

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Photography: Theory

Unit code: DW8E 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to research, identify and understand the basic principles of photographic theory

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

- 1 Research properties of light.
- 2 Research photographic characteristics of images.
- 3 Research methods of image capture and output.

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: Candidates should have a basic knowledge of operating systems of cameras.

Photography: An Introduction DW6C 34

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication and Information Technology 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 holistically by a portfolio of evidence generated by candidates under the guidance of the Tutor. Much of the evidence should arise naturally as a result of their research but may also include reflective statements made by the candidate on his/her experience related to the work produced and previous research.

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: Theory

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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 the properties of light

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Colour Temperature
- ◆ Physical characteristics of light
- ◆ Filters

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ write report explaining the properties of light, colour temperatures and filters
- or**
- ◆ answer restricted response questions on light, colour temperatures and filters

Assessment guidelines

The assessment for this Outcome would be a stand-alone assignment and would take the form of an essay or a set question paper.

Outcome 2

Research photographic characteristics of images

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Focal length
- ◆ Apertures
- ◆ Shutter speeds
- ◆ Format

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Theory

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by finding and presenting exemplar images in conjunction with an explanation of their choices.

- ◆ a minimum of three example images for each of the above categories should be submitted

The material submission should be in the form of an illustrated report, annotated workbook or a presentation. The form of submission should be negotiated between Tutor and individual student/class group.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment for this Outcome could 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.

Outcome 3

Research methods of image capture and output

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Silver based capture and output
- ◆ Electronic capture and output
- ◆ Alternative methods of image capture and output

Evidence Requirements

Candidates are required to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and or skills by producing:

- ◆ an analysis of at least two examples of image capture and
- ◆ an analysis of at least two examples of image output

The material submission should be in the form of a illustrated report, annotated workbook or a visual presentation. The form of submission should be negotiated between Tutor and student/class group

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this Unit could be approached in an holistic manner.

The assessment would require the candidate to research the designated areas of photographic theory. The candidates would be required to collect and evaluate appropriate examples demonstrating the application of photographic theory.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DW8E 34
Unit title: Photography: Theory
Superclass category: KE
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History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Photography: Theory

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 be taken by candidates in relevant employment wishing to develop and/or enhance their skills.

The focus in Outcome 1 should be to combine the delivery of the basic principles of image formation by way of a series of lectures/tutorials with active participation by the candidates in the research and identification of examples of the characteristics of light.

For Outcome 2 a series of lectures/tutorials could be used to present key concepts to candidates. Candidates could then be presented with structured briefs instructing them to undertake a series of exercises allowing them to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in collecting and evaluating characteristics of image formation by lenses.

The key concepts related to lenses and image formation, the characteristics of the different focal lengths related to format. The visual pictorial effects of focus and the effect of the use of different shutter speeds in how they represent the subject visually.

For Outcome 3 a series of lectures/tutorials could be used to present key concepts to candidates. Candidates should then be presented with a structured brief asking them to undertake a comparative study providing an assessment of the respective merits of different methods of image capture and output. In order to reinforce their knowledge and skill they could reinforce their research and evaluation by producing images of their own to support their research.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This 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 research, planning, production and presentation of portrait 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.

A student centred approach should be adopted at all times.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Theory

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Skills in developing an effective search strategy for accessing and evaluating paper based and electronic sources of current theory on professional considerations, issues and ideas should be developed. The production of drafts will support the development of skills in effective evaluation and collating of relevant research materials, and up to date software packages could support all aspects of the research and design process.

Although communication skills are not formally assessed candidates will be expected to analyse, produce and present written or oral evidence presenting portfolio to standards acceptable in industry, and to express essential ideas, information accurately and coherently. They should be encouraged to consider the most appropriate approach and to ensure that what they decide to communicate has been considered, is accurate and is designed for impact and effectiveness. Presentations should have the facility to demonstrate that they:

- ◆ collate, organise and structure information effectively
- ◆ signpost key points
- ◆ select and produce support materials for impact
- ◆ are supported where appropriate by non-verbal communication techniques
- ◆ include a facility to respond to questions in a way that progresses communication

Open learning

If this Unit is delivered by open learning methods, additional resources will be required for candidate support, assessment and quality assurance. For further information and advice please refer to the SQA guide: *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning (A1030), February 2001*)

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: Theory

This Unit is designed to enable you to be able to identify and demonstrate the understanding of the photographic theory behind the properties of light, image formation and image capture and output using silver based material and digital media.

In addition to the structured research and evaluation you will be asked to undertake you should be utilising a visual notebook/workbook to collect and collate images and information related to each of the Outcomes.

It would be of great benefit to your learning experience if you put into practice the knowledge and skills you have acquired in this Unit by producing your own examples of image capture and output to sit beside your researched examples. These key knowledge and skills will remain with you throughout your photographic education and will be applied by you in many other areas of a photographic course.