

**COMHAIRLE NÁISIÚNTA NA  
gCÁILÍOCHTAÍ GAIRMOIDEACHAIS**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR  
VOCATIONAL AWARDS**



**Module Descriptor**

**Design**

**Level 2 A20209**

**September 2001**

**[www.ncva.ie](http://www.ncva.ie)**

## Level 2 Module Descriptor

### Summary of Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	Describes how the module functions as part of the national vocational certificate framework.
<b>Module Title</b>	Indicates the module content. This title appears on the learner's certificate. It can be used to download the module from the website <a href="http://www.ncva.ie">www.ncva.ie</a> .
<b>Module Code</b>	An individual code is assigned to each module; a letter at the beginning denotes a vocational or general studies area under which the module is grouped and the first digit denotes its level within the national vocational certificate framework.
<b>Level</b>	Indicates where the module is placed in the national vocational certificate framework, from Foundation to Level 3.
<b>Credit Value</b>	Denotes the amount of credit that a learner accumulates on achievement of the module.
<b>Purpose</b>	Describes in summary what the learner will achieve on successfully completing the module and in what learning and vocational contexts the module has been developed. Where relevant, it lists what certification will be awarded by other certification agencies.
<b>Preferred Entry Level</b>	Recommends the level of previous achievement or experience of the learner.
<b>Special Requirements</b>	Usually 'none' but in some cases detail is provided here of specific learner or course provider requirements. There may also be reference to the minimum safety or skill requirements that learners must achieve prior to assessment.
<b>General Aims</b>	Describe in 3-5 statements the broad skills and knowledge learners will have achieved on successful completion of the module.
<b>Units</b>	Structure the learning outcomes; there may be no units.
<b>Specific Learning Outcomes</b>	Describe in specific terms the knowledge and skills that learners will have achieved on successful completion of the module.
<b>Portfolio of Assessment</b>	Provides details on how the learning outcomes are to be assessed.
<b>Grading</b>	Provides details of the grading system used.
<b>Individual Candidate Marking Sheets</b>	List the assessment criteria for each assessment technique and the marking system.
<b>Module Results Summary Sheet</b>	Records the marks for each candidate in each assessment technique and in total. It is an important record for centres of their candidate's achievements.
<b>Appendices</b>	Can include approval forms for national governing bodies.
<b>Glossary of Assessment Techniques</b>	Explains the types of assessment techniques used to assess standards.
<b>Assessment Principles</b>	Describes the assessment principles that underpin the NCVA approach to assessment.

## Introduction

A module is a statement of the standards to be achieved to gain an NCVA award. Candidates are assessed to establish whether they have achieved the required standards. Credit is awarded for each module successfully completed.

The standards in a module are expressed principally in terms of specific learning outcomes, i.e. what the learner will be able to do on successful completion of the module. The other elements of the module - the purpose, general aims, assessment details and assessment criteria - combine with the learning outcomes to state the standards in a holistic way.

While the NCVA is responsible for setting the standards for certification in partnership with course providers and industry, it is the course providers who are responsible for the design of the learning programmes. The duration, content and delivery of learning programmes should be appropriate to the learners' needs and interests, and should enable the learners to reach the standard as described in the modules. Modules may be delivered alone or integrated with other modules.

The development of learners' **core skills** is a key objective of vocational education and training. The opportunity to develop these skills may arise through a single module or a range of modules. The core skills include:

- taking initiative
- taking responsibility for one's own learning and progress
- problem solving
- applying theoretical knowledge in practical contexts
- being numerate and literate
- having information and communication technology skills
- sourcing and organising information effectively
- listening effectively
- communicating orally and in writing
- working effectively in group situations
- understanding health and safety issues
- reflecting on and evaluating quality of own learning and achievement.

Course providers are encouraged to design programmes which enable learners to develop core skills.

<b>1</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Design</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>A20209</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Credit Value</b>	<b>1 credit</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<p>This is an elective module leading to a National Vocational Certificate Level 2 award in a number of related design disciplines.</p> <p>It will underpin all other design modules by providing an understanding of the strategies inherent in the design process. This includes an understanding of the relationships between the factors that influence design solutions, and the development of the creative methodologies needed to solve problems.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Preferred Entry Level</b>	National Vocational Certificate Level 1, Leaving Certificate or equivalent qualifications and/or relevant life and work experiences.
<b>7</b>	<b>Special Requirements</b>	None.
<b>8</b>	<b>General Aims</b>	<p><i>Learners who successfully complete this module will:</i></p> <p><b>8.1</b> understand and appreciate the principles of design</p> <p><b>8.2</b> understand and apply the design process as a problem solving activity</p> <p><b>8.3</b> appreciate the impact of design in society</p> <p><b>8.4</b> appreciate the application of design within a wider cultural context.</p>

**9 Units**                      **The specific learning outcomes are not grouped into units.**

**10 Specific Learning Outcomes**

*Learners should be able to:*

- 10.1**                      interpret a design brief
- 10.2**                      develop a strategy that will meet the requirements of a given brief
- 10.3**                      demonstrate a proficiency in problem solving by the application of design over an integrated course of study
- 10.4**                      demonstrate use of the following, and the role played by technology in the production of a finished piece:
  - materials
  - processes
  - design solutions
- 10.5**                      understand and demonstrate the relationship between designer, manufacturer/maker and consumer
- 10.6**                      evaluate the evolutionary/revolutionary nature of design by reference to its history and function
- 10.7**                      evaluate design within a wider cultural context
- 10.8**                      communicate design ideas effectively using appropriate methods
- 10.9**                      execute a design solution from brief analysis through to client presentation.

**11 Portfolio of Assessment**

Please refer to the glossary of assessment techniques and the note on assessment principles at the end of this module descriptor.

All assessment is carried out in accordance with NCVA regulations.

Assessment is devised by the internal assessor, with external moderation by the NCVA.

<b>Summary</b>	<b>Collection of Work</b>	<b>60%</b>
	<b>Project</b>	<b>40%</b>

### **11.1 Collection of Work**

The internal assessor will devise guidelines for candidates on gathering a collection of work that demonstrates

- evidence of design skills
- the use of relevant research techniques in analysing a design problem
- a strategy developed for the successful interpretation of a design brief
- an understanding of the design process and the role of the designer and client.

### **11.2 Project**

The internal assessor will devise a project brief that requires candidates to demonstrate

- an analysis of the brief given and a successful identification of problems to be solved. Design implementation should feature in the candidate's evidence and should demonstrate an understanding of lateral thinking and the critical evaluation of the design solution
- the presentation of an effective design solution that meets a client's expectations.

## **12 Grading**

Pass	50 - 64%
Merit	65 - 79%
Distinction	80 - 100%

<b>Individual Candidate Marking Sheet 1</b>		<b>Design A20209 Collection of Work 60%</b>
---	---	---


**Candidate Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NCVA Candidate No.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Centre:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Roll No.:** \_\_\_\_\_

Assessment Criteria	Maximum Mark	Candidate Mark
<b>Design Research</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accurate interpretation of brief evident</li> <li>• adequate research carried out</li> </ul>	<b>10</b>	
<b>Identification of Problem</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accurate analysis of problem evident</li> <li>• appropriate use of technology in solving a problem</li> <li>• effective lateral thinking skills displayed</li> <li>• logical rational approach adopted in solving a problem</li> <li>• imaginative and creative solutions used</li> </ul>	<b>20</b>	
<b>Design Solution</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• good design strategy displayed</li> <li>• inventive use of materials suggested</li> <li>• logical processes followed in discovering design solution</li> <li>• good understanding of historical approach to design solution evident</li> <li>• effective communication of design ideas evident</li> </ul>	<b>20</b>	
<b>Visual Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• logical progression of thought clearly demonstrated</li> <li>• appropriate visual, technical and aesthetic qualities displayed</li> </ul>	<b>10</b>	
<b>TOTAL MARKS</b> <i>This mark should be transferred to the Module Results Summary Sheet</i>	<b>60</b>	

**Internal Assessor's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**External Examiner's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Individual Candidate Marking Sheet 2</b>		<b>Design A20209 Project 40%</b>
---	---	--

**Candidate Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NCVA Candidate No.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Centre:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Roll No.:** \_\_\_\_\_

Assessment Criteria	Maximum Mark	Candidate Mark
<b>Analysis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accurate understanding of project brief demonstrated</li> <li>• relevant research carried out</li> <li>• appropriate design strategy presented</li> <li>• creative solutions suggested demonstrating               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– sound lateral thinking</li> <li>– logical problem solving skills</li> </ul> </li> <li>• effective use of visual material to convey design ideas</li> </ul>	<b>20</b>	
<b>Design Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sound evaluation of design ideas</li> <li>• clear presentation of visual notes and sketches</li> <li>• comprehensive use of materials and technology</li> <li>• appropriate conclusions and recommendations presented for client evaluation</li> <li>• skilled execution of design solution</li> </ul>	<b>20</b>	
<b>TOTAL MARKS</b> <i>This mark should be transferred to the Module Results Summary Sheet</i>	<b>40</b>	

**Internal Assessor's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**External Examiner's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_





## Glossary of Assessment Techniques

**Assignment** *An exercise carried out in response to a brief with specific guidelines and usually of short duration.*

Each assignment is based on a brief provided by the internal assessor. The brief includes specific guidelines for candidates. The assignment is carried out over a period of time specified by the internal assessor.

Assignments may be specified as an oral presentation, case study, observations, or have a detailed title such as audition piece, health fitness plan or vocational area profile.

**Collection of Work**

*A collection and/or selection of pieces of work produced by candidates over a period of time that demonstrates the mastery of skills.*

Using guidelines provided by the internal assessor, candidates compile a collection of their own work. The collection of work demonstrates evidence of a range of specific learning outcomes or skills. The evidence may be produced in a range of conditions, such as in the learning environment, in a role play exercise, or in real-life/work situations.

This body of work may be self-generated rather than carried out in response to a specific assignment eg art work, engineering work etc.

**Examination**

*A means of assessing a candidate's ability to recall and apply skills, knowledge and understanding within a set period of time (time constrained) and under clearly specified conditions.*

Examinations may be:

- practical, assessing the mastery of specified practical skills demonstrated in a set period of time under restricted conditions
- oral, testing ability to speak effectively in the vernacular or other languages
- interview-style, assessing learning through verbal questioning, on one-to-one/group basis
- aural, testing listening and interpretation skills
- theory-based, assessing the candidate's ability to recall and apply theory, requiring responses to a range of question types, such as objective, short answer, structured, essay. These questions may be answered in different media such as in writing, orally etc.

**Learner Record**

*A self-reported record by an individual, in which he/she describes specific learning experiences, activities, responses, skills acquired.*

Candidates compile a personal logbook/journal/diary/daily diary/record/laboratory notebook/sketch book.

The logbook/journal/diary/daily diary/record/laboratory notebook/sketch book should cover specified aspects of the learner's experience.

## **Project**

*A substantial individual or group response to a brief with guidelines, usually carried out over a period of time.*

Projects may involve:

- research – requiring individual/group investigation of a topic
- process – eg design, performance, production of an artefact/event

Projects will be based on a brief provided by the internal assessor or negotiated by the candidate with the internal assessor. The brief will include broad guidelines for the candidate. The work will be carried out over a specified period of time.

Projects may be undertaken as a group or collaborative project, however the individual contribution of each candidate must be clearly identified.

The project will enable the candidate to demonstrate: (*some of these – about 2-4*)

- understanding and application of concepts in (specify area)
- use/selection of relevant research/survey techniques, sources of information, referencing, bibliography
- ability to analyse, evaluate, draw conclusions, make recommendations
- understanding of process/planning implementation and review skills/ planning and time management skills
- ability to implement/produce/make/construct/perform
- mastery of tools and techniques
- design/creativity/problem-solving/evaluation skills
- presentation/display skills
- team working/co-operation/participation skills.

## **Skills Demonstration**

*Assessment of mastery of specified practical, organisational and/or interpersonal skills.*

These skills are assessed at any time throughout the learning process by the internal assessor/another qualified person in the centre for whom the candidate undertakes relevant tasks.

The skills may be demonstrated in a range of conditions, such as in the learning environment, in a role-play exercise, or in a real-life/work situations.

The candidate may submit a written report/supporting documentation as part of the assessment.

Examples of skills: laboratory skills, computer skills, coaching skills, interpersonal skills.

## NCVA Assessment Principles

- 1 Assessment is regarded as an integral part of the learning process.
- 2 All NCVA assessment is criterion referenced. Each assessment technique has **assessment criteria** which detail the range of marks to be awarded for specific standards of knowledge, skills and competence demonstrated by candidates.
- 3 The mode of assessment is generally local i.e. the assessment techniques are devised and implemented by internal assessors in centres.
- 4 Assessment techniques in NCVA modules are valid in that they test a range of appropriate learning outcomes.
- 5 The reliability of assessment techniques is facilitated by providing support for assessors.
- 6 Arising from an extensive consultation process, each NCVA module describes what is considered to be an optimum approach to assessment. When the necessary procedures are in place, it will be possible for assessors to use other forms of assessment, provided they are demonstrated to be valid and reliable.
- 7 To enable all learners to demonstrate that they have reached the required standard, candidate evidence may be submitted in written, oral, visual, multimedia or other format as appropriate to the learning outcomes.
- 8 Assessment of a number of modules may be integrated, provided the separate criteria for each module are met.
- 9 Group or team work may form part of the assessment of a module, provided each candidate's achievement is separately assessed.