ at SCQF level 5 or 6 in a relevant area.
- ◆ Different combinations of National Qualifications, Vocational Qualifications and equivalent qualifications from other awarding bodies in relevant areas.
- ◆ For learners where English is not their first language, it is recommended that they possess *English for Speakers of Other languages (ESOL)* at SCQF level 5 or an overall score of 5.5 in IELTS.

4.2 Work experience

Those with relevant work experience but without appropriate qualifications may be accepted for entry if the enrolling centre is satisfied that the learner has a reasonable expectation of successfully completing the group award. This may be established through a written application, face-to-face interview or other means as deemed appropriate by the centre.

4.3 Entry to Year 2 of HND in Advertising and Public Relations

In order to achieve the HND in Advertising and PR, learners must gain a total of 30 HN credits from the appropriate parts of the qualification structure. Access to second year of the HND in Advertising and PR typically varies between a requirement to have a minimum of between 12 and 15 credits — usually including all of the HNC in Marketing Communications mandatory units.

4.4 Core Skills entry profile

The Core Skill entry profile provides a summary of the associated assessment activities that exemplify why a particular level has been recommended for this qualification. The information should be used to identify if additional learning support needs to be put in place for learners whose Core Skills profile is below the recommended entry level or whether learners should be encouraged to do an alternative level or learning programme.

Across units in both awards, learners undertake a wide range of assessment activities which require learners to already have developed skills in *Communication*, *Numeracy* and *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)*. They will also encounter tasks, projects and assignments that require problem solving skills and will have to work with others on many occasions in teams/small groups (reflecting industry practice). It is therefore recommended that learners possess the following minimum Core Skills or equivalent on entry to the HND in Advertising and PR.

Core Skill	Recommended SCQF entry profile	Associated assessment activities
Communication	5	Production of a wide range of structured reports and plans to professional industry standards; a range of written and oral presentations, eg for marketing, promotion, and advertising and PR campaign proposals; creation of accurate, creative and persuasive digital content; creative advertising and PR ideas; press releases; clear copywriting; production of complex questionnaires; deal with objection handling and Q&A sessions; creation of wikis, blogs, activity logs.

Core Skill	Recommended SCQF entry profile	Associated assessment activities
Numeracy	5	Analysis and interpretation of market information and marketing research data and survey results; use of analytics; construct attitude scales/coding plans for market research; application of statistical techniques.
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	5	Website design and content; creation of social media platforms; online research; use of digital software and tools such as content management systems, online research tools and questionnaires, etc SEO; development of digital PR and advertising campaigns; use of relevant ICT tools and digital applications to support presentations.
Problem Solving	4	Marketing planning; qualitative and quantitative research; seek solutions to a wide range of clients' briefs and case studies by planning, producing and presenting proposals; undertaking communication audit; website and digital/social media analyses; evaluation and review of, eg research methodologies, proposals created, etc.
Working with Others	4	Group working and assessment, ie working in small groups/pairs to reflect industry practice such as to research, develop and present proposals then deal with client questioning, objection handling, Q&A, etc.

5 Additional benefits of the qualification in meeting employer needs

These qualifications were designed to meet a specific purpose and what follows are details on how that purpose has been met through mapping of the units to the aims of the qualification.

Through meeting the aims, additional value has been achieved by linking the HN Unit standards with those defined in National Occupational Standards (NOS) and/or trade/professional body requirements. In addition, significant opportunities exist for learners to develop the more generic skill, known as Core Skills through doing these qualifications.

5.1 Mapping of qualification aims to mandatory units

This mapping refers to the both the general and specific aims outlined earlier (in Section 3).

Code	Unit title	Gen Aim	Gen Aim	Gen Aim	Gen Aim	Gen Aim	Spec Aim	Spec Aim	Spec Aim	Spec Aim	Spec Aim	Spec Aim	Spec Aim
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
F7BX 34	Marketing: An Introduction	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
HK55 34	Advertising: The Advertising Industry	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
HC2P 34	Public Relations: Principles and Practice	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
HH9T 34	Marketing Research Theory	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
HW09 34	Marketing Planning: An Introduction	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
HH6A 34	Digital Marketing Communications: Website Development	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
HH6C 34	Digital Marketing Communications: Content Development	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
HX47 34	Marketing Communications: Graded Unit 1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
HP8D 34	Advertising: Media Buying and Sales	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
J5MA 34	Consumer Behaviour and the Marketing Process	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
HP8E 35	Copywriting	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
HW0A 35	Advertising and PR: Developing a Digital Advertising and PR Campaign	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Code	Unit title	Gen Aim	Gen Aim	Gen Aim	Gen Aim	Gen Aim	Spec Aim	Spec Aim	Spec Aim	Spec Aim	Spec Aim	Spec Aim	Spec Aim
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
HC49 35	Public Relations: Strategic Analysis, Planning and Application	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
HW06 35	Marketing Research Applications	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
HP8F 35	Corporate Identity	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
HX49 35	Advertising and PR: Graded Unit 2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

5.2 Mapping of National Occupational Standards (NOS) and/or trade body standards to mandatory units

(NB: The full NOS titles are listed below this table)

Code	Unit title	NOS																								
		CFAMAR1	CFAMAR2	CFAMAR3	CFAMAR4	CFAMAR5	CFAMAR6	CFAMAR8	CFAMAR9	CFAMAR10	CFAMAR11	CFAMAR12	CFAMAR13	CFAMAR14	CFAMAR15	CFAMAR17	CFAMAR23	CFAMAR24	CFAPRE01	CFAPR02	CFAPR04	CFAPR06	CFAPR08	CFAPR10	CFAPR11	
F7BX 34	Marketing: An Introduction					X	X		X	X	X					X	X									
HK55 34	Advertising: The Advertising Industry		X	X		X	X		X	X	X					X										
HC2P 34	Public Relations: Principles and Practice		X	X		X	X		X	X	X					X		X	X	X	X	X				
HH9T 34	Marketing Research Theory	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X					X										
HX3V 34	Digital Marketing Communications: Website tools and Techniques		X	X		X	X		X	X	X					X	X	X								
HH6C 34	Digital Marketing Communications: Content Development		X	X		X	X		X	X	X					X	X	X								
HW09 34	Marketing Planning: An Introduction					X	X				X					X										
HX47 34	Marketing Communications: Graded unit 1		X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
HP8D 34	Advertising: Media Buying and Sales	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X										

Code	Unit title	NOS																								
		CFAMAR1	CFAMAR2	CFAMAR3	CFAMAR4	CFAMAR5	CFAMAR6	CFAMAR8	CFAMAR9	CFAMAR10	CFAMAR11	CFAMAR12	CFAMAR13	CFAMAR14	CFAMAR15	CFAMAR17	CFAMAR23	CFAMAR24	CFAPRE01	CFAPR02	CFAPR04	CFAPR06	CFAPR08	CFAPR10	CFAPR11	
J5MA 34	Consumer Behaviour and the Marketing Process					X	X									X	X									
HP8E 35	Copywriting					X	X		X	X						X										
HW0A 35	Advertising and PR: Developing a Digital Advertising and PR Campaign	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
HC49 35	Public Relations: Strategic Analysis, Planning and Application	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
HW06 35	Marketing Research Applications	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X																
HP8F 35	Corporate Identity			X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X								
HX49 35	Advertising and PR: Graded unit 2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	17	23	24	01	02	04	06	08	10	11	

CFA No.	NOS Title
CFAMAR1	Design and plan marketing research
CFAMAR2	Collect marketing research data
CFAMAR3	Analyse marketing research data
CFAMAR4	Interpret and present marketing research findings
CFAMAR5	Develop a customer insight strategy
CFAMAR6	Implement and evaluate a customer insight strategy
CFAMAR8	Obtain stakeholder feedback
CFAMAR9	Develop a customer-focused organisation
CFAMAR10	Ensure marketing activities comply with legal, regulatory and ethical requirements
CFAMAR11	Assess market opportunities
CFAMAR12	Create and evolve a marketing strategy for an organisation
CFAMAR13	Develop brand strategy
CFAMAR14	Manage brand identity
CFAMAR15	Manage brand and corporate reputation
CFAMAR17	Identify market segments
CFAMAR23	Develop a strategy and plan for marketing campaigns or activities
CFAMAR24	Develop the creative content for a marketing campaign or activity
CFAPRE01	Develop an understanding of the organisation's environment
CFAPRE02	Develop audience insights
CFAPRE04	Develop public relations plans
CFAPRE06	Engage stakeholders
CFAPRE08	Engage audiences through digital, including social media
CFAPRE10	Manage reputation
CFAPRE11	Manage public relations crises

5.3 Mapping of Core Skills development opportunities to the mandatory units

This table outlines the Core Skills that will be developed in each unit.

E = Embedded the Core Skill/Core Skill component is embedded within the unit which means that learners who achieve the unit will automatically have their Core Skills profile updated on their certificate.

S = Signposted which means learners will be developing aspects of Core Skills through teaching and learning approaches but not enough to attract automatic certification.

Unit code	Unit title	Communication			Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving			Working with Others	
		Written (Reading)	Written (Writing)	Oral	Using Number	Using Graphical Information	Accessing Information	Providing/Creating Information	Critical Thinking	Planning and Organising	Reviewing and Evaluating	Working Co-operatively with Others	Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
F7BX 34	Marketing: An Introduction	S	S	S					S	S	S		
HK55 34	Advertising: The Advertising Industry	S	S	S			S	S	S		S		
HC2P 34	Public Relations: Principles and Practice	S	S	S			S	S	E	S	S		
HH9T 34	Marketing Research Theory	S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S			
HW09 34	Marketing Planning: An Introduction	S	S		S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
HX3V 34	Digital Marketing Communications: Website Tools and Techniques	S	S				S	S	S				
HH6C 34	Digital Marketing Communications: Content Development	S	S	S			S	S	E		S		
HX47 34	Marketing Communications: Graded Unit 1	S	S	S			S	S	S	S	S		

Unit code	Unit title	Communication			Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving			Working with Others	
		Written (Reading)	Written (Writing)	Oral	Using Number	Using Graphical Information	Accessing Information	Providing/Creating Information	Critical Thinking	Planning and Organising	Reviewing and Evaluating	Working Co-operatively with Others	Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
HP8D 34	Advertising: Media Buying and Sales	S	S	S	S	S	F	S	F	F	S	S	S
J5MA 34	Consumer Behaviour and the Marketing Process	S	S	S			S	S	S		S		
HP8E 35	Copywriting	S	S	S		S	S	S	F	S	F		
HW0A 35	Advertising and PR: Developing a Digital Advertising and PR Campaign	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
HC49 35	Public Relations: Strategic Analysis, Planning and Application	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	F	F	F	S	S
HW06 35	Marketing Research Applications	S	S	S	S	S	F	F	F	F	F	S	
HP8F 35	Corporate Identity	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	F	F	S		
HX49 35	Advertising and PR: Graded Unit 2	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	

5.4 Assessment strategy for the qualifications

Each unit specification includes evidence requirements and assessment guidance. The evidence requirements are mandatory but the majority of units do not stipulate the method of assessment to allow centres flexibility to provide more creative or innovative forms of assessment. The table below provides details of the suggested assessment methods.

Unit	Assessment			
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4
F7BX 34 Marketing: An Introduction	Open-book. Structured questions or case study or project.	Open-book. Structured questions or case study or project.		
HK55 34 Advertising: The Advertising Industry	Open-book. This unit could be assessed holistically by a portfolio of evidence covering all three outcomes or could be assessed outcome by outcome. Each outcome could be assessed by means of a short report/document and/or a presentation.			
HC2P 34 Public Relations: Principles and Practice	Open-book. Extended responses to a range of structured questions.	Production of a range of PR materials.		
HH9T 34 Marketing Research Theory	The explanatory nature of Outcome 1 lends itself to an assessment along the lines of a set of structured questions requiring extended responses, completed under controlled conditions.	Restricted open-book and supervised conditions. Extended responses on various research methodologies.	Justification of sampling method and design of a questionnaire for the research project.	

Unit	Assessment			
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4
HW09 34 Marketing Planning: An Introduction	Closed-book. Responses to questions	Closed-book. Responses to questions	Open-book. Production of internal and external audit; and SWOT analysis.	
HX3V 34 Digital Marketing Communications: Website Tools and Techniques	Open-book. Responses to set of restricted response questions. Or integrated with Outcomes 2 and 3 in the form of a client presentation	Open-book. Responses to set of restricted response questions. Or integrated with Outcomes 1 and 3 in the form of a client presentation.	Creation of a website using a CMS system template. Could be integrated with Outcomes 1 and 2 in the form of a presentation to a client showcasing their proposed website.	
HH6C 34 Digital Marketing Communications: Content Development	Open-book. Theoretical evidence covering the importance of social media in marketing and the development of a social media marketing plan. Practical evidence covering the creation of three social media platforms.	Open-book. Theoretical evidence covering the importance of SEO. Creation of website content and links to designated websites.	Open-book. Practical evidence of the use of website analytical tools. Report or presentation summarising website and social media analytics findings.	

Unit	Assessment			
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4
HX47 34 Marketing Communications: Graded Unit 1	Practical assignment (project) completed under open-book conditions. The project task involves the production of an outline proposal for a marketing communications campaign in response to a client brief including a presentation.			
HP8D 34 Advertising: Media Buying and Sales	Restricted open-book with set of structured questions.	Written report based on short project.	Group oral presentation of media proposals.	
J5MA 34 Consumer Behaviour and the Marketing Process	Set of structured questions based on a case study or other piece of stimulus material.	Set of structured questions based on a case study or other piece of stimulus material.		
HP8E 35 Copywriting	Restricted open-book with set of structured questions.	Oral presentation/pitch of proposed copy.		
HW0A 35 Advertising and PR: Developing a Digital Advertising and PR Campaign	Open-book. Outcomes 1 and 2 assessed holistically by research and development of proposals for a digital Advertising and PR campaign.		Oral presentation of campaign proposals.	
HC49 35 Public Relations: Strategic Analysis, Planning and Application	Open-book. Development of an outline PR campaign proposal.	Oral presentation of outline PR campaign proposals.	Open-book. Development of PR proposals for a damage limitation campaign. Group activity.	Oral presentation of PR proposals for a damage limitation campaign. Group activity.

Unit	Assessment			
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4
HW06 35 Marketing Research Applications	Open-book. All three outcomes can be assessed holistically by an assignment or a project or individually. If assessing individually the assessment could take the form of the learner undertaking qualitative research and outlining the outcomes either through an oral presentation or wiki or a blog.	Open-book. All three outcomes can be assessed holistically by an assignment or a project or individually. If assessing individually the assessment could take the form of the learner constructing a digital, online questionnaire appropriate to a brief.	Open-book. All three outcomes can be assessed holistically by an assignment or a project or individually. If assessing individually the assessment could take the form of a presentation detailing the questionnaire findings.	
HP8F 35 Corporate Identity	Open-book based on a set of structured questions.	Open-book. Evaluation of the corporate identity of three organisations.	Oral presentation of proposal for new corporate identity.	
HX49 35 Advertising and PR: Graded Unit 2	Project in the form of a practical assignment based on case study/stimulus materials.			

6 Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment

The HNC in Marketing Communications and HND in Advertising and PR are designed for learners who want to progress to HE or entering employment in a wide range of careers in advertising, PR, media and marketing-related careers. These group awards have been designed to enable learners to develop the skills to enter at trainee manager or executive level in a wide variety of private and public organisations, where job opportunities exist in both in-house departments and specialist agencies in marketing communications, advertising, PR, market research, selling and promotion.

This group award aims to develop the learner's practical, interpersonal, presentation and social skills which stakeholders have identified as important requirements.

The group award also prepares learners for progression to a range of further programmes of study either in higher education or professional qualifications as outlined earlier.

6.2 Sequencing/integration of units

The units across the HNC in Marketing Communications and the HND in Advertising and PR have been sequenced to allow the learners to progress from a basic initial understanding of advertising, public relations and marketing, to then develop a greater understanding of the role and function of these activities in industry — but focussing more on the specific skills, knowledge and practical/creative activities of advertising and PR. Indeed, the HND in Advertising and PR places increased emphasis on providing the opportunity to apply the theory by developing practical skills, both traditional and digital, in research, analysis and planning of advertising and public relations. With this in mind, the graded unit assessments take the form of practical assignments for both the HNC and HND.

In the HNC Marketing Communications, it is recommended that units delivering introductory knowledge and skills in marketing and marketing communications are delivered early on in the programme as these cover introductory knowledge and skills in marketing, advertising, PR and marketing communications.

Such units are:

- ◆ *Marketing: An Introduction*
- ◆ *Marketing Research Theory*
- ◆ *Advertising: The Advertising Industry*
- ◆ *Public Relations: Principles and Practice*
- ◆ *Marketing Planning*

From an early stage, and throughout first year, there are opportunities to develop appropriate ICT skills, particularly in marketing communications across a range of units, eg by using ICT to access relevant marketing communications information and using appropriate software to create websites, use website tools and techniques, develop website content, marketing information, assessment materials, etc.

In the second year of the HND in Advertising and PR, it is recommended the following units are delivered early:

- ◆ *Consumer Behaviour and the Marketing Process*
- ◆ *Public Relations: Strategic Analysis, Planning and Application*
- ◆ *Marketing Research Applications*
- ◆ *Copywriting*
- ◆ *Advertising and PR: Developing a Digital Advertising and PR Campaign*

Learners need to be made aware that the rapid growth of digital media has had a significant impact on marketing communications, advertising and PR — and that new forms of digital marketing techniques will be emerging all the time. It is important to ensure that where appropriate, learners are made aware of and introduced to the benefits of different forms of digital marketing communications. However, while covering these areas, it is vital that teaching should emphasise the need for digital techniques to be integrated with more traditional marketing communication techniques.

Learners are likely to be very familiar with and use, for example, social media, blogs etc. Teaching should therefore include the **professional** use of digital and social media, as well as the importance and advantages of these in the business context — such as obtaining real-time feedback; facilitating anywhere/anytime marketing; helping get a deeper understanding of consumer behaviour, etc.

The HND in Advertising and PR places a greater emphasis on a holistic approach to assessment — with either combinations of outcomes assessed together or entire units being assessed — to allow the learners to participate in the learning process in a holistic way. The unit specifications in the HND in Advertising and PR therefore include guidance on assessment which can include both open and closed-book assessments; project and practical exercises and presentations, including the use of the internet for social networking.

The graded units, as well as encapsulating the key aims of both the HNC in Marketing Communications and the HND in Advertising and PR, provide the opportunity for learners to integrate and apply the knowledge and skills learned from individual units. For this reason, it is recommended that both Graded units should be delivered after the mandatory units have commenced for both awards. However, the graded units could also be timetabled to be spread over the whole academic session, eg the *Marketing Communications: Graded Unit 1* could also be timetabled for one hour per week in Year 1 and the *Advertising and PR: Graded Unit 2* for two hours per week in Year 2.

It is recommended that throughout the delivery of the awards, centres should encourage learners to develop creative, innovative and entrepreneurial skills which are so important to the future growth of both the sector and the wider economy. Also, to give learners maximum benefit from the HND in Advertising and PR, centres should consider ongoing relevant industry contact (eg visiting lectures from industry professionals) with particular emphasis on the fast-changing environment of digital marketing and social media communications.

Further guidance on delivery can be found at Appendix 1.

6.3 Recognition of prior learning

SQA recognises that learners gain knowledge and skills acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning contexts.

In some instances, a full group award may be achieved through the recognition of prior learning. However, it is unlikely that a learner would have the appropriate prior learning and experience to meet all the requirements of a full group award.

The recognition of prior learning may **not** be used as a method of assessing in the following types of units and assessments:

- ◆ HN Graded Units
- ◆ Course and/or external assessments
- ◆ Other integrative assessment units (which may or not be graded)
- ◆ Certain types of assessment instruments where the standard may be compromised by not using the same assessment method outlined in the unit
- ◆ Where there is an existing requirement for a licence to practice
- ◆ Where there are specific health and safety requirements
- ◆ Where there are regulatory, professional or other statutory requirements
- ◆ Where otherwise specified in an assessment strategy

More information and guidance on the *Recognition of Prior Learning* (RPL) may be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk.

The following sub-sections outline how existing SQA unit(s) may contribute to this group award. Additionally, they also outline how this group award may be recognised for professional and articulation purposes.

6.3.1 Articulation and/or progression

Progression routes from further education into university have become harmonised over recent years. Many universities and FE colleges have concluded formal arrangement for articulation. Where 'matching' degree programmes exist, it is now generally standardised as second year entry for HNC learners and third year entry for HND learners. Generally, universities are looking for at least 'B' passes in the graded units.

The HNC in Marketing Communications and HND in Advertising and PR can provide entry variously into 2nd and 3rd year of degree programmes. However, some university degree programmes require specific subjects to be included in the award; for example — economics, finance or management subjects. These group awards therefore provide a range of optional units in order to accommodate these requirements. Other universities will consider entry on an individual basis.

A large number of related degree programmes are offered at a range of HE institutions throughout Scotland and these are listed below.

University	Degree Programme
Edinburgh Napier University	BA (Hons) Communication, Advertising and PR BA (Hons) Marketing Management BA (Hons) Marketing Management with Consumer Studies BA (Hons) Marketing Management with Entrepreneurship BA (Hons) Marketing Management with Languages BA (Hons) Marketing with Digital Media
Glasgow Caledonian University	BA (Hons) Marketing BA (Hons) Media BA (Hons) Multimedia Journalism BA (Hons) Social Science and Media BA (Hons) International Retail Marketing BA (Hons) International Fashion Branding BA (Hons) International Marketing BA (Hons) International Business and Marketing
Heriot-Watt University	BA Business with Marketing
Queen Margaret University	BA/BA (Hons) Public Relations, Marketing and Events
Robert Gordon University	BA (Hons) Public Relations BA Management with Marketing
University of Abertay, Dundee	BA (Hons) Marketing and Business
University of Dundee	MA Business Economics and Marketing
University of Stirling	BA Marketing BA Digital Media
University of Strathclyde	BA Marketing
University of the West of Scotland	BA Marketing

6.3.2 Professional recognition

Successful learners could also progress to qualifications from a range of professional bodies in this area, eg:

- ◆ Professional PR Certificate (CIPR)
- ◆ Certificate and/or Diploma and/or Digital Diploma in Professional Marketing (CIM)
- ◆ Diploma in Digital Marketing (CAM)
- ◆ Institute of Direct and Digital Marketing (IDM) qualifications
- ◆ IPA qualifications

6.3.3 Transitional arrangements

As the aims and content of the previous and revised group award are broadly the same, learners in the transitional phase should not be adversely affected. The following outlines possible scenarios and ways of crediting learners' previous achievement:

- ◆ Learners who have been certificated for the current HNC in Advertising and Public Relations (GC84 15) will be able to complete the current HND in Advertising and Public Relations (GC85 16) using either current or revised units. The current HND Advertising and Public Relations (GC85 16) framework will incorporate the revised units where these have been identified as direct replacements.
- ◆ Where learners have partially completed the previous HNC in Advertising and Public Relations (GC84 15) via a number of discrete units, credit transfer will need to be agreed on a unit-by-unit basis.
- ◆ Where learners have partially completed the previous HND in Advertising and Public Relations (GC84 16) via a number of discrete units, credit transfer will need to be agreed on a unit-by-unit basis.

6.3.4 Credit transfer

Credit transfer can be given where there is broad equivalence between the subject related content of the unit (or combination of units). Learners who are given credit transfer between the previous HN Units and new/revised HN Units must still satisfy all other conditions of SQA's HN Design Principles, including the mandatory units and the correct number of credits at the correct SCQF level.

Guidance on unit-by-unit credit transfer of Advertising and PR units is available in the following table which lists current and old units with their credit transfer conditions.

Decisions about credit transfer is subject to the centre's internal verification processes.

Title new unit (credit value)	Title old unit (credit value)	Credit transfer conditions (credit value)
Advertising: The Advertising Industry HK55 34 (1)	Advertising: The Advertising Industry DV72 34 (1)	Full transfer
Public Relations: Principles and Practice HC2P 34 (1)	Public Relations: Principles and Practice FK8N 34 (1)	Full transfer
Public Relations: Strategic Analysis, Planning and Application HC49 35 (2)	Public Relations: Strategic Analysis, Planning and Application FM10 35 (2)	Full transfer
Marketing Research Theory HH9T 34 (1)	Marketing Research Theory FK8M 34 (1)	Full transfer
Marketing Research Applications HW06 35 (1)	Marketing Research Applications FK8L 35 (1)	Full transfer
Marketing Communications: An Introduction HC2R 34 (2)	Principles of Promotional DV8V 34 (2)	Full transfer
Professional Sales: Principles and Practices HW05 35	Principle and Practice of Selling DG6W 34 (1)	Outcome 3 only

Title new unit (credit value)	Title old unit (credit value)	Credit transfer conditions (credit value)
Advertising: Media Sales and Buying HP8D 34 (1)	Advertising: Media Sales H2CM 34 (1) and FK8H 34 (1)	Full transfer
Copywriting HP8E35 (1)	Advertising: Copywriting DV73 34 (1)	Full transfer
Marketing Communications: Investigation HW04 35 (2)	Industrial Investigation DV7935 (2)	Full transfer
Corporate Identity HP8F 35 (1)	Corporate Identity DV78 35 (1)	Full transfer
Direct Marketing HP8G 35 (1)	Direct Marketing FK8J 35 (1)	Full transfer
Advertising: Media Research HC2N 35 (1)	Advertising Research Technique for Media Sales DV71 35 (1)	Full transfer
Marketing: Brand Management HC4A 35 (1)	Marketing Brand Management DV8M 35 (1)	Full transfer

Apart from the graded units, all other advertising and PR mandatory and optional units remain unchanged.

6.4 Opportunities for e-assessment

There are opportunities for parts of this programme to be delivered by e-learning/e-assessment such as the use of e-portfolios, wikis, blogs, etc.

SQA is currently working with centres to produce e-assessments for the theory requirements of two mandatory units, ie *Digital Marketing Communications: Website Development* and *Digital Marketing Communications: Content Development*. These assessments will be available from SOLAR which is SQA's e-Assessment service. SOLAR uses secure onscreen assessment solutions called SecureAssess, which is now the UK's leading e-assessment solution and only requires a browser and internet access. More information on SOLAR can be found at the following link: www.sqasolar.org.uk

6.5 Support materials

SQA, in co-operation with centres, is in the process of producing a wide range of Assessment Support Packs (ASPs) for the mandatory units of the new HNC and the HND. As well as assisting individual assessors/tutors to make assessment decisions, these ASPs help ensure consistency and standardisation of assessment across centres. And as outlined above, SQA are working with centres to produce e-assessments for the theory requirements of *Digital Marketing Communications Website Development* and *Content Development* units.

6.6 Resource requirements

Centres should ensure that they have the appropriate resources and equipment to deliver these group awards. In particular, suitably qualified staff with up to date knowledge and expertise in traditional and digital areas of marketing, advertising, public relations and the media. It is also important that centres provide the necessary IT equipment and software required to support the delivery of these group awards.

7 General information for centres

Equality and inclusion

The unit specifications making up this group award have been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners will be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

Internal and external verification

All instruments of assessment used within this/these qualification(s) 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* (www.sqa.org.uk/GuideToAssessment).

8 Glossary of terms

Embedded Core Skills: is where the assessment evidence for the unit also includes full evidence for complete Core Skill or Core Skill components. A learner successfully completing the unit will be automatically certificated for the Core Skill. (This depends on the unit having been successfully audited and validated for Core Skills certification.)

Graded unit: Graded units assess learners' ability to integrate what they have learned while working towards the units of the group award. Their purpose is to add value to the group award, making it more than the sum of its parts, and to encourage learners to retain and adapt their skills and knowledge.

Group award: An alternative term which can be used for qualification.

SQA credit value: The credit value allocated to a unit gives an indication of the contribution the Unit makes to an SQA group award. An SQA credit value of 1 given to an SQA unit represents approximately 40 hours of programmed learning, teaching and assessment.

SCQF: The Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) provides the national common framework for describing all relevant programmes of learning and qualifications in Scotland. SCQF terminology is used 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: SCQF credit points provide a means of describing and comparing the amount of learning that is required to complete a qualification at a given level of the Framework. One National Unit credit is equivalent to 6 SCQF credit points. One National Unit credit at Advanced Higher and one Higher National unit credit (irrespective of level) is equivalent to 8 SCQF credit points.

SCQF levels: The level a qualification is assigned within the framework is an indication of how hard it is to achieve. The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. HNCs and HNDs are available at SCQF levels 7 and 8 respectively. Higher National units will normally be at levels 6–9 and Graded units will be at level 7 and 8. 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.

Signposted Core Skills: refers to opportunities to develop Core Skills arise in learning and teaching but are not automatically certificated.

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. Centres are advised to check SQA's APS Navigator to confirm they are using the up to date qualification structure.

NOTE: Where a unit is revised by another unit:

- ◆ No new centres may be approved to offer the unit which has been revised.
- ◆ Centres should only enter learners for the unit which has been revised where they are expected to complete the unit before its finish date.

Version Number	Description	Date
08	Revision of unit: J3J2 34 Law and the Media has been revised by J7GH 34 Media and the Law. The HN unit: Law and the Media J3J2 34 will finish on 31/07/2025.	19/06/23
07	Addition of Units: Big Data (H8W8 34) and Social Media (HT9W 34) have been added as optional units to the HND Framework	13/07/22
06	Addition of Units: Big Data (H8W8 34) added to HNC framework as an Optional unit. Social Media (HT9W 34) added to HNC framework as an Optional unit.	26/11/21
05	Revision of Units: DG6L 34 Consumer Behaviour and the Marketing Process (finish date 31/07/2023) has been replaced by J5MA 34 Consumer Behaviour and the Marketing Process (start date 01/08/2021) for both frameworks	24/08/21
03	Revision of Unit: DV8G 35 Contemporary Marketing Issues added as an optional unit to HND framework	17/08/20
02	Revision of Unit: F7J8 34 Economics Issues: An Introduction (finished 31/07/2021) has been replaced by J462 34 Economics Issues: An Introduction (start date 01/08/2020) for both frameworks	26/04/20

Acknowledgement

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of this qualification.

9 General information for learners

This section will help you decide whether this is the qualification for you by explaining what the qualification is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the qualification and opportunities for further learning and employment.

The HNC in Marketing Communications and HND in Advertising and PR are designed to equip you with the knowledge, understanding and skills to allow you to gain employment in the areas of advertising, public relations (PR), marketing and media or to progress to higher education and/or professional body qualifications.

HNC in Marketing Communications

This qualification at SCQF level 7 offers a blend of traditional and digital marketing subjects such as the 4 Ps of marketing; traditional advertising (eg in newspapers); developing professional press releases; use of social media; website tools, techniques and content; SEO and analytics, etc. The mandatory section includes the following subjects:

- ◆ Marketing (the 4 Ps)
- ◆ Advertising
- ◆ Public Relations
- ◆ Market research
- ◆ Digital marketing communications (including web tools, techniques and content development)
- ◆ Marketing planning

It also offers you units in other relevant marketing topics, as well as wider areas such as, business, economics, law, management, etc. Your centre will provide you with details of the optional units available in addition to the mandatory subjects.

HND in Advertising and PR

This qualification builds on the HNC in Marketing Communications — but this time focuses on developing more advanced traditional and digital skills in advertising and PR, particularly in marketing research, analysis and campaign planning, consumer behaviour, copywriting and corporate identity. This is therefore a higher level award, ie SCQF level 8 which is comparable with a 2nd year of a degree programme. In addition to the topics covered in the HNC in Marketing Communications, the mandatory section also covers areas such as:

- ◆ PR strategy, analysis and planning
- ◆ Marketing research applications
- ◆ Copywriting
- ◆ Developing digital advertising and PR campaigns
- ◆ Advertising — media sales and buying
- ◆ Corporate identity

In addition, there is a range of optional units which cover relevant advertising and PR topics such as creative digital imaging; media research of adverts; European media; sales/selling, etc, as well as wider subjects, such as project management, customer service, enterprise, financial accounting, supply chain/logistics, etc.

There is a wide range of assessments involved in the qualification, ranging from production of reports (eg on marketing research you have undertaken), responding to questions and case study materials, production of advertising and PR campaigns (digital and traditional), doing presentations, developing e-portfolios of evidence, working in groups, etc. Your centre will outline clearly all assessments arrangements.

The award includes two graded units (one in first year and one in second year), which are designed to assess your ability to retain and integrate the knowledge and skills gained in the awards and also, to grade your achievement. There are three grades:

- A — if you achieve 70% or over
- B — if you achieve between 60% and 69%
- C — if you achieve between 50% and 59%

Both graded units are projects in the form of a practical assignment:

- ◆ In Year 1, your graded unit is an assignment in which you will undertake research and produce and present proposals for a marketing communications campaign for a client.
- ◆ In Year 2, your graded unit is an assignment where you are required to address the corporate communications needs of an organisation and to plan, develop and evaluate your proposals for an advertising and PR campaign for a client. This will be in the form of a professional report and presentation to the client.

Depending on how your centre delivers and assesses the HND in Advertising and PR, there will be many opportunities for you to develop Core Skills — in particular in *Communication, Problem Solving, Numeracy, Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* and *Working with Others*.

Good luck with your studies.

Appendix 1: Recommended Delivery Schedule — HND Advertising and PR

HNC MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS — YEAR 1			HND ADVERTISING AND PR — YEAR 2		
Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 1	Block 2	Block 3
Marketing: An Introduction	Marketing Planning: An Introduction	Graded Unit 1 (1 credit)	Corporate Identity	HND Graded Unit 2 (2 credits)	
Advertising: The Advertising Industry	Option 1: Advertising: Media Sales and Buying	Option 2:	Public Relations: Strategic Analysis, Planning and Application (2 credits)		Option 5:
Public Relations: Principles and Practice	Digital Marketing Communications: Website Tools and Techniques	Digital Marketing Communications: Content Development	Marketing Research Applications	Option 6: (1 x 2 credit unit or 2 x 1 credit units)	
Marketing Research Theory	Consumer Behaviour and the Marketing Process	Copywriting	Advertising: Media Sales and Buying	Option 7: Sales Promotion	Option 8: Creating a Culture of Customer Care
Option 3: Financial Accounting Statements: An Introduction	Option 3: Economic Issues: An Introduction	Option 4: Advertising: Research and Planning a Local Campaign	Advertising: Developing a Digital Advertising and PR Campaign (2 credits)		Option 9:

NB: It is not compulsory to deliver the options suggested above. The project based graded units could also be timetabled to be spread over the whole academic session, eg the *Graded Unit 1* could also be timetabled for one hour per week and the *Graded Unit 2* for two hours per week across the whole year.

The above recommended HNC delivery schedule outlines a programme for full-time learners who are likely to be completing 15 credits rather than 12 credits.