



August 2021

Subject guidance for internally assessed qualifications in 2021–22

Please read this document in conjunction with guidance for the assessment of internally assessed qualifications issued to centres in August 2020.

Group Award titles:	HNC Art and Design HND Art and Design
Group Award codes:	G8KY 15 G8L0 16

Introduction

This subject-specific supplementary guidance has been produced to assist centres to deliver the HNC and HND Art and Design and to find ways to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 restrictions. It focuses on supporting achievement of the HNC and HND Art and Design while maintaining the integrity of the qualification.

Adaptations to evidence requirements to help manage assessment

Higher National units

Centres can use the flexibilities that were introduced by SQA in August 2020, including integrating assessment and changing closed-book assessments to open-book assessments.

Please refer to the document, *Supporting the delivery, assessment and verification of SQA units, session 2021–22: Information and guidance for centres* published in August 2020.

Graded units

The need to complete the assessment of graded units (exam-based and project-based) in HNC, HND and SQA Advanced Qualifications for session 2021–22 was removed, with some exceptions, in November 2020.

Please refer to the document, *Guidance on gathering key evidence for Higher National Graded Units in session 2021–22*.

These adaptations will help maximise time available for learning and teaching, ensure that the validity and integrity of the HNC and HND Art and Design is maintained and will help to ensure the safety of lecturers and learners.

Summary

This document provides information on the following:

- ◆ guidance on delivery and assessment
- ◆ planning for assessment
- ◆ course planning and timetabling
- ◆ specific group award aims
- ◆ general advice
- ◆ additional units added

Delivery and assessment

We are very grateful for the contributions and cooperation of our college colleagues in the production of this guidance. From the discussions, it was clear that all centres delivering art and design shared similar issues on how and what can be delivered to new and existing students:

- ◆ timetabling
- ◆ access to colleges and specialist equipment
- ◆ logistics involved in managing student numbers in classroom/studio settings
- ◆ compliance with government guidelines
- ◆ health and safety requirements — both general (ie college-wide) and specific to these qualifications
- ◆ course planning and assessment

Planning for assessment

The qualifications support team (QST) members are aware that, in accordance with the general guidance issued by SQA in August 2020, it is necessary for learners to generate evidence which demonstrates that all outcomes of all units have been met. The emphasis is on planning and taking a whole course team approach to implement a combined approach to the collection of evidence generated by the learner. This should result in reducing assessment requirements by addressing duplication or overlapping assessment. The QST listed the following advice:

- ◆ Make use of combined instruments of assessment
- ◆ Adaptations to current instruments of assessment

In addition to this the option of free prior verification is available. This was to ensure any combined assessments created or adaptations made by centres would meet the SQA core principles of assessment:

- ◆ Valid
- ◆ Reliable

- ◆ Practicable
- ◆ Equitable and fair

This guarantees that the National Standards will be upheld, during the current COVID-19 restrictions.

If a centre has not made use of the free prior verification service, then the centre should clearly record all the adaptations made or combined assessments created to any instruments of assessment. If the above options have not been employed, then the following actions should be taken.

1. Mandatory units:

- ◆ Review unit evidence requirements closely.
- ◆ Review and adapt instrument of assessment
- ◆ Remember that guidance on delivery assumes studio/college-based delivery and access to resources. Assessors should consider carefully if delivery and assessment can be adapted in the current circumstances to provide opportunity for the candidate to meet the mandatory evidence requirements

2. Optional units:

- ◆ Review unit evidence requirements closely.
- ◆ Review and adapt instrument of assessment where possible.
- ◆ Where possible swap unit for alternative that is less reliant on access to specialist resources.

3. Remove Graded Unit to allow for the additional time required to be utilised across all other units within the award.

4. Grade holistically based on all group award course aims: Broad, General and Specific listed below.

Broad aims of the group awards

All HNCs and HNDs have a range of broad aims that are generally applicable to all equivalent HE qualifications.

- ◆ developing knowledge and skills — planning, analysis and synthesising
- ◆ developing skills for employment and enhancing employment prospects
- ◆ enabling progression in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)
- ◆ developing study and research skills
- ◆ developing options to permit an element of vocational specialisation
- ◆ preparing candidates for progression to further studies in specific subjects or related disciplines

General aims of the Group Awards

The HNC and HND in Art and Design share the following list of general aims:

- ◆ to enable progression within the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)

- ◆ to develop critical thinking skills and evaluative processes
- ◆ to develop problem-solving and project and time-management skills
- ◆ to develop communication skills and presentation techniques
- ◆ to develop the ability to be flexible and to work cooperatively with others (citizenship and A Curriculum for Excellence [ACfE] four capacities)
- ◆ to develop personal effectiveness and professional practice through the development of IT and research skills
- ◆ to provide opportunities for career planning and progression to employment or further study and providing opportunities for personal development planning

Specific aims of the Group Awards

The subject-specific related aims of both the HNC and HND are to:

- ◆ develop an understanding of interdisciplinary connections between the various subject areas within Art and Design
- ◆ develop a critical thinking capacity and reflective evaluation processes within the visual arts
- ◆ develop awareness of the cultural, sustainable and industrial contexts in which Art and Design functions
- ◆ develop candidate's creative processes and visual language
- ◆ refine and demonstrate applied knowledge of a broad range of Art and Design skills in 2-D and/or 3-D areas
- ◆ develop a broad-based curricula that can facilitate vocational specialism taking account of relevant health and safety considerations

At HND level the first five specific aims listed will be further consolidated and extended within the context of SCQF levelling of unit content.

The QST recommends that all holistic approaches being taken to assessment are recorded in a matrix-style format, which clearly maps each unit to its corresponding Group Award Course Aim.

Course planning and timetabling

The general guidance provides detailed information on this. However, in addition, consideration should be given to the potential impact of delivering individual units over two years. This may affect learners who may be unable or choose not to continue after Year 1. It is, therefore, important that all learners have the opportunity to meet the conditions of award for the HNC. Ensuring that all mandatory units for the HNC are delivered is essential when planning for Year 1 of the HND.

General advice

- ◆ Where reference has been made to specific commercial software by the centre, alternatives should be sought that are available to all.
- ◆ Where references have been made to live model, by the centre, previous guidance made available to centres by EV Team Cognate Group 65 in September 2020 should be utilised.

- ◆ Where reference has been made to supervised assessment in terms of authentication of the learner's work by the centre, it is strongly suggested that regular 1-to-1 engagement with all learners will support assessors in determining authentication of the work being presented for assessment.
- ◆ Where reference has been made to the range of sources available for specific unit Art and Design: Context, under current COVID-19 restrictions online sources would suffice. However, sources used should be varied within that online sphere: television, film, documentary, lecture, talk, websites, online reference books. All sources should be effectively referenced.

Additions to framework to enhance flexibility

The following units have been added to the optional section and other optional units may be added over time:

- ◆ Printmaking in Multiple Layers (DX64 35)
- ◆ Observational Drawing Portfolio (DX38 35)
- ◆ Contemporary Art Practice: Introduction to Digital Artform (F1CJ 34)

This guidance and will be updated as required on an ongoing basis.

If you have any questions, please contact qualification.development@sqa.org.uk.