



Summary of Changes

**NCFE Level 3 Applied General Certificate in Art
and Design
QN: 601/8898/4**

Summary of changes

This document summarises the changes in the qualification specification since the last version (Issue 5, October 2019). Please now use the most recent version (Issue 5.3, March 2020), which is available on the website.

- Information regarding the wellbeing and safeguarding of learners added to Section 1 (page 15)
- Information regarding the aggregation methods and grade thresholds added to Section 4 (page 58)

NCFE Level 3 Applied General Certificate in Art and Design (601/8898/4)

This document summarises the changes in the qualification specification since the last version (Issue 3, December 2017). Please now use the most recent version (Issue 5.3, March 2020), which is available on the website.

Additional guidance has been added to Section 4 regarding calculating the overall grade for a unit.

Learners are only required to meet the merit/distinction descriptors where they are specified in the qualification specification. For example, if a learning outcome/assessment criteria is only achievable at a pass level, then this grading criteria can be discounted when calculating the overall unit grade.

This document summarises the changes in the qualification specification since the last version (Issue 2 October 2017).

Please now use the most recent version (Issue 5.3, March 2020), which is available on the website.

Type	Summary of changes
About this qualification	Pg 6 Rewording of DfE requirements: "Requires qualification to be graded"
Qualification purpose	Pg 7 Clarification to qualification objectives: "develop new technical skills in art and/or design".
Progression opportunities	Pg 10 Update to list of qualifications
Qualification dates	Pg 11 Change to information on end dates.
Subject maps	Pg13 Replacing information on Directory of Products and Services.
Support for centres	Pg13 Amendment to email addresses.
Synoptic assessment	Pg 20 Addition: "Synoptic assessment is embedded in unit 05, as it requires the learner to apply their knowledge and skills gained in units 01–04".
How the qualification is assessed	Pg 46 Clarification of the description and duration of the external assessment.
External assessment	Pg 51-52 Updated section on external assessment.
Marking the external assessment	Pg 56 Deletion of paragraph regarding weighting:
Overall qualification grading descriptors	Pg 58 Addition under Distinction* grading: "..or learners will have achieved a Distinction grade in every unit for the internal assessment and a Distinction grade in the external assessment."

This document summarises the changes in the qualification specification since the last version (Issue 1 September 2017).

Please now use the most recent version (Issue 5.3, March 2020), which is available on the website.

Type	Summary of changes
Things you need to know – Assessment requirements	Pg 5 Internally assessed and externally quality assured portfolio of evidence (units 01 – 05). Externally set and assessed practical task (sampled from units 01, 02, 03 and 05).
Achieving this qualification	Pg 9 Learners must also achieve a minimum of a Pass in the external assessment.
Assessors and Internal Quality Assurance	Pg 12 The following paragraph has replaced the 'Assessors', 'Internal Quality Assurance' and, 'Examples of relevant qualifications/experience' paragraph in the 'Staffing requirements' section: Staff involved in the Assessment and Internal Quality Assurance of this qualification must be able to demonstrate that they have (or are working towards) the relevant occupational knowledge and/or occupational competence, at the same level or higher as the units being assessed and internal quality assured. This may be gained through experience and/or qualifications.
Submitting unit grades	Pg 50 The highest banked grade for a unit will contribute to the overall qualification grade.

Type	Summary of changes
External assessment	<p>Pg 52</p> <p>Learners are entitled to one resit for each of the external assessment components, which will be chargeable. This means that learners can have a total of 2 attempts at each of the external assessments. Resits of the external assessment will be different from the original assessment. 'Did Not Attend', will not be classed as an attempt at the external assessment. If you know before the assessment date that a learner is no longer able to sit the external assessment please contact NCFE to cancel or transfer the entry. The highest banked grade for the external assessment will contribute to the overall qualification grade.</p>
Grading internally assessed units	<p>Pg 55</p> <p>The grading descriptors for each unit have been included in this qualification specification. Grading descriptors have been written for each learning outcome in a unit. Assessors must be confident that, as a minimum, all learning outcomes have been evidenced and met by the learner. Assessors must make a judgement on the evidence produced by the learner to determine the grading decision for the learning outcome. We've provided a grading criteria glossary of terms to help you to make this judgement – see Section 5 (page 59).</p>
Marking the external assessment	<p>Pg 56</p> <p>The weighting of the external assessments and the use of numerical mark schemes will allow for compensation. This will then be converted to a Uniform Mark Scheme (UMS), the following table represents the percentage UMS associated with each awarded grade:</p> <p>A table follows here, where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 3 Pass UMS % = 45 □ Level 3 Merit UMS % = 55 • Level 3 Distinction UMS % = 65.