

Art and Design National 5

Why take this course?

You should enjoy the subject and want to build on your existing skills across expressive and design areas. You may want to begin a period of study in this subject which may eventually lead to Higher level and progression towards art school or college applications. You may want your subject choices to include a creative and practical subject as a contrast to others you have picked.

To succeed in this course, you need...

This course is demanding and labour intensive and requires imagination, commitment and hard work. Ideally, you should have completed the S3 BGE course before choosing National 5 but this is not essential. You need to be motivated and self-disciplined as there is a requirement for planning and self-evaluation. There will be regular homework in the form of critical writing and practical tasks and sticking to deadlines is imperative. Resilience is also important, as the ability to accept and use constructive criticism and advice from the teacher is a key part in improving the quality of your work.

Course structure and Content (subject to change by the SQA)

The course at National 5 level consists of two portfolios – Expressive and Design plus an external written exam.

Expressive Portfolio

In this section, you will create investigative and analytical drawings in a variety of materials and develop their expressive compositional ideas based on their theme. These ideas will lead to the creating of a final outcome. You will also learn to develop a critical understanding of the work of other artists, historical and contemporary and produce evidence about their studies. Self-evaluation is also important in this portfolio.

Design Portfolio

In this section, you will develop creative design work in response to a structured design brief. You will investigate your theme and develop your creativity, problem solving and critical thinking skills to resolve design issues within the brief and produce a final outcome. You will also learn to develop a critical understanding of the work of other designers, historical and contemporary and produce evidence based on their study. Self-evaluation is also important in this portfolio.

Course Assessment

The practical work is separated into two portfolios; an expressive portfolio that is worth 100 marks and a design portfolio that is also worth 100 marks.

The portfolios will be marked externally by SQA and each one will be marked by separate marking teams. The portfolios will require submission of investigation, research and development work. There is an external written paper for National 5 covering questions relating to the work of artists and designers which has a weighting of 20%.

Where might this course take me?

This course may lead to further progression towards Higher Art and Design or Higher Photography.

Your skill set developed in Art and Design may benefit other creative career or job paths. Communication skills will also be developed which will help build confidence for presentations, interviews etc.