



Purpose statement

**NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Art and
Design
QN: 603/2964/6**

14–16 Purpose Statement

Who is this qualification for?

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Art and Design is designed for learners who want an introduction to art and design that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to progress onto further study.

The NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Art and Design complements GCSE qualifications. It is aimed at 14-16 year olds studying Key Stage 4 curriculum who are interested in art and design and associated industries. This qualification is designed to match the rigour and challenge of GCSE study. The qualification is graded Level 1 Pass/Merit/Distinction/Distinction* and Level 2 Pass/Merit/Distinction/Distinction* (equivalent to GCSE grades 8.5–1). More information on grading can be found in Section 2.

This Level 1/2 qualification is appropriate for learners who are looking to develop a significant core of knowledge and understanding in art and design and how to apply their learning.

This qualification has been designed to sit alongside the requirements of core GCSE subjects and is appropriate for learners who are motivated and challenged by learning through hands-on experiences and through content which is concrete and directly related to those experiences.

It is distinct from GCSE Art and Design, as it takes a vocational approach and encourages the learner to use knowledge and practical skills while focusing on preparing them for the work environment.

The study of art and design involves understanding how the creation of art and design works have been influenced over time and understanding how certain factors have influenced their creation across movements and disciplines. Studying art and design will also include understanding the use of visual language as well as how art and design works are created, responding to briefs and reviewing their own work. Studying art and design also includes understanding employment opportunities in the industry/sector.

The qualification focuses on an applied study of the art and design sector and learners will gain a broad understanding and knowledge of working in the sector.

What will the learner study as part of this qualification?

This qualification shows learners how to:

- understand factors that influence the creation of art and design works across different movements and disciplines
- understand how visual language is used through art and design works
- understand how art and design work is created
- understand employment opportunities and organisations in the art and design industry
- understand how to respond to art and design briefs
- understand how to create, present and review own art and design work.

The disciplines that a learner could study within the art and design qualification include:

- printmaking
- painting, drawing and mixed media
- digital
- fashion and textiles
- graphic design
- photography
- sculpture
- ceramics.

If you wish to offer an art and design discipline which does not appear in the above list, please contact our Quality Assurance team on 0191 239 8000 for further information.

What knowledge and skills will the learner develop as part of this qualification and how might these be of use and value in further studies?

Learners will develop skills and knowledge:

- in exploring the work of others
- in the various disciplines within the art and design industry
- in developing their own ideas
- in creating and presenting art and design work
- in evaluating their own work
- in employment opportunities within the art and design industry
- that are essential for the art and design sector, such as skills in interpreting visual language; responding to art and design briefs; independent working; working to deadlines.

The knowledge and skills gained will provide a secure foundation for careers in the art and design industry.

Which subjects will complement this course?

The following GCSE subject areas will complement this qualification by further broadening application of art and design skills in the context of art and design:

- film studies
- design technology: graphic products
- mathematics
- English
- science.

This list is not exhaustive and a range of other subject areas may also be appropriate.

This qualification is not part of a suite of qualifications.

Progression opportunities – what could this qualification lead to?

Depending on the grade the learner achieves in this qualification, they could progress onto Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications and/or GCSE/A Levels.

Learners who achieve at **Level 1** might consider progression to Level 2 qualifications post-16 such as:

- a GCSE in Art and Design
- study at Level 2 in a range of technical routes that have been designed for progression to employment, Apprenticeships and further study. An example might include the Level 2 Technical Certificate in Design Production. Technical certificate qualifications provide post-16 learners with the knowledge and skills they need for skilled employment or for further technical study.

Learners who achieve at **Level 2** might consider progression to Level 3 qualifications post-16 such as:

- Level 3 Applied General in Art and Design. This qualification prepares learners for progression to higher education in the art and design sector.
- Level 3 Technical Level in Video Games Art and Animation. This qualification prepares learners for progression into employment or onto an Apprenticeship through specialising in a technical occupation within the art and design sector. Technical Level qualifications provide post-16 learners with the knowledge and skills they need for skilled employment or for further technical study
- A Level in Art and Design. This will support progression to higher education
- learners could also progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship.

The understanding and skills gained through this qualification could be useful to progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship in the art and design sector through a variety of occupations which are available within the sector, such as a Community Arts Coordinator, Creative Digital Designer, Museum and Galleries Technician and Fashion Studio Assistant.

Further information

For more information about the NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Art and Design please see the support materials tab on the qualification page on the NCFE website.