

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Photography: Alternative Processes

Unit code: DW7W 35

Unit purpose: The Unit is designed to enable the candidate to research, produce, present and evaluate a range of prints using ‘alternative processes’. It gives them experience, knowledge and understanding of an entire process from concept to final image and the skills to complete the final prints.

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

- 1 Research and evaluate historic and/or contemporary alternative photographic print processes
- 2 Produce prints using alternative process techniques
- 3 Present and evaluate a series of alternative prints

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

**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 knowledge of:

Photography: Camera Techniques *D955 12*
Photography: Monochrome Processing and Printing *D956 12*

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Problem Solving and Communication 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: Unit could be assessed by a single instrument of assessment which would require the candidate to work through the processes which lead to the production of the final prints. The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Photography: Alternative Processes

Unit code: DW7W 35

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

Research and evaluate historical and/or contemporary alternative photographic print process

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Research
- ◆ Historic print methods
- ◆ Context
- ◆ Contemporary print methods
- ◆ Evaluative communication
- ◆ Health and Safety implications

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can produce an annotated, evaluative workbook. The workbook must contain:

- ◆ a minimum of three different examples of working methods and materials for alternative processes
- ◆ an evaluation of a minimum of three different examples of working methods and materials for Alternative Processes that shows:
 - an understanding of the process
 - Suitability of images or subject for the processes
 - Degree of difficulty/complexity/achievability
 - Understanding of health and safety issues

Assessment guidelines

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

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Alternative Processes

Outcome 2

Produce prints using alternative process techniques

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Prepare negative
- ◆ Equipment and chemicals
- ◆ Prepare paper and/or other materials
- ◆ Prepare work area
- ◆ Health and safety

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by producing at least three finished prints, which are technically and aesthetically competent. Evidence of understanding of processes and health and safety practices should be demonstrated by completion of work-based risk assessment.

Assessment guidelines

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

Outcome 3

Present and evaluate a series of alternative prints

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Presentation Media
- ◆ Evaluation skills
- ◆ Presentation skills

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ choose a medium and present the printed material produced for Outcome 2
- ◆ evaluate the printed material either orally or in writing

Assessment guidelines

The candidate's evaluation for Outcome 3 should make reference to the research carried out in the production of the workbook for Outcome 1. The workbook should show examples of three historical and/or contemporary Alternative Processes. It should also contain the candidate's evaluation and comparison of the different processes.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Alternative Processes

If holistic assessment is used, the processes researched for Outcome 1 should be used for the practical assignment in Outcome 2.

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

It is recommended that the evidence for Outcome 3 be in the form of hard copy and not an electronic presentation.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DW7W 35

Unit title: Photography: Alternative Processes

Superclass category: KE

Original date of publication: August 2006

Version: 01

History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2006

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of Higher National qualifications.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Customer Contact Centre for further details, telephone 0845 279 1000.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Photography: Alternative Processes

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 intended for candidates who are taking a qualification in Photography at Higher National level. It may also apply to candidates on an Art or design related Higher National Group Award. Candidates could work alone or in small groups of two or three to share experiences and carry out test exposures and evaluations of different processes,

Outcome 1

The candidates research different print techniques and collate information on at least three techniques, sources include books and internet. The candidate should be able to evaluate and compare different print methods. (See Outcome 2.)

Outcome 2

Candidates should be shown by demonstration different processes and examples of different prints eg:

- ◆ Gum bichromate prints
- ◆ Cyanotype prints
- ◆ Argyrotype prints
- ◆ Salt prints
- ◆ Liquid light
- ◆ Polaroid transfers
- ◆ Lazertran
- ◆ Lith prints

Candidates prepare equipment and materials for prints in the chosen processes. Appropriate negative is prepared. Light sensitive coating is applied to appropriate material eg paper, wood, glass, canvas, fabric.

Candidates organise equipment and work area ready for print, with due attention to:

- ◆ Mixing and preparation of appropriate chemicals
- ◆ Correct exposure and processing of the chosen print method
- ◆ Cleaning of work area and equipment
- ◆ Reflect and evaluate process orally
- ◆ Present final print/mounting/displaying
- ◆ Health and safety

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Alternative Processes

Outcome 3

The candidate would present and evaluate their own images. This would normally take the form of an oral presentation with class and Tutors present.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit would normally be delivered as an optional Unit in the second year of the HND Group Award when candidates have considerable experience of printing and, digital work.

There should be some demonstrations of alternative processes and candidates should be encouraged to explore a variety of techniques, research working methods of historic and contemporary print processes, and experiment with several non-manufactured printing methods, eg light sensitive chemicals, suitable papers, finishing techniques, exposure times and processing methods, with due consideration of safe working practices.

Candidates should be encouraged to keep notes with any research, experiments and test prints in the workbook.

Candidates should produce at least three prints, each a different process, although the negative can remain the same.

Most alternative processes are low-tech, and require little in the way of specialist equipment, although a darkroom and a UV light source would be beneficial. However there are significant health and safety risks with some of the older processes. It is essential that candidates are made aware of any associated risks. It is recommended that Tutors and/or technical support are fully aware of the risks involved in each process.

Prior to final evaluation of their prints in Outcome 3, candidates are encouraged to use reflective practice.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

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 the practical work for the Unit is undertaken. Candidates need to develop a strategy for the production of photographic prints using alternative processes. Discussion of historical and contemporary examples and issues during formative work will assist in core skills development. The assignment must be produced working to a brief, within available resources and meet deadlines, which will require the application of critical thinking. Analysing relative difficulty and safety considerations and applying conclusions to their own work will further provide opportunities to develop creative problem solving skills in an industry context to an advanced level. Evaluation which examines and analyses the potential and actual impact of work produced should be an aspect of on-going discussion and formally assessed in Outcome 3.

Although communication skills are not formally assessed candidates should be supported in the development of an effective search strategy for accessing and evaluating historical and contemporary examples and reviews. The need to have efficient systems for evaluating, selecting and recording research materials for ease of reference should be emphasised.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Alternative Processes

If oral reporting is used to present materials in Outcome 3 candidates should be expected to produce and present work to a professional standard using appropriate media to communicate essential ideas and concepts effectively. The availability of suitable software to support effective oral presentation of products could further assist the development of skills. Candidates should be advised to collate and organise materials effectively, signpost key points, demonstrate effective verbal and non-verbal communication techniques, and to be prepared to respond to questions in a way that progresses communication with their audience.

Open learning

This Unit is not suitable to delivery by distance learning due to its practical nature.

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

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: Photography: Alternative Processes

This Unit is designed to enable you to research and produce prints using Alternative Processes. Different alternative techniques will be demonstrated and evaluated.

In Outcome 1 you will research three historic and/or contemporary 'alternative processes' and evaluate each one. You will collate your annotated visual examples in a workbook. Annotations will show that you understand:

- ◆ suitability of images or subject for the processes
- ◆ degree of difficulty/complexity/achievability
- ◆ health and safety issues

The research can include exhibitions, photographers, books, internet, etc.

For Outcome 2 you will:

- ◆ prepare materials, images, and equipment for three alternative print method
- ◆ produce three individual, hand made quality prints

You will be shown by demonstrations a few different processes and examples of different prints eg:

- ◆ Gum bichromate prints
- ◆ Cyanotype prints
- ◆ Argyrotype prints
- ◆ Salt prints
- ◆ Liquid light
- ◆ Polaroid transfers
- ◆ Lazertran
- ◆ Lith prints

In Outcome 3 you will:

- ◆ present and evaluate your final three prints which may be printed onto a variety of surfaces

Throughout the Unit you will pay due attention to any health and safety requirements relevant to the chosen process.