



# Synoptic connections

**NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Creative  
Design and Production  
QN: 603/7003/8**

## Synoptic connections

Synoptic assessment requires learners to combine elements of their learning and show accumulated knowledge and understanding across the qualification content. It enables learners to evidence their capability to integrate and apply knowledge, understanding and skills gained with breadth and depth in context.

It is therefore essential when planning for teaching and throughout delivery that the interdependencies and links build across the content of the qualification and are highlighted and reinforced.

The qualification comprises 6 mandatory content areas. All content is mandatory and must be taught.

The teaching content does not have to be delivered in a linear way; content areas are interdependent in knowledge, skills and concepts.

Teachers may take a synoptic approach across the qualification. This will enable learners to be able to apply theories and concepts from across the qualification specification in context to skills-based situations. Through combining content and developing holistic connections, learners will be able to demonstrate and evidence their full knowledge and understanding of the subject area and the design and production industry.

Learners will have the opportunity to identify relevant study skills and reflect upon their preferred learning style throughout the qualification.

<b>Content Area 1: Design and production in context</b>
<p><b>Content area 1.1: Design movements</b></p> <p>An understanding of design movements, their key factors, features and designers will support the learner to understand how current design practice has evolved since the start of the Arts and Crafts movement in 1860. This is inclusive of the contextual factors and influences of that era.</p> <p>Content areas that link synoptically to content area 1.1 include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Design materials and processes:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1 Investigate materials</li> <li>• 2.2 Design process</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Design brief and production processes:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.1 Interpreting a design brief</li> <li>• 3.2 Design proposal</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<p><b>Content area 1.2: Design principles</b></p> <p>An understanding of the design principles that designers follow will support the learner to understand how these principles influence good design in the context of everyday life. This is inclusive of the important underpinning knowledge of aesthetics, form, and function in design.</p> <p>Content areas that link synoptically to content area 1.2 include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Design materials and processes:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1 Investigate materials</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

- 2.2 Design process

3. Design brief and production processes:

- 3.2 Design proposal
- 3.3 Communication skills
- 3.4 Design solution modification in response to feedback

**Content area 1.3: Environmental impact of a product**

An understanding of the environmental impacts of product design and a product's lifecycle will support the learner to understand the importance of sourcing and selecting appropriate materials. This is inclusive of the approaches to sustainable design and potential impacts of unsustainable design.

Content areas that link synoptically to content area 1.3 include:

2. Design materials and processes:

- 2.1 Investigate materials
- 2.2 Design process
- 2.3 Digital design and manufacture opportunities

3. Design brief and production processes:

- 3.1 Interpreting a design brief
- 3.2 Design proposal
- 3.6 Production methods, processes and techniques

4. Presentation of a design solution:

- 4.2 Methods of presentation

**Content area 1.4: Impact of social factors on a product**

An understanding of how social factors influence the design process of products will support the learner to understand the importance of considering these factors from the initial stages to the final stages of production.

Content areas that link synoptically to content area 1.4 include:

2. Design materials and processes:

- 2.1 Investigate materials
- 2.2 Design process
- 2.3 Digital design and manufacture opportunities

3. Design brief and production processes:

- 3.1 Interpreting a design brief
- 3.2 Design proposal
- 3.3 Communication skills
- 3.6 Production methods, processes and techniques

4. Presentation of a design solution:

- 4.2 Methods of presentation

## Content area 2: Design materials and processes

### Content area 2.1: Investigate materials

An understanding of the properties, characteristics, aesthetics, surface treatments, finishing techniques, environmental factors and costs of materials will support the learner to understand how making well informed choices inform the design and production processes.

Other content areas that this understanding will help with are as follows:

- 1.1 Design movements
- 1.2 Design principles
- 1.3 Environmental impact of a product
- 1.4 Impact of social factors on a product
- 3.6 Production methods, processes and techniques

Content areas that link synoptically to content area 2.1 include:

1. Design and production in context:

- 1.1 Design movements
- 1.2 Design principles
- 1.3 Environmental impact of a product
- 1.4 Impact of social factors on a product

3. Design brief and production processes:

- 3.6 Production methods, processes and techniques

### Content area 2.2: Design process

An understanding of the stages of the design process will support the learner to understand how these stages are allocated to ensure a successful outcome.

Content areas that link synoptically to content area 2.2 include:

1. Design and production in context:

- 1.1 Design movements
- 1.2 Design principles
- 1.3 Environmental impact of a product
- 1.4 Impact of social factors on a product

3: Design brief and production processes:

- 3.1 Interpreting a design brief
- 3.2 Design proposal
- 3.3 Communication skills

### Content area 2.3: Digital design and manufacture opportunities

An understanding of the digital design and manufacture processes and techniques will support the learner to understand how these can be used to improve efficiency and consider potential economic impact.

Content areas that link synoptically to content area 2.3 include:

1. Design and production in context:

- 1.1 Design movements
- 1.3 Environmental impact of a product
- 1.4 Impact of social factors on a product

3. Design brief and production processes:

- 3.2 Design proposal
- 3.3 Communication skills
- 3.6 Production methods, processes and techniques

4. Presentation of a design solution:

- 4.2 Methods of presentation

### **Content area 3: Design brief and production processes**

#### **Content area 3.1: Interpreting a design brief**

An understanding of how to interpret a design brief will support the learner to understand how this critical stage of the design process is used to inform ideas from the initial stages through to the final outcome.

Content areas that link synoptically to content area 3.1 include:

1. Design and production in context:
  - 1.1 Design movements
  - 1.3 Environmental impact of a product
  - 1.4 Impact of social factors on a product
2. Design materials and processes:
  - 2.1 Investigate materials
  - 2.2 Design process
4. Presentation of a design solution:
  - 4.1 Purposes of presentation
  - 4.2 Methods of presentation

#### **Content area 3.2: Design proposal**

An understanding of how to create a design proposal will support the learner to understand how this critical stage is used to effectively communicate ideas in an appropriate format.

Content areas that link synoptically to content area 3.2 include:

1. Design and production in context:
  - 1.2 Design principles
2. Design materials and processes:
  - 2.2 Design process
  - 2.3 Digital design and manufacture opportunities
4. Presentation of a design solution:
  - 4.1 Purposes of presentation
  - 4.2 Methods of presentation
  - 4.3 Presentation skills for a design solution

#### **Content area 3.3: Communication skills**

An understanding of the importance of effective communication skills will support the learner to understand how these skills are practised and applied when presenting a design solution in response to a design brief.

Content areas that link synoptically to content area 3.3 include:

1. Design and production in context:
  - 1.2 Design principles

2. Design materials and processes:
- 2.2 Design process
  - 2.3 Digital design and manufacture opportunities
4. Presentation of a design solution:
- 4.1 Purposes of presentation
  - 4.2 Methods of presentation
  - 4.3 Presentation skills for a design solution

**Content area: 3.4: Design solution modification in response to feedback**

An understanding of the importance of using feedback to modify design ideas will support the learner to understand how these skills can be practised and applied when presenting and finalising a design solution in response to a design brief.

Content areas that link synoptically to content area 3.4 include:

1. Design and production in context:
- 1.2 Design principles
  - 1.3 Environmental impact of a product
  - 1.4 Impact of social factors on a product
2. Design materials and processes:
- 2.2 Design process
4. Presentation of a design solution:
- 4.1 Purposes of presentation
  - 4.2 Methods of presentation
  - 4.3 Presentation skills for a design solution

**Content area: 3.5 Production plan**

An understanding of the importance of a thorough and detailed production plan will support the learner to understand how this essential stage must be implemented for all design solutions.

Other content areas that this understanding will help with are as follows:

- 2.1 Investigate materials
- 2.2 Design process
- 2.3 Digital design and manufacture opportunities
- 4.2 Methods of preservation

Content areas that link synoptically to content area 3.5 include:

2. Design materials and processes:
- 2.1 Investigate materials
  - 2.2 Design process
  - 2.3 Digital design and manufacture opportunities
- 4: Presentation of a design solution:
- 4.2 Methods of presentation

**Content area 3.6: Production methods, processes and techniques**

An understanding of using production plans to experiment with production methods, processes and techniques will support the learner to understand how this essential stage must be implemented for all design solutions.

Content areas that link synoptically to content area 3.6 include:

1. Design and production in context
2. Design materials and processes:
  - 2.1 Investigate materials
  - 2.2 Design process
  - 2.3 Digital design and manufacture opportunities
4. Presentation of a design solution:
  - 4.2 Methods of presentation

**Content area 3.7: Safe working practices**

An understanding of using safe working practices, inclusive of risk management and health and safety requirements when working in design production disciplines, will support the learner to understand how this essential practice must be well planned, implemented and demonstrated at all stages of the design and production process.

All content areas link synoptically to content area 3.7:

1. Design and production in context:
  - 1.1 Design movements
  - 1.2 Design principles
  - 1.3 Environmental impact of a product
  - 1.4 Impact of social factors on a product
2. Design materials and processes:
  - 2.1 Investigate materials
  - 2.2 Design process
  - 2.3 Digital design and manufacture opportunities
3. Design brief and production processes:
  - 3.1 Interpreting a design brief
  - 3.2 Design proposal
  - 3.3 Communication skills
  - 3.4 Design solution modification in response to feedback
  - 3.5 Production plan
  - 3.6 Production methods, processes and techniques
4. Presentation of a design solution:
  - 4.1 Purposes of presentation
  - 4.2 Methods of presentation
  - 4.3 Presentation skills for a design solution



5. Review of processes and solution:

- 5.1 Formative review of design process and production
- 5.2 Summative review of design solution

6. Working in the design production industries:

- 6.1 Employment and career opportunities and skills in the design production industry
- 6.2 Product promotion
- 6.3 Self-promotion

### **Content area 4: Presentation of a design solution**

#### **Content area 4.1: Purposes of presentation**

An understanding of the purposes of effectively presenting design solutions to different types of audiences will support the learner to understand how this crucial stage is required to creatively communicate and showcase their design solution.

Content areas that link synoptically to content area 4.1 include:

1. Design and production in context:
  - 1.2 Design principles
  - 1.3 Environmental impact of a product
  - 1.4 Impact of social factors on a product
3. Design brief and production processes:
  - 3.1 Interpreting a design brief
  - 3.2 Design proposal
  - 3.3 Communication skills
  - 3.6 Production methods, processes and techniques

#### **Content area 4.2: Methods of presentation**

An understanding of the methods of presentation used when presenting design solutions will support the learner to understand how this crucial stage is required to creatively communicate and showcase their design solution in appropriate format. Methods include face to face, online, physical, and digital.

Content areas that link synoptically to content area 4.2 include:

1. Design and production in context:
  - 1.2 Design principles
  - 1.3 Environmental impact of a product
  - 1.4 Impact of social factors on a product
3. Design brief and production processes:
  - 3.1 Interpreting a design brief
  - 3.2 Design proposal
  - 3.3 Communication skills
  - 3.6 Production methods, processes and techniques

#### **Content area 4.3: Presentation skills for a design solution**

An understanding of appropriate presentation skills used when presenting design solutions will support the learner to understand how this crucial stage is required to clearly communicate and showcase their design solution through a range of different presentation methods.

1. Design and production in context:
  - 1.2 Design principles
  - 1.3 Environmental impact of a product
  - 1.4 Impact of social factors on a product
3. Design brief and production processes:
  - 3.1 Interpreting a design brief

- 3.2 Design proposal
- 3.3 Communication skills
- 3.6 Production methods, processes and techniques

### **Content area 5: Review of processes and solution**

#### **Content area: 5.1: Formative review of the design process and production**

An understanding of the importance of the ongoing formative review of all aspects of the design and production stages will support the learner to understand how this process is required to record the progress of their design solution and inform a summative review of the design solution.

Content areas that link synoptically to content area 5.1 include:

1. Design and production in context:
  - 1.2 Design principles
3. Design brief and production processes:
  - 3.1 Interpreting a design brief
  - 3.2 Design proposal
4. Presentation of a design solution:
  - 4.2 Methods of presentation
  - 4.3 Presentation skills for a design solution

#### **Content area 5.2: Summative review of design solution**

An understanding of the importance of a summative evaluation of a design solution will support the learner to understand how this process is required to understand whether the design solution has met the brief.

Content areas that link synoptically to content area 5.2 include:

1. Design and production in context:
  - 1.2 Design principles
3. Design brief and production processes:
  - 3.1 Interpreting a design brief
  - 3.2 Design proposal
4. Presentation of a design solution:
  - 4.2 Methods of presentation
  - 4.3 Presentation skills for a design solution

### **Content area 6: Working in the design production industries**

#### **Content area 6.1: Employment and career opportunities and skills in the design production industry**

An understanding of the employment and career opportunities within design and production will support the learner to understand the different types of opportunities available.

Content areas that link synoptically to content area 6.1 include:

1. Design and production in context:
  - 1.1 Design movements
2. Design materials and processes:
  - 2.2 Design process
  - 2.3 Digital design and manufacture opportunities
3. Design brief and production processes:
  - 3.1 Interpreting a design brief
4. Presentation of a design solution:
  - 4.3 Presentation skills for a design solution

#### **Content area 6.2: Product promotion**

An understanding of how products can be promoted within the design production industry will support the learner to understand how they can promote their own products effectively.

Content areas that link synoptically to content area 6.2 include:

1. Design and production in context:
  - 1.1 Design movements
  - 1.2 Design principles
2. Design materials and processes:
  - 2.2 Design process
3. Design brief and production processes:
  - 3.1 Interpreting a design brief
  - 3.2 Design proposal
4. Presentation of a design solution:
  - 4.2 Methods of presentation
  - 4.3 Presentation skills for a design solution

#### **Content area: 6.3: Self-promotion**

An understanding of the purpose of self-promotion in the design production industry will support the learner to understand how they can promote themselves and their products effectively both digitally and physically.

Content areas that link synoptically to content area 6.2 include:

1. Design and production in context:
  - 1.1 Design movements
  - 1.2 Design principles
2. Design materials and processes:
  - 2.2 Design process
3. Design brief and production processes:
  - 3.1 Interpreting a design brief
  - 3.2 Design proposal
4. Presentation of a design solution:
  - 4.2 Methods of presentation
  - 4.3 Presentation skills for a design solution