

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Observational Drawing

Unit code: DV9A 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop the knowledge and skills required to produce competent observational drawings from primary sources. The candidate should be able to produce drawings in both monochrome and colour, using a variety of drawing media and techniques.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Produce drawings using a variety of techniques and media.

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 but it would be beneficial that the candidate should have a working knowledge of basic drawing skills. It would be advantageous if the candidate had achieved Higher Art and Design or had completed relevant NQ Drawing Units.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Problem Solving 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: This Unit could be assessed by a single instrument of assessment.

Candidates must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified by the Unit. The candidate should produce sufficient drawings to meet the requirements of the Unit specification at SCQF level 7. Evidence can be assessed in one single assessment event at the end of the Unit.

The Unit should be approached as a series of individual drawing projects. Tutors may specify a precise brief for each particular drawing project. Subject matter can be chosen by candidates or Tutors and should be relevant to the candidates' course of study.

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 using a variety of techniques and media

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Line
- ◆ Tone
- ◆ Structure
- ◆ Proportion
- ◆ Depth/perspective.
- ◆ Texture/pattern.
- ◆ Shape
- ◆ Natural/local colour.
- ◆ Media and techniques.

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ Produce sufficient drawings from selected first-hand source material to adequately demonstrate, at SCQF level 7, creative use of a variety of drawing media. Understand and communicate through visual exploration and appropriate use of media, substrates and techniques, the elements of line, tone, structure, proportion, texture/pattern, shape, natural/local colour and perspective/depth. All drawings must be from first-hand observation.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome can be a single assessment of a 'portfolio' of chosen examples of work produced by the candidate. This portfolio may include finished drawings, sketches, preparatory drawings and sketchbook drawings. Assessment may be linked with another Unit if it is incorporated as part of an integrated project.

Elements listed in the 'knowledge and skills' section are mandatory but several may be incorporated in each of the assessment pieces. They should be assessed holistically, assuring that the candidate has demonstrated creativity and has applied knowledge of the required skills to the work presented.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Observational Drawing

Subject matter can be chosen by candidates or Tutors and can be taken from a range of both man-made and natural sources. It may be either course-specific, thematic or eclectic and can be studio based or sourced in the environment. It is envisaged that each candidate will produce more than the minimum amount of drawings required to meet the criteria stated in the SCQF level 7 Unit specification and that the most successful and/or appropriate pieces will be selected for assessment. There is scope for versatility in scale and finish.

Producing experimental sketches and preparatory studies and the use of sketchbooks should be encouraged throughout the Unit.

It should not be necessary to produce individual pieces of artwork exploring each specific element as several of the elements may be incorporated in a single drawing. Candidates should demonstrate a creative and analytical approach and sound observational skills and produce drawings which successfully represent 3D subject matter in 2D. There is scope to experiment with a wide variety of monochromatic and coloured drawing materials and techniques.

Evidence should be produced under guidance from a Tutor who can demonstrate techniques and advise candidates on appropriate materials, substrates and subject matter. Drawings submitted for assessment should have been created in the studio or alternatively, produced elsewhere throughout the delivery of the Unit. Candidates will be asked to produce drawings under controlled conditions where this assists ensuring the reliability of the evidence.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DV9A 34

Unit title: Observational Drawing

Superclass category: JB

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History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Clarification of Evidence Requirements.	14/12/10

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Observational 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 is primarily intended to enable candidates to develop the knowledge and skills required to produce competent observational drawings from primary sources. The aim of the Unit is to develop and build on traditional drawing skills and there is scope to incorporate experimental approaches where appropriate. It can be delivered as an integral part of any art and design course. Although the Unit is expressed in generic terms it should be related to a context which is relevant to the candidates.

The Unit should be approached as series of individual drawing projects. Candidates should be encouraged to learn basic drawing and mark-making techniques using a variety of monochromatic and coloured media. Mixed media may be used. These techniques can be demonstrated by the Tutor. Candidates should then explore the series of specified elements by producing drawings of natural or man-made subjects from first hand sources.

Experimentation with materials, techniques and substrates is to be encouraged but the aim of this Unit is that the candidate should demonstrate successful rendering of 3D subjects in 2D drawings, competent application of drawing skills, and knowledge and understanding of the basic elements of drawing.

The Tutor can indicate, or the candidate might identify, a particular element/or elements to study before beginning each drawing. The elements of line, tone, structure, proportion, texture/pattern, shape, natural/local colour and perspective/depth are listed in the mandatory section of the Unit specification. If it is appropriate the candidate may explore each specific element in individual drawings, but another approach is to incorporate several of the elements in a single drawing. A balance of both approaches may be appropriate.

The weighting of appropriate skills will be at the discretion of the Tutor and as long as all the mandatory requirements are met the Unit can be adapted to meet the needs of a broad spectrum of art and design courses. It is not necessary for every candidate to have a detailed knowledge of the technical aspects of perspective drawing unless this knowledge is an underpinning skill in their specific discipline (eg Interior Design). It is however expected that the candidate will be able to demonstrate accurate observation of depth, space, atmosphere, and ellipses where appropriate. The simulation of surface texture and pattern or natural/local colour may also be emphasised where they are specifically relevant to the candidate's chosen discipline.

Particular details within the list of elements are implied. For example the element of 'shape' may include the exploration and understanding of positive and negative, geometric and amorphous, hard and soft, symmetrical and asymmetrical, scale and proportion etc. Tutors may offer notes and lectures which provide appropriate course-specific information to candidates and specify a precise brief for each particular drawing.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Observational Drawing

Subject matter can be chosen by candidates or Tutors and can be taken from a range of both man-made and natural sources. It may be either course-specific, thematic or eclectic and can be studio based or sourced in the environment. There is opportunity in this Unit to explore observational drawing from all types of source material such as natural and man-made objects, buildings, landscape, figure and life, interiors, etc.

There is scope for versatility in scale and finish. 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.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Candidates must produce a range of drawings from selected first-hand source material which demonstrate competent and creative use of a variety of drawing materials. They should demonstrate a creative and analytical approach and sound observational skills and produce a sufficient number of drawings which successfully meet all the requirements of the SCQF level 7 Unit specification.

It is envisaged that each candidate will produce more than the minimum amount of drawings required and that the most successful and/or appropriate pieces will be selected for assessment. A 'portfolio' of drawings should be presented for assessment which may include finished drawings, preparatory studies and sketchbook work which can be presented in any format specified by the Tutor. Artwork may be mounted if required/appropriate but this is not specified by the Unit.

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

Drawings submitted for assessment should have been created in the studio or produced elsewhere throughout the delivery of the Unit. Assessors can ensure the reliability and authenticity of candidate evidence by assessing drawings produced under controlled conditions.

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

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

All elements of the Core Skill of Problem Solving, namely planning and organising, critical thinking, and reviewing and evaluating, should be fully developed and further enhanced as candidates undertake the Unit, applying knowledge and skills to visual exploration in a range of media. Identifying, selecting and maximising all available resources and recognising and overcoming any potential difficulties will involve a high level of critical and creative thinking.

Group discussion of design issues may be beneficial although candidates would independently apply and justify effective media techniques using suitable opportunities for review and potential modification. Candidates could benefit from individual discussions with the assessor to reinforce analytical evaluation of achievement as a guide to future activities and further development. Candidates should be encouraged to identify appropriate evaluative methods to measure achievement. Evaluation in which all aspects of the design process and their potential impact are analysed will be integral to achievement.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Observational Drawing

Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by open learning however the centre would have to create delivery and assessment plans which ensured authenticity of candidate evidence.

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: Observational Drawing

This Unit is designed to enable you to develop and build on traditional drawing skills and to produce a 'portfolio' of observational drawings which are relevant to your particular course of study.

You will be asked to create drawings selecting from a wide range of relevant source material such as natural and man-made objects, buildings, landscape, figure studies, interiors, etc. Your Tutor will demonstrate how to use a variety of media and techniques and you will be encouraged to develop skill in traditional drawing methods. There is also scope to experiment with other mark-making techniques and mixed media. The aim of the Unit is to provide you with the skills and knowledge to successfully represent 3D subject matter in 2D drawings. You will provide evidence of this knowledge and skill by presenting a selection of your drawings for assessment.

Using the drawing methods you have learned you will explore the basic elements of drawing which include line, tone, structure, proportion, texture/pattern, shape, natural/local colour and perspective/depth. You may explore each specific element in individual drawings, but it is also appropriate to incorporate several of the elements in a single drawing.

Drawings can be produced either under Tutor supervision or during periods of unsupervised study. You can experiment with drawings of different scale and try working with experimental techniques and on different types of surfaces. Some tasks/projects may be clearly defined by your Tutor who may give you a specific brief. You may be asked to produce quick sketches, preparatory drawings or highly finished drawings. Some drawings and sketches may be purely self-initiated. You will be encouraged to create sketchbooks, and artwork from this source may form part of your final assessment if appropriate.

Assessment 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 more than the minimum amount of drawings so that you can select the most appropriate ones for assessment.