



National 5
course
specification



National 5 Fashion and Textile Technology, SCQF Level 5 Course Specification

Course code:	C828 75
Course assessment code:	X828 75
SCQF:	level 5 (24 SCQF credit points)
Valid from:	session 2027–28

The course specification provides detailed information about the course and course assessment to ensure consistent and transparent assessment year on year. It describes the structure of the course and the course assessment in terms of the skills, knowledge and understanding that are assessed.

This document is for teachers and lecturers and contains all the mandatory information you need to deliver the course.

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Course overview

The course consists of 24 SCQF credit points which includes time for preparation for course assessment. The notional length of time for a candidate to complete the course is 160 hours.

The course assessment has three components.

Component	Marks	Duration
Question paper	30	1 hour
Assignment	30	See course assessment section
Practical activity	40	See course assessment section

Recommended entry	Progression
Entry to this course is at the discretion of the centre. Candidates should have achieved the fourth curriculum level or the National 4 Fashion and Textile Technology course or equivalent qualifications and/or experience prior to starting this course. In terms of prior learning and experience, relevant experiences and outcomes may also provide an appropriate basis for doing this course.	◆ Higher Fashion and Textile Technology course ◆ National Progression Awards ◆ other Qualifications Scotland qualifications in health and wellbeing, technologies or related areas ◆ further education or employment/training in textiles, fashion and related fields

Conditions of award

The grade awarded is based on the total marks achieved across all course assessment components.

Course rationale

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.

Every course provides opportunities for candidates to develop breadth, challenge and application. The focus and balance of assessment is tailored to each subject area.

The course uses fashion and textile contexts for developing related technological skills, knowledge, understanding and attributes through fashion and textile-related activities.

The practical learning activities in the course encourage candidates to develop problem-solving techniques, make informed choices and take responsibility for the development of an idea through to the completed item. The course will use underpinning knowledge and focuses on designing, planning, making and evaluating detailed fashion/textile items.

The course allows candidates to continue to acquire the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities, as well as enthusiasm and a willingness to learn; perseverance, resilience and independence; responsibility and reliability; and confidence and enterprise.

Purpose and aims

The purpose of the course is to develop the practical skills, construction techniques and knowledge and understanding which support fashion/textile-related activities. The knowledge, understanding and skills that candidates acquire by successfully completing the course will be valuable for learning, for life and for the world of work.

This course is practical and experiential. Candidates will demonstrate relevant knowledge and understanding, and apply this to planning, making and evaluating fashion/textile items.

Candidates will develop:

- ◆ detailed knowledge of textile properties and characteristics
- ◆ detailed textile construction techniques
- ◆ detailed understanding of factors that influence fashion/textile choices
- ◆ detailed understanding of fashion/textile trends
- ◆ the ability to plan and make detailed fashion/textile items
- ◆ the ability to select, set up, adjust and use relevant tools and equipment safely and correctly
- ◆ detailed investigations to form a suitable solution

The course helps candidates develop an understanding of textile properties, characteristics and technologies, item development, fashion/textile trends and factors that affect fashion/textile choice. Emphasis is placed on the development of practical skills and textile construction techniques to make detailed fashion/textile items, to an appropriate standard of quality.

This course helps candidates to develop important skills, attitudes and attributes that are transferable to other contexts including problem-solving skills and communication skills.

The course may also contribute towards the development of numeracy skills through the measurement of textiles and the timing of production.

Who is this course for?

The course is suitable for all learners with an interest in fashion and textiles who would like to develop practical fashion/textile skills. It is particularly suitable for learners who enjoy experiential learning through practical activities.

This course offers learners opportunities to develop and extend a wide range of fashion and textile related skills, including practical skills and textile construction techniques.

Course activities provide learners with opportunities to develop thinking and decision-making skills and skills in planning, organising and evaluating practical tasks. Learners can also develop skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

Course content

This course has been constructed to facilitate a hierarchical arrangement with the National 4 Fashion and Textile Technology course.

The central theme of the course is to develop practical knowledge, understanding and skills which support fashion/textile-related activities. The course is practical, exploratory and experiential in nature.

This course provides candidates with the opportunity to develop detailed knowledge, understanding and skills related to textile technologies, including the characteristics and properties of a range of textiles and their uses, and to apply this knowledge in practical situations.

Candidates will explore current fashion trends and investigate a range of factors affecting the fashion/textile choices of consumers. They will have the opportunity to develop and apply this knowledge and understanding by carrying out the fashion/textile item development process to develop solutions for detailed fashion/textile items that meet the needs of given briefs.

Candidates will have opportunities to present and explain their solutions for detailed fashion/textile items, with a focus on factors that affect their choice of textiles, construction techniques to be used, and features of the fashion/textile item, in relation to the given brief.

Candidates will have the opportunity to make detailed fashion/textile items, to an appropriate standard of quality, using a range of textile construction techniques, and to demonstrate the selection, setting up, adjustment and use of equipment and tools safely and correctly.

Skills, knowledge and understanding

Skills, knowledge and understanding for the course

The following provides a broad overview of the subject skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the course:

- ◆ detailed understanding of textile characteristics, properties and technologies
- ◆ applying a detailed range of textile construction techniques
- ◆ explaining factors that affect fashion/textile choices
- ◆ explaining fashion/textile trends
- ◆ making detailed fashion/textile items to an appropriate standard of quality
- ◆ demonstrating appropriate selection, set up, adjusting and use of tools and equipment, safely and correctly
- ◆ detailed investigations, solutions and product specifications

Skills, knowledge and understanding for the course assessment

The following provides details of skills, knowledge and understanding sampled in the course assessment:

- ◆ choose textiles based on their characteristics and properties, and evaluate their suitability for different purposes:
 - fibres: natural fibres, regenerated fibres, synthetic fibres
- ◆ types of fabric construction:
 - woven, knitted, felted, bonded
- ◆ explain fashion/textile trends
- ◆ explain the fashion/textile choices of consumers:
 - peer pressure, celebrity/role models, online shopping, environmental issues
- ◆ use investigative techniques to carry out detailed investigations into given briefs
- ◆ interpret and develop solutions for detailed fashion/textile items to meet given briefs
- ◆ briefs may focus on one or more of the following:
 - the end use of the item
 - techniques to be used in the item
 - textiles or components to be included in the item
 - a fashion/textile trend
 - the fashion/textile choices of a target consumer group
- ◆ present solutions for detailed fashion/textile items with reference to given briefs
- ◆ demonstrate understanding of the information used in detailed paper patterns
- ◆ choose and use a range of construction techniques and evaluate their suitability for purpose
- ◆ use surface decoration techniques when appropriate
- ◆ make detailed fashion/textile items to an appropriate standard of quality.
- ◆ demonstrating understanding of selection, setting up, adjusting and use of equipment and tools

Skills, knowledge and understanding included in the course are 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.scqf.org.uk).

Skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

This course helps candidates to develop broad, generic skills. These skills are based on the [Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work framework](#) and draw from the following main skills areas:

2 Numeracy

2.2 Money, time and measurement

3 Health and wellbeing

3.1 Personal learning

5 Thinking skills

5.3 Applying

5.4 Analysing and evaluating

These skills must be built into the course where there are appropriate opportunities and the level should be appropriate to the level of the course.

Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work is given in the course support notes.

Learning for Sustainability

Qualifications Scotland is committed to identifying opportunities to develop the values, skills, knowledge and understanding of Learning for Sustainability within all National Courses.

Course assessment

Course assessment is based on the information provided in this document.

The course assessment meets the key purposes and aims of the course by addressing:

- ♦ challenge — requiring greater depth or extension of knowledge and/or skills
- ♦ application — requiring application of knowledge and/or skills in practical or theoretical contexts as appropriate

This enables candidates to:

- ♦ respond to challenge by undertaking an assignment and practical activity that applies skills, knowledge and understanding from across the course by developing potential solutions to meet the needs of the brief.
- ♦ demonstrate integration and application of skills, knowledge and understanding from across the course in a question paper

Course assessment structure: question paper

Question paper

30 marks

The purpose of this question paper is to assess candidates' ability to integrate and apply knowledge, understanding and skills sampled from across the course.

The question paper has 30 marks out of a total of 100 marks. This represents 30% of the overall marks for the course assessment.

The question paper will ask candidates to state, give, name, identify, describe, explain, and evaluate.

The question paper will give candidates an opportunity to demonstrate the following knowledge, understanding and skills:

- ♦ explaining and evaluating properties and characteristics of textiles, and the application of this knowledge
- ♦ explaining and evaluating the application of a range of construction techniques, including the use of paper patterns
- ♦ explaining factors affecting consumer fashion/textile choices, including fashion trends
- ♦ communicating solutions to fashion/textile briefs

Setting, conducting and marking the question paper

This question paper is set and marked by Qualifications Scotland and conducted in centres under conditions specified for external examinations by Qualifications Scotland. Candidates complete this in 1 hour.

Specimen question papers for National 5 courses are published on Qualifications Scotland's website. These illustrate the standard, structure and requirements of the question papers candidates sit. The specimen papers also include marking instructions.

Course assessment structure: assignment

Assignment

30 marks

The assignment gives candidates an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ♦ research skills
- ♦ design skills

In the assignment, candidates will demonstrate breadth and application by applying the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired in the course to design a detailed fashion/textile item (the solution) in response to a given brief. **The assignment is a written exercise only, no physical item or solution has to be made.**

Candidates have a choice of briefs. Briefs at National 5 have two themes for the candidate to investigate.

Candidates must use one of the briefs provided separately in the coursework assessment task as the basis for their Fashion and Textile Technology assignment

The assignment has 30 marks out of a total of 100 marks.

Assignment overview

The assignment has four stages (30 marks):

- ♦ stage 1: identify two key themes (1 mark)
- ♦ stage 2: carry out two investigations (10 marks)
- ♦ stage 3: develop two solutions (10 marks)
- ♦ stage 4: create a solution specification (9 marks)

Setting, conducting and marking the assignment

A range of briefs for the assignment will be provided by Qualifications Scotland and will be sufficiently open and flexible to allow personalisation and choice in both the focus for the technological process and the fashion/textile item to be designed.

The assignment is set by Qualifications Scotland and conducted under some supervision and control.

The assignment will be submitted to Qualifications Scotland for marking.

All marking is quality assured by Qualifications Scotland.

Assessment conditions

Time

This assessment is carried out over a period of time. Candidates should start at an appropriate point in the course. This will normally be when they have completed most of the work in the course.

The stages of the assignment should be completed in sequence and candidates should complete each stage before undertaking the next.

Candidates should be given sufficient time to carry out their investigations and research. It is recommended that presentation of research and the development of solutions should be completed within a notional time period of three to six hours.

Supervision, control and authentication

Assessors must exercise their professional responsibility in ensuring that evidence submitted by a candidate is the candidate's own work.

For any research that is undertaken outside the learning and teaching setting, assessors should authenticate candidates' work and ensure that plagiarism has not taken place, for example:

- ◆ regular spot checks/interim progress meetings with candidates
- ◆ questioning candidates
- ◆ checking candidates' record of activity/progress against evidence provided
- ◆ carrying out assessor observation of evidence provided from outside the learning and teaching setting

Candidates should be encouraged to choose their own methods of research and sources of information and so avoid unintentional plagiarism. It is expected that candidates' results will lead to a range of different solutions.

Candidates should not decide on their solution before the research has been carried out, as the solution should be based on the results of research.

The following will be undertaken independently by candidates under the supervision of the assessor:

- ◆ presentation of the key themes of the brief
- ◆ presentation of the results of research
- ◆ development of solution ideas
- ◆ develop a solution specification

Reasonable assistance

Candidates must undertake the assessment independently. However, reasonable assistance may be provided to try to balance the need for support with the need to avoid giving too much assistance. If any candidates require more than what is deemed to be 'reasonable assistance', they may not be ready for assessment or it may be that they have been entered for the wrong level of qualification.

Reasonable assistance may be given on a generic basis to a class or group of candidates, for example, advice on the criteria for research techniques. It may also be given to candidates on an individual basis. When reasonable assistance is given on a one-to-one basis in the context of something the candidate has already produced or demonstrated, there is a danger that it becomes support for assessment and assessors need to be aware that this may be going beyond reasonable assistance.

Candidates may carry out investigation and research into the themes of the brief outwith the learning and teaching setting.

During these stages of the assessment, reasonable assistance may include:

- ◆ clarifying instructions and requirements of the task
- ◆ advising candidates on the choice of brief
- ◆ guiding candidates to possible sources of information
- ◆ arranging visits to enable gathering of evidence
- ◆ answering questions from candidates about the availability of resources and/or equipment
- ◆ interim progress checks

Reasonable assistance does not include:

- ◆ directing candidates to specific resources or providing candidates with specific resources to be used
- ◆ providing model answers
- ◆ providing detailed feedback on drafts, including marking

Evidence to be gathered

The following candidate evidence is required for this assessment:

- ◆ the completed candidate assignment

Volume

There is no word count.

Course assessment structure: practical activity

Practical activity

40 marks

The purpose of the practical activity is to provide candidates with the opportunity to draw on and apply the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired in the course in order to produce a detailed fashion/textile item. Candidates make one item, using eight different construction techniques.

The practical activity gives candidates an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ a range of practical skills related to the production of a fashion/textile item to meet specified textile and consumer requirements
- ◆ use of tools and equipment to demonstrate a range of textile construction techniques to make a detailed fashion/textile item to an appropriate standard of quality

Making a detailed fashion/textile item (40 marks)

The marks are awarded for:

- ◆ making a detailed fashion/textile item to an appropriate standard of quality

The practical activity has 40 marks out of a total of 100 marks.

Setting, conducting and marking the practical activity

The practical activity is set by centres within Qualifications Scotland guidelines.

The practical activity is conducted under some supervision and control.

The practical activity will be internally marked by centre staff, in line with the marking instructions provided in the coursework assessment task. Candidate evidence for the practical activity should be retained by centres for quality assurance purposes.

All marking is quality assured by Qualifications Scotland.

Assessment conditions

Time

This assessment is carried out over a period of time. Candidates should start at an appropriate point in the course. This will normally be when they have completed most of the work in the course.

Supervision, control and authentication

Making the fashion/textile item

This will be conducted independently under the direct supervision of the assessor.

Resources

Set up, adjust and use appropriate tools and equipment correctly and according to safety guidelines

Equipment guides and user manuals should be made available to candidates.

Use an appropriate paper pattern for the detailed fashion/textile item

Candidates should be allowed to access a range of appropriate paper patterns.

Make and finish a detailed fashion/textile item using at least eight appropriate textile construction techniques

When making the fashion/textile item, candidates should be allowed access to printed or digital information on methods of carrying out construction techniques.

Reasonable assistance

Candidates must undertake the assessment independently. However, reasonable assistance may be provided to try to balance the need for support with the need to avoid giving too much assistance. If any candidates require more than what is deemed to be 'reasonable assistance', they may not be ready for assessment or it may be that they have been entered for the wrong level of qualification.

Reasonable assistance may be given on a generic basis to a class or group of candidates, for example, advice on how to use equipment. It may also be given to candidates on an individual basis. When reasonable assistance is given on a one-to-one basis in the context of something the candidate has already produced or demonstrated, there is a danger that it becomes support for assessment and assessors need to be aware that this may be going beyond reasonable assistance.

Evidence to be gathered

The following candidate evidence is required for this assessment:

- ◆ the completed fashion/textile item
- ◆ photographic evidence of the manufacture of the item

Grading

A candidate's overall grade is determined by their performance across the course assessment. The course assessment is graded A–D on the basis of the total mark for all course assessment components.

Grade description for C

For the award of grade C, candidates will typically have demonstrated successful performance in relation to the skills, knowledge and understanding for the course.

Grade description for A

For the award of grade A, candidates will typically have demonstrated a consistently high level of performance in relation to the skills, knowledge and understanding for the course.

Equality and inclusion

This course is designed to be as fair and as accessible as possible.

Qualifications Scotland's equality of access to qualifications [policy](#) outlines our commitment to:

- ◆ the Equality Act 2010
- ◆ anti-racist education
- ◆ protecting children's rights
- ◆ corporate parenting

You must consider the needs of individual candidates when planning learning experiences, designing learning resources, or choosing texts.

Guidance on assessment arrangements for disabled candidates and those with additional support needs is available on the [assessment arrangements web page](#).

Further information

- ◆ [Assessment arrangements](#)
- ◆ [Building the Curriculum 3–5](#)
- ◆ [Guidance on conditions of assessment for coursework](#)
- ◆ [Guide to Assessment](#)
- ◆ [Recent Qualifications Scotland research](#)
- ◆ [Remote assessment](#)
- ◆ [SCQF Handbook](#)
- ◆ [Know Your SCQF Level — Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework](#)
- ◆ [Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work framework](#)

Appendix 1: course support notes

Introduction

These support notes are not mandatory. They provide advice and guidance to teachers and lecturers on approaches to delivering the course. They should be read in conjunction with this course specification and the specimen question paper and coursework.

Developing skills, knowledge and understanding

This section provides further advice and guidance about skills, knowledge and understanding that could be included in the course. Teachers and lecturers should refer to this course specification for the skills, knowledge and understanding for the course assessment. Course planners have considerable flexibility to select coherent contexts which will stimulate and challenge their candidates, offering both breadth and depth.

To enrich the delivery of the course, it is recommended that candidates engage in learning activities where they consider and are encouraged to understand the interrelationships between cultural, social, ethical and moral issues surrounding fashion and textiles. This will enable candidates to make informed decisions which not only promote positive lifestyle choices but also stimulate consideration of global citizenship.

The 'suggested approaches to learning and teaching' table also provides suggested experiences and activities that teachers and lecturers can build into their delivery.

Approaches to learning and teaching

Effective learning and teaching will draw on a variety of approaches to enrich the experience of candidates. Practical approaches to learning and teaching which provide opportunities for personalisation and choice will help to motivate and challenge candidates.

An engaging and supportive learning environment should be provided to encourage active candidate involvement. The practical, skills-based focus of fashion and textiles readily lends itself to a wide variety of learning and teaching approaches across the course. These may include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ teacher or lecturer led demonstration or online tutorial review of a range of practical skills including textile construction techniques
- ◆ undertaking practical activities to develop an increasing range of textile construction techniques
- ◆ working collaboratively and providing the opportunity for peer teaching or support, for example while setting up and using equipment, and for peer evaluation
- ◆ developing knowledge and understanding by watching digital media
- ◆ undertaking activities or research online, for example to research textile properties and characteristics, and to source patterns
- ◆ deconstructing and reconstructing fashion/textile items to identify techniques and sequencing of construction

- ◆ examining methods of reconstruction and upcycling fashion/textile items to explore the different ways in which items can be constructed or adapted
- ◆ making a range of fashion/textile items
- ◆ inviting specialists to demonstrate skills,
- ◆ visiting manufacturers and retailers to explore the wide range of textiles available and observe how they are used
- ◆ developing problem-solving skills during item manufacture
- ◆ working in pairs or groups to share ideas and promote collaborative skills
- ◆ using simulated contexts to reinforce health and safety practices
- ◆ discussing and debating factors affecting the fashion and textile choice of others and how this influences design
- ◆ using investigative techniques such as interviews and questionnaires to identify the fashion/textile choices and needs of others
- ◆ using the internet or visiting exhibitions to research contemporary and historical fashion/textile trends
- ◆ using current fashion magazines to identify contemporary fashion trends and their influence on high street fashion
- ◆ visiting designers, manufacturers and retailers to observe how fashion/textile items are influenced by trends, designed, made and marketed

During each learning activity candidates should be made aware of what they have learned and should be encouraged to consider other applications for these skills, knowledge and understanding.

In order to encourage personalisation and choice, teachers and lecturers should allow the choice of different case studies, scenarios, and encourage different methods of conducting research and ways of presenting results.

Safe practices should permeate all practical fashion/textile activities and, in order to be meaningful, should be integrated within all practical skills teaching.

Effective learning and teaching will draw on a variety of approaches to enrich the experience of candidates. Practical approaches to learning and teaching which provide opportunities for personalisation and choice will help to motivate and challenge candidates.

Throughout this course, local contexts could be used as a basis for learning and teaching. Other stimulus materials such as visual aids, digital media, and visits to exhibitions or local or national fashion/textile events may also help to motivate candidates and encourage imaginative and creative thought. Examples of suggested resources that could be used for the delivery of this course can be found in Appendix 2.

Examples of fashion/textile items that would be appropriate for National 5, and how these compare to fashion/textile items appropriate for National 3, National 4 and Higher, can be found in Appendix 3.

Examples of textile construction techniques that would be appropriate for National 5, and how these compare to textile construction techniques appropriate for National 3, National 4 and Higher, can be found in Appendix 4.

Examples of research techniques that would be appropriate for National 5, including guidance on gathering data and presenting results, can be found in Appendix 6.

Where resources permit, centres could use technology to support the learning and teaching of this course. Opportunities may include:

- ◆ online interactive tasks to develop awareness of health and safety
- ◆ e-portfolios to record, collect and store evidence of candidates' work
- ◆ web-based resources to research, for example, fashion trends and technological development in textiles
- ◆ online questionnaires to find information about the fashion/textile choices of others
- ◆ computer-aided design (CAD) software to design fashion/textile items
- ◆ computer-aided making equipment, for example programmed knitting machines or computerised embroidery machines

Learning about Scotland and Scottish culture will enrich the candidates' learning experience and help them to develop the skills for learning, life and work they will need to prepare them for taking their place in a diverse, inclusive and participative Scotland and beyond. Where there are opportunities to contextualise approaches to learning and teaching to Scottish contexts, teachers and lecturers should consider this.

The table overleaf suggests examples of different learning activities related to the course aims and required skills, knowledge and understanding. The activities can be selected to suit particular learning styles.

Skills, knowledge and understanding	Suggested approaches to learning and teaching
Choose textiles based on their characteristics and properties, and evaluate their suitability for different purposes Types of fabric construction	Candidates should be encouraged to explore and investigate the effects of textile properties and characteristics to help them make informed choices. Using fabric samples, candidates could discuss and debate the properties and characteristics of textiles and how they can be applied to fashion/textile items. Candidates could maintain a log of this information by means of worksheets, short reports or mood boards. This could also be carried out as a research project, textile testing or sensory exercise, or by offering worksheets or other direct teaching exercises. Visits to fabric retailers could provide candidates with information about the range of fabrics available. Similarly, candidates may also develop understanding of the properties and characteristics of textiles constructed by knitting, weaving and bonding. Practical hands-on activities such as spinning, carding, knitting or weaving, could also be used. It may be appropriate to provide an information booklet or textile dictionary.
Explain fashion/textile trends	Candidates could: ◆ use the internet to research contemporary and historical fashion/textile trends ◆ use current fashion magazines to identify contemporary fashion trends and their influence on high street fashion ◆ study fashion houses and fashion weeks, interpretation of fashion/textile trends by high street retailers, designer labels, history of fashion and fashion designers ◆ work in pairs or groups to explore influences on fashion and textile choices including budget, advertising, celebrity endorsement, climate, culture, environmental sustainability (for example energy saving, eco-friendly products, cruelty-free products), after-care, body image, body size, geographical location and accessibility to fashion/textile shops, physical ability, peer pressure, personal taste, technological innovations.

Skills, knowledge and understanding	Suggested approaches to learning and teaching
Interpret and develop solutions for detailed fashion/textile items to meet given briefs Present and justify solutions for detailed fashion/textile items with reference to given briefs	◆ explore different ways of presenting the findings from their investigations, for example as a graph; a chart; a table; a mind-map; a short report; notes from an interview or any other relevant format Before developing a solution for their chosen fashion/textile item, candidates could analyse ready-made fashion/textile items of a similar nature to identify the components and textiles that have been used. Candidates could discuss which features of the fashion/textile items in the solutions are most useful. These features could include colour, shape, style features, fabric, use, purpose, safety, age, theme, quality, budget, size, durability or ease of care. Candidates should: ◆ explore different ways of presenting their solutions. These could include: an annotated diagram, a description, a computer-generated image, a sketch, a written report, a mood board, a combination of these or any other relevant format Candidates could also benefit from: ◆ personal investigation and research of fashion critiques ◆ seeing examples of fashion/textile items which have been evaluated against a given specification and brief ◆ reading critiques of fashion items in magazines or on the internet ◆ seeing examples of inappropriate solutions to given briefs ◆ identifying and giving reasoned explanations as to why solutions were appropriate/inappropriate, for example expensive silk fabric used to make a tote bag for a student on a low income. They could do this by using a range of open-ended questions designed to help them come to informed decisions regarding the suitability of their fashion/textile choice for meeting the previously identified influence, for example: — In what ways does the completed fashion/textile item take into account the issue that has affected fashion/textile choice? — In what ways is the completed fashion/textile item appropriate for its end user? — In what ways is the fashion/textile choice fit for purpose? — What features of the fashion/textile item would make it commercially viable in the market place?

Skills, knowledge and understanding	Suggested approaches to learning and teaching
	The following should be considered as features of construction techniques: ◆ accurate stitching, even stitching ◆ even-depth hems, correct-depth hems ◆ even width of seam allowances, correct width of seam allowances ◆ evenly spaced buttons/fastenings/closings, accurately applied buttons/fastenings/closings ◆ pressing to set seams/darts/hems, ironing to remove all unwanted creases ◆ accurate fit/shape/drape, accurate positioning of zip/fastening, accurately applied zip/fastening ◆ accurate cutting of fabric pieces, fabric pieces cut on grain correctly ◆ accurately applied trimmings, interlining used/attached correctly Surface decoration can also be considered as a construction technique. Suitable surface decoration techniques could include appliqué, embroidery, ribbons/braids, photographic transfers, beading and sequins, or any other relevant surface decoration techniques. For knitting, crochet and other craft skills, candidates could be taught by demonstration by teacher or lecturer or visiting expert, or by watching video clips. Candidates could complete a worksheet to identify the most appropriate construction techniques for their chosen item. See Appendix 3 for more information about types of fashion/textile items suitable for SCQF levels 3–6. See Appendix 4 for more information about construction techniques appropriate for SCQF levels 3–6.

Skills, knowledge and understanding	Suggested approaches to learning and teaching
Make detailed fashion/textile items to an appropriate standard of quality Use surface decoration techniques when appropriate	Candidates could: ◆ practise their selected textile construction skills, including surface decoration techniques, through sampling prior to using them on their chosen fashion/textile item Revision of previously learned skills could also be carried out, for example: i) demonstrate threading and safe use of the sewing machine in small groups ii) candidates could then work in pairs to practise and consolidate skills Candidates should be encouraged to do as much as possible for themselves. Some candidates may require additional help to overcome technical problems. If any candidate is having difficulty, peer teaching/learning could help to reinforce knowledge/skills for both candidates. Candidates could: ◆ examine a range fashion/textile items at all stages of construction and deconstruction in order to understand the appropriate standard of quality required when making their own fashion/textile item ◆ consider features of the item, for example accurate stitching; even stitching; even-depth hems; correct-depth hems; even width of seam allowances; correct width of seam allowances; evenly spaced buttons/fastenings/closings; accurately applied buttons/fastenings/closings; pressing to set seams/darts/hems; ironing to remove all unwanted creases; accurate fit/shape/drape; accurate positioning of zip/fastening; accurately applied zip/fastening; accurate cutting of fabric pieces; fabric pieces cut on grain correctly; accurately applied trimmings; interlining used/attached correctly ◆ watch a digital media clip demonstrating item manufacture or visit a local manufacturer to see how items are created from patterns to finished articles

Skills, knowledge and understanding	Suggested approaches to learning and teaching
Demonstrating understanding of selecting, setting up, adjusting and use of tools and equipment	Candidates need to learn the functions of the various tools and equipment available to them. Candidates could: ◆ use collaborative peer support or peer teaching to learn the functions of the various tools and equipment available to them and how to select, set up, adjust and use equipment correctly ◆ watch digital media clips of equipment set up and use, or work as expert groups to teach others by using manuals or instruction sheets ◆ use e-learning resources which simulate health and safety risks in the workshop or workplace ◆ use cooperative learning techniques to generate safety rules or identify potential health and safety risks before equipment comes into general use. This could include correct setting up and adjusting of sewing/knitting machines, irons and ironing boards Examples of correct use for the sewing machine would be using the seam allowance guides and reverse controls, as well as threading it, filling bobbins, adjusting the stitch and using the machine in a safe manner. Irons should be adjusted according to temperature required, safely filled with water if required, and left on its heel when hot. Examples of correct and safe use of tools would include storing needles in a designated piece of fabric when not in use, and closing scissors after use. Health and safety could be communicated to candidates by teacher or lecturer demonstration, peer group demonstration and class discussion. Candidates could identify possible accidents that may occur if safety guidelines are not adhered to. Points to consider may include loose clothing and hair, safe use, carrying and storage of tools and equipment, numbers of people around the equipment and tripping hazards.

Preparing for course assessment

Each course has additional time which may be used at the discretion of the teacher or lecturer to enable candidates to prepare for course assessment. This time may be used near the start of the course and at various points throughout the course for consolidation and support, and towards the end of the course, for revision and preparation and/or gathering evidence for course assessment.

Information given in this course specification about assessment is mandatory.

For the course assessment, candidates will:

- ◆ respond to challenge by undertaking an assignment and practical activity that applies skills, knowledge and understanding from across the course by developing a solution.
- ◆ demonstrate integration and application of skills, knowledge and understanding from across the course in a question paper

To prepare for the assignment component of the course assessment, candidates could be provided with opportunities to:

- ◆ analyse briefs
- ◆ use investigative techniques to generate ideas for fashion/textile items
- ◆ produce solutions based on the findings from the investigations

To prepare for the practical activity component of the course assessment, candidates could be provided with opportunities to:

- ◆ prepare samples of different construction techniques
- ◆ use a range of textile construction techniques to make fashion/textile items to an appropriate standard of quality

To prepare for the question paper component of the course assessment, candidates could be provided with opportunities to:

- ◆ develop 'flash' cards to be used for revision of knowledge
- ◆ develop mnemonics (or similar) to support retention of knowledge
- ◆ revise the properties and characteristics of textiles by carrying out 'fill in the blanks' or 'pairing' exercises
- ◆ for a given fashion/textile trend or consumer need, make a list of bullet points to be considered when choosing textiles, construction techniques or design features
- ◆ practice unseen short-answer questions
- ◆ practice unseen timed questions

Developing skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

Course planners should identify opportunities throughout the course for candidates to develop skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

Candidates should be aware of the skills they are developing and teachers and lecturers can provide advice on opportunities to practise and improve them.

Qualifications Scotland does not formally assess skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

There may also be opportunities to develop additional skills depending on approaches being used to deliver the course in each centre. This is for individual teachers and lecturers to manage.

Candidates are expected to develop broad generic skills as an integral part of their learning experience. This course specification lists the skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work that candidates should develop through this course. These are based on Qualifications Scotland's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and must be built into the course where there are appropriate opportunities. The level of these skills will be appropriate to the level of the course.

Skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work	Suggested approaches for learning and teaching
Money, time and measurement involves using and understanding money, time and measurement to solve practical problems in a variety of contexts using relevant units and suitable instruments, and to appropriate degrees of accuracy.	Candidates could produce detailed work plans with a timed and logical work sequence. Candidates could produce accurate requisitions for appropriate textiles, components, equipment and tools.
Personal learning involves actively engaging in learning and how it can be planned, sourced, implemented, and sustained. It also includes following-up on curiosity, thinking constructively, reflecting, and learning from experience.	Candidates could use a range of appropriate investigative techniques to gather information about identified fashion and textile contexts. They could then reflect on the suitability of the developmental process undertaken.
Applying involves using existing information to solve a problem in a different context, and to plan, organise and complete a task.	Candidates could draw on, and apply, the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired in the course in order to plan and make a detailed fashion/textile item in response to a given brief.
Analysing and evaluating involves identifying and weighing-up the features of a situation or issue and using judgement in coming to a conclusion. It includes reviewing and considering any potential solutions.	Candidates could reflect on a range of fashion/textile items and evaluate their suitability, suggesting possible improvements to the item and/or the process undertaken where these are required.

During the delivery and assessment of the course, candidates will be involved in identifying, remembering and recalling facts, procedures and sequences. There may also be opportunities for candidates to develop their communication skills. Communication skills are particularly important for candidates as these skills allow them to access, engage in and understand their learning and to communicate their ideas and opinions.

Appendix 2: suggested resources

Name of organisation/source [date accessed: 2026]	Possible resources available
BBC website www.bbc.co.uk	A source of information about textiles, the impact of the fashion industry and sewing techniques.
BBC Bitesize https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z6gw2hv	Search for: Design and Technology > Textiles: ♦ fibres and fabrics ♦ design considerations ♦ textiles production
BBC Programme Archive: What we wore https://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/what-we-wore/zfhx92p	A history of fashion from 1720–1982.
YouTube www.youtube.com	Tutorials and videos showing textile processes such as: ♦ construction techniques ♦ surface decoration techniques ♦ finishing techniques
Fashion publications, including: ♦ Vogue ♦ Harper's Bazaar ♦ Vanity Fair ♦ The Stylist	Available in traditional magazine format and as online versions. Provide current fashion news, fashion trends, catwalk videos, photographs from fashion weeks.
https://craftworld.com/cms/love-sewing/ www.sewmag.co.uk www.thesewingdirectory.co.uk	A large range of free sewing patterns available to download. Online sewing guides and tutorials.
British Fashion Council	Promotes leading British fashion designers in a global market. The events support and strengthen the UK's reputation for developing design excellence. Provides information about London Fashion Week and the British Fashion Awards.

Name of organisation/source [date accessed: 2026]	Possible resources available
Fashion and Textile Museum, London https://fashiontextilemuseum.org/	The Fashion and Textile Museum is a centre for contemporary fashion, textiles and jewellery in London. The centre has a programme of exhibitions exploring elements of fashion, textile and jewellery as well as the Academy which runs courses for students and businesses. Also provides links to fashion heritage establishments.
The Fashion Museum, Bath www.fashionmuseum.co.uk	The Fashion Museum is a centre for historical and contemporary fashion and textiles. The centre has a wide range of displays of costume, a programme of exhibitions and a range of study facilities.
Victoria and Albert Museum https://www.vam.ac.uk/	Provides a range of materials and learning resources, including information and resources related to the museum's historical dress collection, exhibitions and events.

Appendix 3: guidance on type of fashion/textile item suitable for National 3, National 4, National 5 and Higher

The grid below suggests the number of component parts and type of fashion/textile item that is likely to be suitable for each SCQF level. The list is for guidance only and is not prescriptive or definitive.

The number of component parts is listed as a guide to the type of item a candidate might make at each level. It is the number and degree of difficulty of the construction techniques that determine the marks awarded in the course assessment. Candidates may choose to make any other suitable item with a similar skill level.

Further guidance on standards for National 5 and Higher can be found in the National 5 and Higher coursework assessment task documents.

National 3	National 4	National 5	Higher
A basic fashion/textile item is likely to have two component parts. Examples include: ♦ Tabard for child: front and back with decoration, eg initial or name. ♦ Skirt: front and back, elastic hemmed waist and machined hem. ♦ Cushion: front and back with commercial surface decoration. ♦ Bag: one piece of material, with handles ribbon/tape/webbing/drawstring casing.	A straightforward fashion/textile item is likely to have three component parts. Examples include: ♦ Top: front and back; and either pocket or ties. ♦ Skirt: front and back, unlined, elastic waist, machined hem with pocket(s). ♦ Cushion: front and back with hand-made surface decoration and Velcro/studs/tie fastening. ♦ Bag: front and back with lining, a pocket and handles.	A detailed fashion/textile item is likely to have four component parts. Examples include: ♦ Top: back and front with neck finish and armhole finish or sleeves. ♦ Skirt: front/back (sections), lined, waistband/facing and press studs/hook and eye/zip. ♦ Cushion: front and back (sections) with hand-made surface decoration and zip/buttons fastening. ♦ Bag: base shaping, lining and fastenings; plastic/wooden handles attached with casings.	A complex fashion/textile item is likely to have a minimum of four component parts. Examples include: ♦ Top: back and front, opening, collar/neck finish, inserted sleeves. ♦ Jacket: front opening, buttons and buttonholes/zip, inserted sleeves, lined. ♦ Knitted jacket including decorative stitch, shaping, inserted sleeves, fastening. ♦ Skirt: front and back/panels, zip, lined, multiple piece waistband.

National 3	National 4	National 5	Higher
◆ Stuffed toy with front and back (eg cat with button eyes and embroidered whiskers). ◆ Scarf knitted in one colour with hand-made fringing or pom-poms. ◆ Felt flower brooch with leaves and petals (eg with button middle and brooch pin). ◆ Waist apron: with ties and pocket. ◆ Mobile phone/laptop holder: front and back with Velcro closing. ◆ Christmas tree decoration: two-part shape, ribbon tab to hang it up.	◆ Stuffed toy with one main body part but 3D ears and stomach, eg Scottie dog. ◆ Scarf knitted in two or more colours, hand-made fringing, pom-poms attached or additional surface detail, eg flower. ◆ Quilt with machined patchwork pieces, square design, backed. ◆ Wall-hanging to keep things in: casing (for pole), multiple fabrics (bands/ patchwork), applied pockets, appliqué, fastenings, embellishments etc. ◆ Item to encourage children to count, eg table mat with pockets/flaps. ◆ Shorts/pyjama bottoms elasticated/drawstring waist.	◆ Bag with separate pieces, eg made from recycled woollen textiles, felted; handles and fastening. ◆ Stuffed toy with separate 3D head and body parts (eg hippo), embroidered features. ◆ Shawl or wrap with detailed surface decoration, eg complex appliqué, hand/machine embroidery, beading, quilting, fringed. ◆ Quilt with machined patchwork (and appliqué); backed, edge bound with machine quilting. ◆ Knitted kimono-style jacket with toggle fastening and pockets. ◆ Shorts/trousers with a waistband/zip. ◆ Dress, eg shift with front/back armhole edge/sleeves, neck finish/collar, fastening.	◆ Trousers: darts, zip, multiple piece waistband, pockets. ◆ Dress: front and back/panels, zip, collar/neck finish, inserted sleeves. ◆ Bag: back and front/panels, shaped base, multiple pockets/interior sections, textile handles, zip. ◆ Bag: created decorative fabric, eg knitted/crocheted/felted, shaping, textile integrated/attached handles, fastening. ◆ Stuffed toy with separate 3D head and body parts (eg teddy bear/doll), embroidered features, clothes with edge finishes and fastenings. ◆ Toy play den to fit an existing frame (eg fort, wendy house): multiple shaped panels, openings with zip/ties/buttons and loops etc, surface decoration (eg complex appliqué, hand/machine embroidery).

Appendix 4: guidance on construction techniques — differentiation between National 3, National 4, National 5 and Higher

This grid is for guidance only and provides an indication of the type of construction technique that might be attempted by candidates at each SCQF level.

Candidates should use **some** of the construction techniques indicated at their SCQF level. Candidates may choose to do the remaining techniques from levels other than the one for which they are being presented. However, to ensure that candidates attempt a range of construction techniques of appropriate challenge, a **number** of the techniques demonstrated in the item should be drawn from the candidate's SCQF level.

Further guidance on the number of construction techniques which should be attempted from each SCQF level can be found in the National 5 and Higher coursework assessment task documents.

Technique	National 3 techniques	National 4 techniques	National 5 techniques	Higher techniques
	Some of the techniques demonstrated by the candidate should be drawn from the candidate's SCQF level.			
Buttons and buttonholes	♦ two-hole button	♦ button ♦ button with a stitched shank ♦ reinforced unstitched buttonhole	♦ machined buttonhole	♦ shaped machined buttonhole ♦ rouleau loops ♦ fabric-covered buttons

Technique	National 3 techniques	National 4 techniques	National 5 techniques	Higher techniques
	Some of the techniques demonstrated by the candidate should be drawn from the candidate's SCQF level.			
Collars		♦ single piece	♦ multiple piece collar, for example Peter Pan	♦ collar with stand ♦ collar with reverse
Cutting out	♦ simple straight lines	♦ simple shapes with straight lines ♦ curved shapes	♦ multiple shapes on folds/grain lines as appropriate ♦ multiple complex shapes, for example appliqué/patchwork ♦ cut bias strips	♦ appropriate direction of pile/raised fabrics ♦ matching of stripes/checks/patterns
Disposal of fullness	♦ folds	♦ unpressed pleats ♦ tucks ♦ single-ended darts	♦ gathers ♦ pin tucks	♦ darts — shaped/double-pointed ♦ pressed pleats/multiple pleats
Edge finishes	♦ pinking	♦ scissors/shears ♦ zig-zag ♦ overlocking	♦ straight seam binding ♦ bias binding/bias cut strips on a straight edge ♦ rolled edges	♦ bias binding/bias cut strips on a curved edge

Technique	National 3 techniques	National 4 techniques	National 5 techniques	Higher techniques
	Some of the techniques demonstrated by the candidate should be drawn from the candidate's SCQF level.			
Embellishments	♦ fabric painting ♦ iron-on appliqué ♦ machine stitched — basic shapes ♦ single-coloured machine embroidery motif ♦ single bead/sequin	♦ iron-on appliqué with machined edge finish, eg satin stitch ♦ basic embroidery stitches, eg features on a toy ♦ couched lines of beads/yarn ♦ one/two colour machine embroidery — pre-set pattern ♦ multiple beads/sequins ♦ fabric painting ♦ single colour tie-dye ♦ simple/single stitch knitting/crochet	♦ machined appliqué/patchwork straightforward/large shapes, eg squares/log cabin ♦ simple hand-stitched appliqué ♦ applied ribbons/braids ♦ simple quilting — straight lines ♦ hand embroidery — simple design/one-two colours ♦ multiple colour machine embroidery motif(s) — pre-set pattern ♦ multiple beads/sequins forming simple patterns ♦ detailed/multiple colour tie-dye ♦ knitting/crochet with multiple stitches/shaping	♦ complex machine/hand appliqué ♦ complex/detailed patchwork patterns/curves ♦ detailed quilting — curved lines/patterns ♦ hand embroidery — multiple colours/stitches ♦ multiple beads/sequins forming detailed patterns ♦ complex/detailed multiple embellishment techniques ♦ complex/detailed multiple technique knitting/crochet

Technique	National 3 techniques	National 4 techniques	National 5 techniques	Higher techniques
	Some of the techniques demonstrated by the candidate should be drawn from the candidate's SCQF level.			
Felting	♦ simple wet felting – one colour	♦ felting — fabric piece/one colour	♦ felting — simple shaping/one or two colours	♦ felting — freehand shaping/multiple colours
Facings		♦ simple facing, eg round neck/ armhole/waist	♦ shaped facing, eg v-neck/notched neckline	♦ combined facing, eg neckline and armhole/neckline and front opening
Fastenings (other than buttons/zips)	♦ ties	♦ press studs ♦ velcro	♦ metal hook and eyes	♦ metal hook and hand-worked bar.
Hand sewing	♦ tacking ♦ running stitch	♦ basting ♦ back stitch ♦ ladder stitch	♦ hemming/slip hemming ♦ blanket stitch	♦ herringbone ♦ buttonhole stitch
Hems	♦ plain single machined-hem	♦ machined hem with lay or finished edge	♦ hand-stitched hem ♦ machine blind-stitched hem	♦ bound hem, hand stitched
Insertions and openings			♦ slit with hemmed edges ♦ faced slits	♦ vents ♦ backed pleat ♦ godets
Linings		♦ simple, loose lining, eg simple skirt	♦ fitted lining, eg straight edged bag/fitted skirt	♦ complex/shaped linings, eg including darts/tucks/ openings/fastenings
Seams	♦ plain seam ♦ overlocked seam	♦ plain seam with machined-edge finish	♦ French seam ♦ felled seam	♦ lapped seam ♦ welt seam ♦ piped seam
Sleeves		♦ cap sleeve	♦ raglan sleeve ♦ drop-head sleeve	♦ sleeve inserted into an armhole ♦ multiple piece sleeve

Technique	National 3 techniques	National 4 techniques	National 5 techniques	Higher techniques
	Some of the techniques demonstrated by the candidate should be drawn from the candidate's SCQF level.			
Transferring pattern markings	♦ tailor's chalk	♦ tracing paper/wheel ♦ tailor tacking		
Pockets		♦ side seam pocket	♦ patch pocket — simple shape, eg square/rounded corners ♦ lined pocket	♦ shaped patch pocket ♦ extension side seam pocket
Waistbands and cuffs		♦ hem with elastic ♦ casing ♦ single-piece waistband	♦ two-piece waistband ♦ petersham waistband ♦ one/two piece cuff	♦ multiple piece/shaped waistband ♦ cuff with button fastening
Working with patterns	♦ placing straightforward pattern	♦ placing straightforward pattern according to pattern markings	♦ placing multiple pattern pieces according to pattern markings ♦ creating a simple pattern/adjusting/modifying a commercial pattern	
Yokes		♦ single-layer, straight edge	♦ single-layer shaped edge	♦ detailed/composite shape ♦ double layer straight edge
Zips			♦ plain zip ♦ exposed zip	♦ concealed zip ♦ semi-concealed zip

Appendix 5: exemplification of marking of the practical activity

Make and finish a detailed fashion/textile item using at least eight appropriate textile construction techniques

Candidates can be awarded a maximum of 40 marks:

- ♦ **32 marks** for the quality of construction techniques demonstrated
- ♦ **4 marks** for setting up and using equipment
- ♦ **4 marks** for the overall standard of the finished textile item

Example item:

- ♦ a fitted sleeveless bodice with v-neck
- ♦ a full skirt, gathered at the waist
- ♦ appliqué on the skirt
- ♦ a pocket in side seam of skirt
- ♦ a back zip

	Construction technique planned	Maximum mark available for technique
1	Princess seams	5
2	Hand-turned appliqué — dog shape on skirt	4
3	V-neck facing finished with top stitching	4
4	Semi-concealed zip	4
5	Gathers	3
6	Tailor tacking	3
7	Hand-stitched hem	3
8	Side-seam pockets	2
		28 out of possible 32 marks
9	<i>Fusible interlining on neck facing</i>	1
10	<i>Button — for eye of appliqué dog</i>	1
11	<i>Simple modification of pattern (skirt shortened)</i>	1

Sufficient 4/5 tariff techniques have been included

These 8 techniques allow the candidate to access the 32 marks available.
The lower tariff techniques should be disregarded.

Completing the Quality of construction techniques recording grid

- ◆ Each of the eight construction techniques identified for assessment in the recording grid should then be marked in relation to the **quality** achieved. This could take place as the candidate completes each construction technique.
- ◆ The marks awarded for the quality achieved for each of the eight construction techniques should entered into the 'Mark awarded' column of the recording grid.
- ◆ Any techniques other than the eight identified for assessment that are attempted by the candidate **should not be awarded marks**.

An example of a completed recording grid is shown below.

Exemplar: Quality of construction techniques recording grid

Assessment fashion/textile item:	Construction technique planned (highest tariff first)	Mark available	Mark awarded	Marker comments on standard of technique
Candidates may be awarded up to 32 marks for the quality of construction techniques demonstrated. Marks should be allocated in descending order, ie construction techniques which carry the highest tariffs first and so on.	Technique 1: (from 5 or 4 mark tariff) Seams: Princess seams	5	3	The stitching of the seams on the bodice was accurate and secure, but there was some puckering at the curves of two of the four seams.
	Technique 2: (from 5 or 4 mark tariff) Embellishments: hand-turned appliqué	4	3	A one-piece dog shape had been applied to the skirt. The shape had been securely attached, with all raw edges turned in. The stitching was a little uneven in places.
	Technique 3: Facings: shaped facing. V-neck facing finished with top stitching.	4	2	The facing was securely attached, but there was some pleating at the 'v' so it did not lie flat. The top stitching was straight and an even distance from the edge but caused the fabric to twist around the 'v'.
♦ If the candidate demonstrates fewer than eight textile construction techniques, no more than 21 marks can be awarded.	Technique 4: Zip: semi-concealed	4	2	The garment was correctly prepared for the zip. The zip was sewn in securely, but the stitching was a little uneven allowing the teeth of the zip to show in some places.
	Technique 5: Disposal of fullness: gathers	3	1	The gathers were attached to the bodice securely but were bunched up in some places and sparse in others, spoiling the appearance of the garment.

Assessment fashion/textile item:	Construction technique planned (highest tariff first)	Mark available	Mark awarded	Marker comments on standard of technique
◆ To be awarded the full mark allocation, candidates must attempt at least 2 construction techniques from the '4 marks' or '5 marks' columns. ◆ Candidates who do not carry out two construction techniques from these columns can only be allocated a maximum of 18 marks. ◆ Candidates may be awarded a maximum of 3 marks by demonstrating construction techniques from the '1 mark' column. ◆ Candidates may be awarded a maximum of 6 marks by demonstrating construction techniques from the '2 mark' column.	Technique 6: Transferring pattern markings: Tailor's tacking	3	3	Markings were transferred accurately and neatly to show the correct positioning of the pockets. All threads were removed after the pockets were inserted.
	Technique 7: Hems: hand-stitched hem	3	2	The hem was even and an appropriate width. The stitching was neatly done and secured the hem well but was visible on the right side in some places.
	Technique 8: Pocket: side-seam pockets	2	1	The pockets were attached securely, but the inside of the pockets could be seen from the outside of the garment.
Subtotal		32 marks	16	
Overall standard of completed fashion/textile item				
Candidates may be awarded up to 4 marks for the overall holistic standard of finished textile item:		Marks available	Mark awarded	Marker comments on overall standard of finish
◆ accurate shape/fit ◆ correct use of grain ◆ good drape/lack of distortion ◆ pressing for final finish ◆ trimming all threads ◆ fitness for purpose ◆ aesthetic appeal ◆ appropriate textile(s) used		4	2	Candidate has achieved an acceptable standard of overall finish in this dress. However, inaccuracies in carrying out some of the techniques affected the appearance of the garment. A final press would also have helped to make the item look finished.
TOTAL			20	The candidate has been awarded 20 marks out of a possible 40

Appendix 6: guidance on research techniques

This grid provides an indication of the type of research technique and the complexity of research appropriate for candidates at National 5 level. The list is for guidance only and is not definitive. Candidates may choose to use other methods of research. It is anticipated that candidates may choose to use these techniques for the purposes of investigation or testing.

Research technique	Guidance on carrying out the research to allow sufficient relevant data to be collected	Guidance on presenting results
Questionnaire	◆ include a minimum of 20 respondents ◆ choose respondents who are appropriate to the focus of the research ◆ ask 5–8 pertinent questions	◆ identify the target group of respondents ◆ display all questions and all possible answers ◆ display all responses including nil responses ◆ consider displaying results in table format as this can make the data easier to read
Interviews	◆ use an interviewee whose expertise is appropriate to the focus of the research ◆ ask 5–8 pertinent questions ◆ construct questions to allow the interviewee to provide extended answers	◆ identify the position/job title of the interviewee ◆ display all questions and the information gathered from the responses
Internet/literary search	◆ use more than one source of information ◆ use sources of information that will provide data relevant to the focus of the research ◆ information could be gathered from a mixture of literary/web-based sources ◆ select the relevant information from each source	◆ give details of the sources of information, for example: — Books: title of book, author — Magazines/newspapers/journals: name of publication, date of publication, title of feature, author (where appropriate) ◆ web sources: website URL and link to information, identify the information gathered from each source ◆ display the relevant information gathered under appropriate headings ◆ include graphics where relevant

Research technique	Guidance on carrying out the research to allow sufficient relevant data to be collected	Guidance on presenting results
Fabric analysis	♦ use fabric tests that will provide data relevant to the focus of the research, above what is readily available in textbooks/websites ♦ confine testing to fabrics that are under consideration for a potential solution	♦ include details of the method of testing ♦ include details of the fibre content and method of construction of the fabrics tested ♦ display the information gathered under appropriate headings

Appendix 7: skills, knowledge and understanding examples

Skills, knowledge and understanding	Examples
Choose textiles based on their characteristics and properties and evaluate their suitability for different purposes.	◆ natural fibres: cotton, wool, silk, linen. ◆ regenerated fibres: viscose, acetate, rayon, lyocell. ◆ synthetic fibres: polyester, nylon, acrylic, elastane.
Types of fabric construction:	◆ woven ◆ knitted ◆ felted ◆ bonded
Explain fashion/textile trends	◆ Influences on current fashion trends ◆ How past trends influence trends — styles from 1910s to 1990s — icons, music, movies inspiration — fashion designers
Explain the fashion/textile choices of consumers:	◆ Influences on clothing choice: — age, budget, lifestyle, climate, religion, purpose — celebrity, role models, peer pressure — ways to shop for clothing — online shopping, in store, auction site — environmental sustainability ◆ Individual consumers clothing needs: — infants, toddlers, children, adaptive clothing, pregnancy, elderly, sportswear, school wear, work wear, outdoor wear, party wear
Identify, use and demonstrate understanding of the information used in detailed paper patterns	◆ pattern markings ◆ transferring pattern markings ◆ lay plan ◆ understanding a commercial pattern
Make detailed fashion/textile items to an appropriate standard of quality, including using a paper pattern	Quality considerations: ◆ trimming threads ◆ pressing ◆ accuracy of shape or fit or drape ◆ cutting on the grainline ◆ fit for purpose and/or functionality ◆ aesthetic appeal ◆ suitability of textiles chosen

Skills, knowledge and understanding	Examples
Choose and use a range of construction techniques and evaluate their suitability for purpose	Construction techniques: ◆ fastenings ◆ edge finishes ◆ hems ◆ facings ◆ craft skills ◆ disposal of fullness ◆ surface decoration ◆ hand-sewing skills ◆ linings and interfacings ◆ seams ◆ sleeve types ◆ collar types ◆ pocket types
Use surface decoration techniques when appropriate	Apply surface decorations: ◆ beads and sequins ◆ appliqué ◆ hand or machine embroidery ◆ tie dye ◆ buttons ◆ bias binding
Demonstrate understanding of selection, setting up, adjusting and use of equipment and tools	◆ selecting the correct textile equipment ◆ setting up a sewing machine and iron ◆ using an overlocker ◆ adjusting a sewing machine and iron ◆ using textile equipment safely
Interpret and develop solutions for detailed fashion/textile items to meet given briefs	◆ the end use of the item ◆ techniques to be used in the item ◆ textiles or components to be included in the item ◆ a fashion/textile trend ◆ the fashion/textile choices of a target consumer group
Use investigative techniques to carry out detailed investigations into given briefs	◆ market research ◆ internet research ◆ carrying out a questionnaire ◆ carrying out an interview
Present and justify solutions for detailed fashion/textile items with reference to given briefs	◆ solution page ◆ product specification

Administrative information

Published: August 2026 (version 5.0)

History of changes to course specification

Version	Description of change	Date
2.0	Course support notes added as appendix.	June 2017
3.0	The assignment and practical activity are separate assessments; they will no longer be interlinked.	May 2023
4.0	The marks for the assignment have changed from 40 marks to 45 marks. Some minor formatting changes have also been made to improve accessibility.	September 2024
5.0	Practical activity ◆ We've reduced the practical activity from 45 marks to 40 marks. ◆ We've removed the marks linked to the selection of a paper pattern and also reduced the marks for the standard of quality of the finished item from 8 marks to 4 marks. Assignment ◆ We've reduced the assignment from 45 marks to 30 marks. ◆ Candidates now only need to carry out two investigations instead of three. ◆ The testing and evaluation sections have been removed. ◆ Amendments have been made to focus more on the development of two potential solutions followed by a solution specification for the chosen design Some content in these sections has been amended in line with the new mark allocations for the assignment and practical activity: ◆ Purpose and aims ◆ Skills, knowledge and understanding for the course and course assessment	August 2026

	◆ Course assessment structure: assignment and practical activity ◆ Course support notes appendix: ◆ approaches to learning and teaching ◆ suggested approaches to learning and teaching table ◆ preparing for course assessment ◆ appendix 5 updated: — exemplification of marking of the practical activity — quality of construction techniques recording grid simplified ◆ appendix 6: guidance on research techniques Appendix 7 added: (skills, knowledge and understanding examples). We've changed references to 'SQA' to 'Qualifications Scotland' throughout. We've updated the title to include the SCQF level. We've added a new 'Learning for Sustainability' section and updated the 'Equality and inclusion' and 'Further information' sections. We've made changes to the format and layout of the document to improve accessibility. What you need to do differently ◆ ensure you use the most up-to-date version of this course specification and are aware of the changes to the assignment and practical activity ◆ pay particular attention to the updated course assessment structure section (pp 8-13) ◆ familiarise yourself with the revised specimen coursework assessment tasks for the assignment and practical activity No changes have been made to the question paper.	
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Note: you are advised to check Qualifications Scotland's website to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of the course specification.

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