



National 3
Course
Specification



National 3 Art and Design Course Specification (C704 73)

Valid from August 2023

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Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Course Specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

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Course outline

Course title: National 3 Art and Design

SCQF: level 3 (18 SCQF credit points)

Course code: C704 73

Mandatory Units

H202 73 Art and Design: Expressive Activity (National 3) 9 SCQF credit points
Or

**H6NL 73 Art and Design: Expressive Activity
with a Scottish Context (National 3)* 9 SCQF credit points**

And either

H204 73 Art and Design: Design Activity (National 3) 9 SCQF credit points
Or

**H6NM 73 Art and Design: Design Activity
with a Scottish Context (National 3)* 9 SCQF credit points**

*Scottish Studies Award contributing Unit: This Course Specification should be read in conjunction with the relevant Scottish Studies Unit Specification on the [Scottish Studies Award web page](#).

Recommended entry

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ National 2 Creative Arts Course or related Units

In terms of prior learning and experience, relevant experiences and outcomes may also provide an appropriate basis for doing this Course.

Progression

This Course or its Units may provide progression to:

- ◆ other qualifications in Art and Design or related areas
- ◆ further study, employment and/or training

Further details are provided in the Rationale section.

Equality and inclusion

This Course Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. For further information, please refer to the *Course Support Notes*.

Rationale

All new and revised National Courses reflect Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles. They offer flexibility, provide more time for learning, more focus on skills and applying learning, and scope for personalisation and choice.

In this Course, and its component Units, there will be an emphasis on skills development and the application of those skills. Assessment approaches will be proportionate, fit for purpose and will promote best practice, enabling learners to achieve the highest standards they can.

This Course provides learners with opportunities to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities, as well as skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

All Courses provide opportunities for learners to develop breadth, challenge and application, but the focus and balance of the assessment will be appropriate for the subject area.

Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles

The Art and Design Course is practical and experiential in nature and the key focus is developing creativity.

The Course combines practical experiences in expressive and design activities along with developing a basic knowledge and understanding of artists and designers' practice.

The Course provides opportunities for learners to experiment with art and design materials; be imaginative and creative; present basic facts and ideas; and apply practical skills in response to given expressive and design tasks.

Learning through art and design encourages personal creativity and self-expression which will help learners gain confidence in their art and design practice. In addition, the Course encourages learners to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities.

The Course will also develop learners' understanding of artistic and cultural values, identities, and ideas.

Purpose and aims of the Course

The purpose of the Course is to provide a broad practical experience of art and design practice and related knowledge and understanding.

The Course encourages learners to experiment with and use a variety of art and design materials, techniques and/or technology.

The Course offers learners opportunities to develop their practical skills at a basic level by communicating their thoughts and ideas when creating expressive and design work.

Further, it offers learners opportunities to develop basic knowledge and understanding of art and design practice.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to develop skills in:

- ◆ experimenting and using art and design materials, basic techniques and/or technology to produce expressive and design work
- ◆ communicating thoughts, feelings and ideas through their expressive and design work
- ◆ developing a basic knowledge and understanding of an artist's and a designer's work and practice
- ◆ identifying areas for improvement when reflecting on own work

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course is a broad-based qualification. It is suitable for learners with a general interest in art and design, and for those wanting to progress onto higher levels of study. This qualification will allow learners to consolidate and reinforce skills developed through the experiences and outcomes for art and design and in other expressive arts subjects.

The Course is learner-centred and includes practical and experiential learning opportunities. The learning experiences in the Course are flexible and adaptable, with opportunities for personalisation and choice in both expressive and design contexts. This makes it highly flexible, as it can be contextualised to suit a diverse range of learners' needs and aspirations.

On completing the Course, learners will have developed practical skills in using art and design materials, techniques and/or technology. They will be able to use these to develop creative expressive and design work. Learners will also have developed a basic understanding of the things that inspire and influence artists and designers and their practice.

Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

The Course has an integrated approach to learning, and includes a combination of practical activities in response to given art and design tasks, and supporting knowledge and understanding.

In the Course learners will draw upon their understanding of art and design work and practice as they experiment with using art and design materials, techniques and/or technology to develop their ideas. Each of the two Units covers the processes required for learners to develop basic skills in producing creative expressive and design work.

The Units also enable learners to develop a basic knowledge and understanding of art and design practice by presenting some simple facts and ideas in relation to art and design practice.

Units are statements of standards for assessment and not programmes of learning and teaching. They can be delivered in a number of ways.

The Course consists of two mandatory Units.

Each of the component Units of the Course is designed to provide progression to the corresponding Units at National 4.

Art and Design: Expressive Activity (National 3)

In this Unit, learners will, with guidance, consider some of the things that inspire artists and will develop a basic understanding of how artists use art materials, techniques and/or technology in their work. They will select, use and experiment with art materials, techniques and/or technology, producing imaginative art work at a basic level in response to chosen stimuli for an expressive art activity.

Art and Design: Design Activity (National 3)

In this Unit, learners will, with guidance, consider some of the things that inspire designers and how they use design materials, techniques and/or technology in their work. They will develop their personal design ideas in 2D and/or 3D work, selecting, using and experimenting with a material, and a technique and/or technology at a basic level when producing design work in response to a given brief.

Conditions of award

To achieve the National 3 Art and Design Course, learners must pass all of the required Units. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section.

National 3 Courses are not graded.

Skills, knowledge and understanding

Full skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course are given in the *Course Support Notes*. A broad overview of the subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be covered in the Course is given in this section. These are:

- ◆ a basic understanding of how materials, techniques and/or technology are used by artists and designers in their work
- ◆ presenting simply expressed facts and opinions about art and design work and the things that have inspired and influenced it
- ◆ producing drawings and studies for given expressive and design tasks
- ◆ using drawings and studies when developing their ideas and art and design work in 2D and/or 3D
- ◆ selecting, experimenting with and using art and design materials, basic techniques and/or technology when developing their art and design work
- ◆ using simple problem solving and planning skills with guidance, within the creative process
- ◆ identifying, with guidance, areas for improvement in their art and design work

Skills, knowledge and understanding to be included in the Course will be appropriate to the SCQF level of the Course. The SCQF level descriptors give further information on characteristics and expected performance at each SCQF level (www.sqa.org.uk/scqf).

Assessment

Further information about assessment for the Course is included in the *Course Support Notes*.

Unit assessment

All Units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in the *Unit Specification*.

They can be assessed on an individual Unit basis or by using other approaches which combine the assessment for more than one Unit.

They will be assessed on a pass/fail basis within centres. SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgments are consistent and meet national standards.

The assessment of the Units in this Course will be as follows.

Art and Design: Expressive Activity (National 3)

For this Unit, learners will be required to provide evidence of a basic knowledge and understanding of an artist's work and practice. They will also produce a variety of simple drawings, studies and related creative development work in 2D and/or 3D formats, in response to chosen stimuli for a given expressive art activity.

Art and Design: Design Activity (National 3)

For this Unit, learners will be required to provide evidence of a basic knowledge and understanding of a designer's work and practice. They will also produce a variety of simple design research and related creative development work in 2D and/or 3D formats in response to a given design brief.

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

It is expected that learners will develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Course are based on SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Course where there are appropriate opportunities.

3 Health and wellbeing

3.1 Personal learning

5 Thinking skills

5.2 Understanding

5.3 Applying

5.5 Creating

Amplification of these skills is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills will be appropriate to the level of the Course. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work for the Course is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Administrative information

Published: May 2023, (version 2.0)

History of changes to National Course Specification

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
1.1	Changes to skills, knowledge and understanding, and to Unit assessment descriptions to match revised Unit Specification wording.	Qualifications Development Manager	June 2013
1.2	Scottish Studies Award contributing Unit information added. No other changes made to document content.	Qualifications Manager	September 2014
2.0	Changes to wording in the 'Course structure and conditions of award' section for Art and Design: Design Activity (National 3): learners can use one design material instead of two.	Qualifications Manager	May 2023

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