



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Photography: Studio Still Life

Unit code: DW7T 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to research, produce and present a series of still life images produced in the studio. The candidate will also be able to research different examples of historical and/or contemporary still life images.

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

- 1 Research historical and/or contemporary still life images.
- 2 Produce a range of still life images.
- 3 Present finished still life images.

Credit points and level: 2 HN credits at SCQF level 7: (16 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: Candidates should have a basic knowledge of camera/lighting skills and studio work practices. Candidate should have good interpersonal skills.

These can be exemplified by the following Units

D0MP 12	<i>Basic Studio</i>
E7P9 12	<i>Product Photography</i>
D955 12	<i>Camera Techniques</i>

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication, Information Technology and 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.

General information for centres (cont)

Assessment: This Unit could be assessed holistically by a portfolio of evidence generated by the still life briefs. The evidence should arise from the given briefs but could also include reflective statements by the candidate on his/her experience related to the work produced and the research for Outcome 1. Outcome 1 would be assessed by the production of a workbook with reflective statements on the selected images. There should be a minimum of ten sourced examples of annotated illustrations in the workbook.

For Outcome 2 the candidate will be expected to generate creative visual responses to four given briefs. The four still life images should show technical competence, and aesthetic judgment.

For Outcome 3 the candidate will present the finished work from Outcome 2.

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

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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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

Research historical and/or contemporary still life images

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Lighting techniques
- ◆ Composition
- ◆ Context

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can produce an annotated workbook containing:

- ◆ a minimum of 10 examples of different still life images

Each example must include comments on composition, lighting, style and context.

Work produced out-with controlled conditions must be subject to authentication by the Tutor.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment for this Outcome can be combined with Outcome 2 and 3 as part of a single assessment instrument for this Unit, details of which are given under Outcome 3

Outcome 2

Produce a range of studio still life images

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Logistical Planning for given briefs
- ◆ Exposure calculation and control.
- ◆ Lighting, composition and viewpoint
- ◆ Content
- ◆ Context

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Studio Still Life

Evidence Requirements

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

Produce a series of still life images to a minimum of four different briefs. In the series, all following points must be achieved:

- ◆ organisation and planning is correct for each brief
- ◆ the exposure is correct for the desired effect for each brief
- ◆ a range of lighting and compositional techniques must be used over the briefs
- ◆ images must be technically and aesthetically consistent with the brief

Assessment guidelines

The assessment for this Outcome can be combined with Outcomes 1 and 3 as part of a single assessment instrument for this Unit, details of which are given under Outcome 3.

The assessment would require the candidates to produce a series of still life images to given briefs.

Outcome 3

Present finished still life images

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Presentation Media
- ◆ Presentation skills

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and skills showing that they can:

- ◆ choose a medium, and present the four images produced for Outcome 2

Assessment guidelines

The assessment would require the candidates to produce a series of still life images to four given briefs.

The briefs should include a variety of lighting techniques.

Each image should use a combination of lighting, composition, viewpoint and approach to the subject for the brief. All of the images produced should show technical competence, and aesthetic judgment, and be retouched where needed and presented. Candidates should discuss their technical and creative intentions for each image.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Studio Still Life

The candidate's final imagery should make reference to the research already carried out in the production of the workbook in Outcome 1. The workbook should show examples of historical and/or contemporary still life using other practitioner's work. The workbook should also show a critical engagement with the examples, commenting on factors such as composition, lighting, style and context.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DW7T 34
Unit title:	Photography: Studio Still Life
Superclass category:	KE
Original date of publication:	August 2006
Version:	02 (April 2009)

History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Removal of the requirement for 10 examples of still life photographs in Outcome 1.	22/4/09

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Photography: Studio Still Life

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 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is intended for candidates who are taking a qualification in Photography at Higher National level. It may also be taken by candidates in relevant employment wishing to develop and/or enhance their skills. It is likely to be easier for individuals if the practical work is undertaken by working in pairs. This could be achieved with each student taking turns to work as an assistant the focus on Outcome 1 should be on sources of research (eg exhibitions, professional photographers, internet, magazines, books etc). The research should be collated in the form of a workbook, with at minimum of ten sourced examples together with evaluative comments.

For Outcome 2 a specific series of studio still life images should be produced to 4 given briefs. The briefs should enable the candidate to undertake a variety of still life techniques. The candidate should be able to set up a studio. They should also be able to use the equipment and lighting to realise the intended style.

For Outcome 3 the candidate should present their own images, either in physical or electronic form, which may include a presentation with class and Tutors present.

Still life images used as reference material do not need to be exclusively photographic. The tradition of still life paintings as an allegorical reference, for example may be introduced.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

The Unit is a core part of the HNC/D Photography. It should be delivered early in the award to enable candidates to utilise the skills, knowledge and understanding gained here in their planning, production and analysis of still life images. Candidates will require guidance from the centre to ensure they adopt a suitable approach for each assessment.

Many of the skills achieved in this Unit will be transferable to other photography Units. Candidates should be given the opportunity to gather research information for themselves and they should be encouraged to make use of relevant websites and other resources.

This Unit requires time to be allocated for a thorough introduction to, and discussion of the requirements of the Outcomes. A presentation by the Tutor of still life images and an explanation of their purpose, and possible methods of production prior to candidates beginning their own research would be useful. Some candidates will need assistance to begin looking at an area of study that is relatively new to them. Stronger candidates may benefit from being directed to look at aspects of still-life/constructed images that they haven't yet considered.

The assessment of Outcome 2 presents the opportunity to share best practice. A well-organised open discussion of candidates' research and practical work will enable the candidates themselves to establish the standard of practical work required for successful completion of the Unit.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Studio Still Life

While it would be useful to encourage guest speakers to have some input to the delivery of this Unit, it is appreciated that visits of this kind are often difficult to coordinate and integrate. However, input from current practitioners is encouraged wherever possible.

A student centred approach should be adopted at all times. The main emphasis of the Unit lies in Outcome 2 and approximately 70% of the time should be allocated to this area. Candidates will require guidance from the centre to ensure they adopt a suitable approach for each brief.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Support in developing an effective search strategy for accessing and evaluating paper based and electronic sources of complex information on historical and contemporary images will be of value. The need to have efficient systems of recording, coding and storing outline information for ease of reference should be emphasised. Candidates should be encouraged to develop skills in computerised record keeping and be made aware of the importance of saving materials and performing back ups.

The production and discussion of initial drafts for the illustrated workbook is a useful way to ensure the development of skills in presentation and collation of relevant materials. Although communication skills are not formally assessed candidates should be expected to produce and present written and graphic work to a professional standard, and to communicate essential ideas and concepts effectively. Terminology and spelling used in annotation should be technically accurate, and the availability of suitable software to support effective professional presentation could further assist the development of skills in the use of technology.

All elements of the Core Skill of Problem Solving, namely Planning and Organising, Critical Thinking, and Reviewing and Evaluating could be developed and enhanced as candidates undertake the Unit. Candidates need to analyse and seek solutions to a series of briefs. Formative work in which they identify and consider the variables in situations, including all available resources, and analyse the significance of each before exploring their responses to stimuli, and identifying and applying an appropriate strategic approach will provide opportunities to develop problem solving skills to an advanced level. Evaluation which examines all stages of design solutions and their potential and actual impact will be on-going and formally assessed.

Open learning

If this Unit is delivered by open learning methods, additional resources will be required for candidate support, assessment and quality assurance.

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

General information for candidates

Unit title: Photography: Studio Still Life

This Unit is designed to enable you to produce and present a series of still life's produced in the studio. You will research and explain different styles of historical and/or contemporary still life.

You will research and evaluate historic and/or contemporary still life images. The research should be collated in a workbook and this will include a minimum of ten annotated examples. The research can include exhibitions, photographers, books, the internet, magazines, newspapers etc.

You will produce studio and location still life images to given briefs. You may work as a team of two, alternating between the roles of photographer and assistant. You will produce a range of four still life images. You will be involved in the planning of the session, including selection of equipment, setting up lighting and props, organising all products, involved in the still life session.

You will present and evaluate your final work.