



Course overview

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

The course assessment has three components.

Component	Marks	Duration
Component 1: question paper	60	2 hours
Component 2: expressive portfolio	100	see 'Course assessment' section
Component 3: design portfolio	100	see 'Course assessment' section

Course assessment structure: question paper

Question paper

60 marks

The question paper assesses candidates' knowledge and understanding of the work and practice of artists and designers, and how social and cultural contexts impact on art and design works.

The questions are designed to assess candidates' ability to:

- ◆ explain the methods used by artists and designers to achieve visual impact and creative and/or functional effect
- ◆ demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the impact of different external influences on art and design works
- ◆ analyse art and design works and critically respond to unseen prompts and images

The question paper has a total mark allocation of 60 marks. This is 23% of the overall marks for the course assessment.

The question paper has two sections.

Section 1: Expressive art studies

This section has 30 marks. It contains six extended-response questions: one mandatory and five optional. In this section, candidates answer three questions in total: the mandatory question and two of the five optional questions.

Marks are available for:

- ◆ demonstrating specialist knowledge and understanding of art practice and issues
- ◆ explaining, with reference to unseen prompts, how specific elements are used in a selected artwork which the candidates have previously studied
- ◆ explaining the impact of different external influences on the selected artwork
- ◆ analysing two unseen expressive art images, with reference to the question prompts, using appropriate art vocabulary

Section 1: Expressive art studies — question paper prompts

Mandatory question	Optional questions
This question comprises of three prompts drawn from the following options	Examples of expressive art issues that could be included in these questions are listed below
One from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ use of materials and/or technology ◆ use of scale ◆ use of techniques ◆ working methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ colour ◆ composition ◆ focal point ◆ form ◆ imagery ◆ lighting ◆ line ◆ location ◆ materials ◆ mood and atmosphere ◆ pattern ◆ perspective ◆ pose ◆ scale ◆ setting ◆ shape ◆ style ◆ subject matter ◆ symbolism ◆ techniques ◆ technology ◆ texture ◆ tone ◆ use of space ◆ viewpoint
and one from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ choice of subject matter ◆ consideration of mood and atmosphere ◆ consideration of style ◆ use of one visual element from line, tone, colour, texture, shape, form, pattern (selected by the candidate) 	
and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ impact of social, cultural, and/or other influences 	

Section 2: Design studies

This section has 30 marks. It contains six extended-response questions: one mandatory and five optional. In this section, candidates answer three questions in total: the mandatory question and two of the five optional questions.

Marks are available for:

- ◆ demonstrating specialist knowledge and understanding of design practice and issues
- ◆ explaining, with reference to unseen prompts, how specific elements are used in a selected design work which the candidates have previously studied
- ◆ explaining the impact of different external influences on the selected design
- ◆ analysing two unseen design images, with reference to the question prompts, using appropriate design vocabulary

Section 2: Design studies — question paper prompts

Mandatory question	Optional questions
This question comprises of three prompts drawn from the following options	Examples of design issues that could be included in these questions are listed below
One from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ consideration of function ◆ use of materials and/or technology ◆ use of techniques ◆ working methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ aesthetics ◆ colour ◆ construction ◆ decoration ◆ ergonomics ◆ fitness for purpose ◆ form ◆ function ◆ imagery ◆ layout ◆ line ◆ location ◆ manufacturing process ◆ materials ◆ pattern ◆ scale ◆ shape ◆ sources of inspiration ◆ style ◆ target audience ◆ target market ◆ techniques ◆ technology ◆ texture ◆ tone ◆ typography ◆ use of space ◆ wearability
and one from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ consideration of aesthetics ◆ consideration of style ◆ consideration of target market/audience ◆ use of one visual element from line, tone, colour, texture, shape, form, pattern (selected by the candidate) 	
and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ impact of social, cultural, and/or other influences 	

Setting, conducting and marking the question paper

The question paper is set and marked by SQA, and conducted in centres under conditions specified for external examinations by SQA.

Candidates have 2 hours to complete the question paper.

Specimen question papers for Higher courses are published on SQA'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: expressive portfolio

Expressive portfolio

100 marks

The portfolio assesses candidates' ability to apply practical art skills and integrate them with their knowledge and understanding of art practice across the course.

Throughout the expressive portfolio, candidates have the opportunity to demonstrate skills, knowledge and understanding by:

- ◆ responding to their theme/stimulus by producing relevant and focused 2D/3D analytical drawings, studies and investigative research, and using these to produce a single line of development leading to a final piece
- ◆ creatively and skilfully using appropriate materials, techniques and/or technology, visual elements and expressive effects
- ◆ reflecting on and critically evaluating their creative process and the visual qualities of their portfolio with reference to their theme/stimulus

The expressive portfolio has a total mark allocation of 100 marks. This is 38.5% of the overall marks for the course assessment.

Course assessment structure: design portfolio

Design portfolio

100 marks

The portfolio assesses candidates' ability to apply practical design skills and integrate them with their knowledge and understanding of design practice across the course.

Throughout the design portfolio, candidates have the opportunity to demonstrate skills, knowledge and understanding by:

- ◆ responding to their design brief by producing and compiling a variety of relevant and focused 2D/3D investigative material and market research, and using these to produce a single line of development leading to a design solution
- ◆ creatively and skilfully using appropriate materials, techniques and/or technology, and demonstrating their understanding of design elements
- ◆ reflecting on and critically evaluating their design process and the aesthetic and functional qualities of their design portfolio with reference to their design brief/design area requirements

The design portfolio has a total mark allocation of 100 marks. This is 38.5% of the overall marks for the course assessment.