



Advanced Higher  
Coursework  
Assessment Task



# Advanced Higher Art and Design (Design)

## Portfolio

## Assessment task

This document provides information for teachers and lecturers about the coursework component of this course in terms of the skills, knowledge and understanding that are assessed. It **must** be read in conjunction with the course specification.

**Valid from session 2023-24 and until further notice.**

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# Contents

Introduction	1
Instructions for teachers and lecturers	2
Marking instructions	5
Instructions for candidates	9

# Introduction

This document contains instructions for teachers and lecturers, marking instructions and instructions for candidates for the Advanced Higher Art and Design (Design) portfolio. You must read it in conjunction with the course specification.

This portfolio is worth 100 marks. This is 100% of the overall marks for the course assessment.

This portfolio has three sections.

**Section 1** 'practical design work' has 64 marks.

**Section 2** 'contextual analysis' has 30 marks.

**Section 3** 'evaluation' has 6 marks.

# Instructions for teachers and lecturers

## Setting, conducting and marking the portfolio

The portfolio allows candidates to demonstrate their ability to work independently. It is sufficiently open and flexible to allow personalisation and choice.

The portfolio is:

- ◆ set by centres within SQA guidelines
- ◆ conducted under some supervision and control
- ◆ submitted to SQA for external marking

SQA quality assures all marking.

## Assessment conditions

### Time

Candidates produce their portfolio over an extended period of time. This allows them to develop and resolve their work before presenting it for assessment.

Candidates should start their portfolio when they have developed the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding.

### Supervision, control and authentication

The portfolio is produced under some supervision and control. This means that:

- ◆ candidates do not need to be directly supervised at all times
- ◆ teachers and lecturers can provide reasonable assistance

Teachers and lecturers must ensure that evidence submitted by a candidate is the candidate's own work.

### Resources

There are no restrictions on the resources candidates may access while producing their portfolio.

### Reasonable assistance

Candidates must carry out the assessment independently. However, they can receive reasonable assistance before the formal assessment process takes place. The term 'reasonable assistance' is used to balance the need for support with the need to avoid giving too much help. If candidates need more than what is thought to be 'reasonable assistance', they may not be ready for assessment or they may have been entered for the wrong level of qualification.

Teachers and lecturers can give reasonable assistance on a generic basis to a class or a group of candidates (for example, advice on meeting submission dates) and/or to candidates on an individual basis.

Candidates can seek clarification on the portfolio assessment task if they find it unclear. In this case, teachers and lecturers should clarify it for the whole class.

If a candidate is working on their design portfolio and is faced with more than one possible solution to a problem, then teachers and lecturers can discuss the pros and cons of different options with them. The candidate can then decide on a solution based on the discussion.

Once candidates have submitted their evidence, it must not be changed by anyone.

Teachers or lecturers must not provide model answers or writing frames to help candidates complete their contextual analysis or evaluation.

## **Evidence to be gathered**

The following candidate evidence is required for this assessment:

- ◆ portfolio containing:
  - practical design work
  - contextual analysis
  - evaluation

## **Volume**

Candidates can present their work in a variety of ways. The overall minimum size for the practical design work is six single-sided A1 sheets (or equivalent). The overall maximum size must not exceed 12 single-sided A1 sheets or equivalent.

Portfolios must fold to a size not exceeding A1 for submission to SQA.

Sketchbook pages are included in the overall allocation. If only part of a sketchbook is to be marked, the candidate must bookmark the appropriate pages.

Any three-dimensional work submitted counts towards the overall allocation.

Candidates should submit photographic prints, and not the actual work, for the following:

- ◆ two-dimensional work in excess of A1 size
- ◆ work using valuable or expensive material
- ◆ work of a fragile nature
- ◆ work which is large, heavy or otherwise difficult to handle

Digital submissions should not exceed five minutes.

If the practical design work exceeds the maximum, a penalty is applied.

The contextual analysis has a maximum of 2,000 words. If the word count exceeds the maximum by more than 10%, a penalty is applied.

Candidates must complete their evaluations on the SQA template and attach it to the first sheet of the portfolio. There is no word count, but candidates must not exceed the space given on the template (approximately 400 words).

More information on portfolio submission is available on SQA's [Advanced Higher Art and Design \(Design\) subject page](#).

# Marking instructions

In line with SQA's normal practice, the following marking instructions for the Advanced Higher Art and Design (Design) portfolio are addressed to the marker. They will also be helpful for those preparing candidates for course assessment.

Candidates' evidence is submitted to SQA for external marking.

## General marking principles

Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.

- a Always use positive marking. This means candidates accumulate marks for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding; marks are not deducted for errors or omissions.
- b If a candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed marking instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your team leader.
- c If the practical design work exceeds the maximum of 12 single-sided A1 sheets or equivalent, a penalty is applied. If you believe that the practical design work is more than the maximum, mark the candidate's work as normal, then refer this to the principal assessor. You must state clearly that the candidate's practical design work is being referred because it is over the limit.
- d If the word count for the contextual analysis exceeds the maximum by 10%, a penalty is applied. If you believe that the contextual analysis is more than 10% over the word limit, mark the candidate's work as normal, then refer this to the principal assessor. You must state clearly that the candidate's contextual analysis is being referred because it is over the word limit.
- e When marking the portfolio, you must refer to specific descriptions of competence for different mark ranges and allocate marks for each section of the portfolio using a 'best fit' approach.
- f The band descriptions define the expected level and the standard of evidence expected at the mid-point of the band range. Select the band descriptor that most closely describes the evidence before calibrating accordingly within the mark range. The examples below illustrate this.

Section 1 of the portfolio includes an 8-mark range. When you have decided on the 'best fit' mark range, use your professional judgement to allocate a mark as follows:

- ◆ If the candidate's evidence almost matches the level above, award one of the three highest available marks from the range.
- ◆ If the evidence does not meet the standard described, award one of the three lowest marks from the range.
- ◆ Otherwise, award one of the two middle marks in the range.

Section 3 of the portfolio includes a 5-mark range. When you have decided on the 'best fit' mark range, use your professional judgement to allocate a mark as follows:

- ◆ If the evidence almost matches the level above, award one of the two highest marks in the range.
- ◆ If the evidence does not meet the standard described, award one of the two lowest marks in the range.
- ◆ Otherwise, award the middle mark in the range.



## Detailed marking instructions

Section 1: practical design work			64 marks
Candidates provide evidence of their ability to respond to their design brief by producing a visually coherent and sustained design process. This should show relevant investigative research and development leading to the effective resolution and realisation of design work.			
0-8	9-16	17-24	25-32
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ incomplete design enquiry</li> <li>◆ some investigative research</li> <li>◆ ineffective development</li> <li>◆ limited resolution and realisation of design work</li> <li>◆ limited visual coherence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ partially sustained design enquiry</li> <li>◆ some relevant investigative research</li> <li>◆ partially effective development</li> <li>◆ partially effective resolution and realisation of design work</li> <li>◆ some visual coherence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ sustained design enquiry</li> <li>◆ relevant investigative research</li> <li>◆ effective development</li> <li>◆ effective resolution and realisation of design work</li> <li>◆ clear visual coherence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ sustained and thorough design enquiry</li> <li>◆ highly relevant investigative research</li> <li>◆ highly effective development</li> <li>◆ highly effective resolution and realisation of design work</li> <li>◆ strong visual coherence</li> </ul>
Candidates provide evidence of their ability to apply their understanding of design practice by skilfully and creatively using materials, techniques and/or technology to explore and experiment with design elements.			
0-8	9-16	17-24	25-32
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ limited effective use of materials, techniques and/or technology</li> <li>◆ limited effective exploration and experimentation with design elements</li> <li>◆ limited applied understanding of design practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ partially effective, skilful and creative use of materials, techniques and/or technology</li> <li>◆ partially effective exploration and experimentation with design elements</li> <li>◆ partially effective applied understanding of design practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ effective, skilful and creative use of materials, techniques and/or technology</li> <li>◆ effective exploration and experimentation with design elements</li> <li>◆ effective applied understanding of design practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ highly effective, skilful and creative use of materials, techniques and/or technology</li> <li>◆ highly effective exploration and experimentation with design elements</li> <li>◆ highly effective applied understanding of design practice</li> </ul>

<b>Section 2: contextual analysis</b>					<b>30 marks</b>	
Candidates provide evidence of their ability to select a design work with relevance to their practical design work and discuss the impact of related contexts through analysis of the features of the design work.						
0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ limited discussion of the impact of related contexts</li> <li>◆ limited analysis of the features of the design work</li> <li>◆ limited relevance to the practical design work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ basic discussion of the impact of related contexts</li> <li>◆ basic analysis of the features of the design work</li> <li>◆ generalised relevance to the practical design work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ partially effective discussion of the impact of related contexts</li> <li>◆ partially effective analysis of the features of the design work</li> <li>◆ some focus and relevance to the practical design work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ broadly effective discussion of the impact of related contexts</li> <li>◆ broadly effective analysis of the features of the design work</li> <li>◆ focus and relevance to the practical design work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ effective discussion of the impact of related contexts</li> <li>◆ effective analysis of the features of the design work</li> <li>◆ clear focus and relevance to the practical design work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ highly effective discussion of the impact of related contexts</li> <li>◆ highly effective analysis of the features of the design work</li> <li>◆ clear focus and high level of relevance to the practical design work</li> </ul>	

<b>Section 3: evaluation</b>			<b>6 marks</b>
Candidates provide evidence of their ability to evaluate the impact of creative decisions and the effectiveness of their design work with reference to the design brief, creative intentions and specific turning points.			
0-2	3-4	5-6	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ partially effective, justified critical evaluation with some reference to the design brief, creative intentions and specific turning points</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ effective, justified critical evaluation with clear reference to the design brief, creative intentions and specific turning points</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ highly effective, justified critical evaluation with clear and detailed reference to the design brief, creative intentions and specific turning points</li> </ul>	

# Instructions for candidates

This assessment applies to the portfolio for Advanced Higher Art and Design (Design).

This portfolio is worth 100 marks. This is 100% of the overall marks for the course assessment.

It assesses the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ responding to your design brief by producing a visually coherent and sustained design process, showing relevant investigative research and development, leading to the effective resolution and realisation of design work
- ◆ applying an understanding of design practice by skilfully and creatively using materials, techniques and/or technology to explore and experiment with design elements
- ◆ selecting a design work with relevance to your practical design work and discussing the impact of related contexts through analysing the features of the design work
- ◆ evaluating the impact of creative decisions and the effectiveness of your design work with reference to your design brief, creative intentions and specific turning points

This portfolio has three sections.

**Section 1** 'practical design work' has 64 marks.

**Section 2** 'contextual analysis' has 30 marks.

**Section 3** 'evaluation' has 6 marks.

Your teacher or lecturer will let you know if there are any specific conditions for doing this assessment.

## Portfolio assessment task

### Section 1: practical design work

64 marks

In this part of the assessment, you have to:

- ◆ select a design brief
- ◆ produce and compile relevant and focused investigative research in response to your design brief, which may include:
  - relevant drawings and images
  - market research
  - investigation of appropriate materials, techniques and technology
  - exploration of relevant cultural contexts, designers' work and practice
- ◆ working from your investigative research, produce development work. Consider how you will:
  - creatively explore and experiment with materials, techniques and/or technology
  - use design elements to apply your understanding of design practice
  - resolve your idea(s)
- ◆ working from your development, produce design solution(s). Your design solution(s) should:
  - resolve and realise your idea(s)
  - have visual continuity with your investigative research and development
  - show your applied personal understanding of design practice

### Section 2: contextual analysis of a design work

30 marks

In this part of the assessment, you have to:

- ◆ select a design work from your investigative research that influenced your own practical design work. Produce a contextual analysis of this design work including:
  - the name of your selected design work
  - a title identifying the focus of your contextual analysis in relation to this design work
  - a discussion of how related social, cultural and/or other contexts impacted on the features of the design work
  - analysis of the features of the design work and their contribution to the work as a whole
  - clearly-captioned images of your selected design work and other visuals you have included
  - a list of the specific sources of information you used

Do not include discussion of your own work in your contextual analysis.

'Context' means the situation in which a design work was created and in which it can be fully understood. A wide range of contexts impact on design work. These may be interpreted broadly, and include (but are not limited to):

**Section 2: contextual analysis of a design work****30 marks**

- ◆ influence of other design works, designers, design movements
- ◆ visual culture, including the media and popular culture
- ◆ living conditions, including economic conditions
- ◆ social and cultural expectations
- ◆ influence of family and community
- ◆ exposure to different cultures
- ◆ physical environment and geography
- ◆ new and emerging technologies and materials
- ◆ politics
- ◆ gender
- ◆ religion and beliefs
- ◆ national and world events
- ◆ developments in other fields, for example science, literature, psychology
- ◆ personal circumstances
- ◆ health and wellbeing

You should decide which are the most relevant and important contexts relating to your selected design work.

**Section 3: evaluation****6 marks**

In this part of the assessment, you have to:

- ◆ evaluate your portfolio of design work. You must use the SQA template for your evaluation. On this template:
  - give a summary of your design brief
  - briefly explain how your contextual analysis relates to your practical design work
  - evaluate the impact of important creative decisions and the effectiveness of your design work, referring to the design brief, creative intentions and specific turning points

Review, edit and present your work for assessment.

### Presenting your work

You must present and prepare your portfolio of evidence with minimum support from your teacher or lecturer.

You can present your work in a variety of ways. The minimum size for your practical design work is six single-sided A1 sheets (or equivalent). The overall maximum size must not exceed 12 single-sided A1 sheets (or equivalent).

Your portfolio must fold to a size not exceeding A1 for submission to SQA.

You can present some or all of your work in a sketchbook(s). Sketchbook pages are included in your overall allocation. (For example, one A1 sheet is equivalent to four A3 sketchbook pages or eight A4 sketchbook pages.)

You must bookmark the appropriate pages if only part of a sketchbook is to be marked.

Number your sheets or sketchbooks in the order you want the marker to view them.

Any three-dimensional work submitted counts towards your overall allocation.

You should submit photographic prints, and not the actual work, for the following:

- ◆ two-dimensional work in excess of A1 size
- ◆ work using valuable or expensive material
- ◆ work of a fragile nature
- ◆ work which is large, heavy or otherwise difficult to handle

Digital submissions must not exceed five minutes.

If your practical design work exceeds the maximum, a penalty is applied. You should include the size of your portfolio on your flyleaf.

Your contextual analysis has a maximum of 2,000 words. You should include the word count on your flyleaf. If the word count exceeds the maximum by more than 10%, a penalty is applied.

Complete your evaluation on the SQA template and attach it to the first sheet of your portfolio. There is no word count, but you must not exceed the space given on the template (approximately 400 words).

# Administrative information

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## History of changes

Version	Description of change	Date
2.0	'Instructions for teachers and lecturers' section, 'Marking instructions' section and 'Instructions for candidates' section: we have reduced the volume of practical work for the design portfolio from 8–16 A1 sheets (or equivalent) to 6–12 A1 sheets (or equivalent).	May 2023

Note: you are advised to check SQA's website to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of this document.

## Security and confidentiality

This document can be used by SQA approved centres for the assessment of National Courses and not for any other purpose.

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