

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Life Drawing

Unit code: DV98 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop the skills and knowledge required to produce drawings from the human figure. Candidates should be able to represent the human form using their understanding of anatomy, articulation, proportion, form and underlying structure, making directly observed drawings from the human figure. Drawings should represent the human form, clothed and unclothed, in a number of poses using a variety of mediums and techniques.

On completion of the Unit candidates should be able to:

- 1 Produce drawings of the clothed human figure from a live model.
- 2 Produce drawings directly from the unclothed human figure from a live model.

Credit points and level: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. Candidates should have good basic drawing skills. This may be demonstrated by the achievement of Art and Design at Higher level or the achievement of suitable NQ Units.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Working with others at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Assessment: A single instrument of assessment, which would require candidates to produce sufficient drawings of a scale and variety to cover both Outcomes and all skills and knowledge required, could be used to assess the Unit. It would also be possible to break the assessment down into two separate assessment events, which assess each Outcome separately.

Work produced outwith controlled conditions must be subject to authentication by the Tutor.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Produce drawings of the clothed human figure from a live model

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Proportions of the human figure
- ◆ Articulation of human joints
- ◆ The underlying structure of the human figure
- ◆ Relative scale in relation to the model and his/her surroundings
- ◆ Use of a range of media

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

Produce drawings observed from a live clothed life model that show understanding and representation of the human body in whole and part.

The candidate should provide sufficient evidence, of a size ranging from A3 to A1, to demonstrate the ability to represent the human figure as required by the descriptor. Drawings will be either in preparatory/finished form or contained within a sketchbook.

The drawings submitted as evidence must clearly show:

- ◆ applied knowledge of proportions of parts of the human figure
- ◆ applied knowledge of articulation of human joints
- ◆ applied knowledge of the underlying structure of parts of the human figure
- ◆ use of linear drawing
- ◆ use of tonal drawing
- ◆ ability to represent the model's clothing
- ◆ use of a range of media
- ◆ use of preparatory sketches

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Life Drawing

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome should be combined with Outcome 2, details of which are given under Outcome 2 below.

Evidence should be generated by drawings produced throughout the delivery of the unit. Studies should include short poses of less than fifteen minutes and a variety of longer poses.

Candidates should submit drawings for assessment that have been drawn from a live model in the studio, as well as by studies and sketches gathered from live subjects elsewhere.

Drawings of parts of the body should be included in the folio of drawings submitted for assessment.

The range of required evidence must be covered, but will not necessarily be apparent in all of the drawings, which are submitted as evidence.

Candidates may be asked to produce sketches and studies in controlled conditions if this assists in ensuring the reliability of evidence presented.

Outcome 2

Produce drawings directly from the unclothed human figure from a live model

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ proportions of the human figure
- ◆ articulation of human joints
- ◆ the underlying structure of the human figure
- ◆ use of media

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ produce drawings observed from a live unclothed life model

The candidate should provide sufficient evidence, of a size ranging from A3 to A1, to demonstrate the ability to represent the human figure as required by the descriptor. Drawings will be either in preparatory/finished form or contained within a sketchbook.

The drawings submitted, as evidence must clearly show:

- ◆ applied knowledge of proportions of parts of the human figure
- ◆ applied knowledge of articulation of human joints
- ◆ applied knowledge of the underlying structure of parts of the human figure
- ◆ use of linear drawing
- ◆ use of tonal drawing
- ◆ ability to represent the model in relation to his/her surroundings
- ◆ use of mediums
- ◆ the use of preparatory studies

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Life Drawing

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome can be combined with Outcome 1 as a single assessment event and evidence submitted in the form of a portfolio which must provide sufficient evidence of a size and quantity, ranging from A3 to A1, to demonstrate the ability to represent the human figure as required by the unit specification, some of which may be contained in sketch books or may be preparatory drawings.

It would be possible, if desired, to break the assessment down into two separate assessment events, which assess each Outcome holistically.

Assessment may be linked another Unit if it is incorporated as part of an integrated project.

The portfolio of drawings should contain all work produced as part of the Unit, including sketches/sketchbook work and preparatory drawings which should give clear evidence of each candidate's progression.

The folio could include studies from the skeleton where this is appropriate

Drawings should, where possible, be dated so that progression and development can be clearly demonstrated. It is not expected that drawings will be mounted for assessment purposes.

Evidence should be generated by drawings produced throughout the delivery of the Unit.

Candidates should submit drawings for assessment that have been drawn from a live model in the studio and may be supported by studies and sketches gathered from live subjects elsewhere. A variety of poses of short and long duration should include seating, standing and recumbent poses.

Candidates may be asked to produce sketches and studies in controlled conditions if this assists in ensuring the reliability of evidence presented

Administrative Information

Unit code: DV98 34
Unit title: Life Drawing
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History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Clarification of Evidence Requirements.	22/11/10

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Life Drawing

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit can be delivered as an integral part of any art and design course. As long as all the Outcomes are met the Unit can be adapted to meet the needs of a broad spectrum of Art and Design courses. There is scope within the Unit for Tutors to direct learning in a way that is most appropriate to the specialist area of a particular course.

It is not necessary for every candidate to have detailed knowledge of all aspects of life drawing unless this knowledge is an underpinning skill in their specific discipline. On completion of this Unit is expected that all candidates will be able to demonstrate observation and understanding of the human form through all their drawings.

The Unit is intended to enable candidates to develop the knowledge and skills required to produce drawings of the clothed and unclothed human figure with some accuracy. The aim of the Unit is to develop and build drawing skills, at the same time as gaining increasing competence in the observation and depiction of the human form. Essentially, the candidates will also acquire knowledge of basic anatomy and human structure.

The Unit should be approached as series of individual drawing projects. Candidates should be encouraged to use a variety of drawing and mark-making techniques and to work in achromatic, monochromatic and colour mediums. In order to enable each candidate to develop their personal visual language, a wide range of mediums and techniques should be explored. It may be helpful if the Tutor demonstrates techniques.

Experimentation with materials, techniques and grounds should encouraged but the aim of this Unit is that the candidate should demonstrate successful rendering of the human form, both clothed and unclothed, as well as competent application of drawing skills. Knowledge and understanding of the human form should be evident in candidates' drawings.

Tutors may offer notes and lectures that provide appropriate course-specific information to candidates and specify a precise brief for each particular drawing. Study of the skeleton, and of anatomy is advised as part of the necessary underpinning knowledge for the Unit.

Poses can be chosen by candidates or Tutors and should include both studio and informal poses. A variety of models, posed positions, lighting conditions, and backgrounds should be provided. Length of pose should be varied so that candidates have the opportunity to make detailed studies and also to produce quick sketches from short poses. Drawings of part of the body should be included, as well as drawings of the complete figure. Candidates should also be encouraged to produce work of varying sizes.

Producing experimental sketches and preparatory studies and the use of sketchbooks should be encouraged throughout the Unit. Sketchbooks and drawings can be produced as part of unsupervised or home study.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Life Drawing

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

The candidate should provide sufficient evidence, of a size ranging from A3 to A1, to demonstrate the ability to represent the human figure as required by the descriptor. Drawings should demonstrate the use of a variety of drawing materials. Candidates should also demonstrate a creative and analytical approach and sound observational skills.

Candidates should date all drawings that they produce. This will assist the assessor in determining the development of each candidate's competence throughout the course of the Unit.

It is envisaged that each candidate will produce more than just a minimum amount of drawings and that the most successful and/or appropriate pieces will be selected for summative assessment. A selection of drawings that includes finished drawings, preparatory studies and sketchbook work should be presented. Artwork may be mounted if considered appropriate, but is not mandatory for the achievement of this Unit.

Drawings submitted for assessment may have been created in the studio under the supervision of the Tutor, or could be produced unsupervised. If so, it should be possible to authenticate them.

Work produced should be assessed holistically, ensuring that the candidate has demonstrated creativity and has applied knowledge of the required skills to the work presented.

Assessment may be linked with another Unit if it is incorporated as part of an integrated project.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

The Unit offers many opportunities to explore ways of enhancing skills in managing co-operative working with sitters. Planning and undertaking life drawing sessions involves the identification of key aims which must be adapted to the requirements of all involved, and consistent with available resources. Maximising opportunities to enhance negotiation by offering encouragement, explaining and adapting behaviour to maximise the strengths of all involved in the process will be integral to the role of the artist. Candidates could be supported by self assessment checklists detailing qualities involved in an empathic understanding of the physical, emotional and cultural needs of others to be considered in order to progress communication within the constraints of legal and other considerations. Candidates should be encouraged to review and evaluate their contribution to successful relationships with a view to improvement.

Open learning

This Unit would not be suitable for delivery by open learning.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Life Drawing

Candidates with additional support needs

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Alternative Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs*, which is available on SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Life Drawing

This Unit is designed to enable you to develop and build your life drawing skills and to produce a selection of drawings of the human form that are relevant to your particular course of study.

The aim of the Unit is to provide you with the skills and knowledge to successfully represent the human form in your drawings. Drawings may be produced both under Tutor supervision and during periods of unsupervised study. Some tasks/projects may be clearly defined by your Tutor who may give you a specific brief. Other projects will allow you freedom to select a task most appropriate to your own learning.

You will be asked to create drawings of the human form, both clothed and unclothed and in a variety of poses and conditions. Your drawings must all be from live models, not from photographs or other drawings. Some drawings may be of the whole human figure; others may be of parts of the body. You may be required to undertake some studies relating to human skeletal structure and muscle formation, as this will help to inform your life drawings.

You will be encouraged to experiment and explore a range of drawing methods, mark-making techniques and mediums in both colour and monochrome. Using the drawing methods you have learned, you will explore the basic elements of the human form, its structure, proportion and articulation. You can experiment with drawings of different sizes and try working with experimental techniques and on different types of surfaces.

You will be asked to produce quick sketches, preparatory drawings as well as highly finished drawings. You will be encouraged to create sketchbooks and work from them may form part of your final assessment. It is expected that you will produce some 'extra' drawings and sketches that are purely self-initiated.

Assessment of your selected drawings will take place at the end of the Unit. The Tutor will specify the form in which the artwork is to be presented. You will be expected to have completed sufficient drawings of a scale and variety that you can select the most appropriate ones for assessment.