



Higher National Graded Unit Specification

General Information for Centres

This Graded Unit has been validated as part of the Photography HNC award. Centres are required to develop the assessment instrument in accordance with this validated specification. Centres wishing to use another type of Graded Unit or assessment instrument are required to submit proposals detailing the justification for change for validation.

Graded Unit Title: Photography: Graded Unit 1

Graded Unit Code: DW91 34

Type of Graded Unit: Project

Assessment Instrument: Practical Assignment

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.*

Purpose: This Graded Unit is designed to provide evidence that the candidate has achieved the following principal aims of the HND Photography:

- ◆ develop research and evaluation skills
- ◆ develop the ability to apply acquired photographic knowledge and skills
- ◆ develop the ability to take responsibility for one's own learning
- ◆ develop the ability to work independently
- ◆ develop a range of contemporary vocational skills
- ◆ gain an understanding of the importance of photography as a tool for visual communication

Recommended Prior Knowledge and Skills: It is recommended that the candidate should have completed or be in the process of completing the following Units relating to the above specific aims prior to undertaking this Graded Unit:

<i>Photography: Theory</i>	DW8E 34
<i>Photography: Portraiture</i>	DW8C 34
<i>Photography: Applied Techniques</i>	DW7X 34
<i>Photography: Studio Still life</i>	DW7T 34
<i>Photography: Darkroom Techniques</i>	DW81 34
<i>Digital Imaging</i>	DV60 34

General Information for Centres (cont)

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill of Problem Solving in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.’

Assessment: This Graded Unit will be assessed by the use of a practical assignment. The developed ‘fleshed-out’ assignment should provide the candidate with the opportunity to produce evidence that demonstrates she/he has met the aims of the Group Award that this Graded Unit covers.

This Graded Unit should be undertaken on an individual basis. Candidates should be encouraged to develop an appropriate project that involves them utilising the knowledge and skills required to support the planning, organisation and development of at least 10 examples of illustrated research, 10 images on the chosen theme which must be presented appropriately for the chosen theme and include evaluation statements. It is recommended a holistic approach to assessment is used covering all stages of the Graded Unit ie planning, developing and evaluating.

A candidate-centred approach should be adopted at all times. The main emphasis of this Unit lies in the development of ideas and the images produced and approximately 70% of the time should be allocated to this area.

With regard to the images the following points should be achieved:

- ◆ images must be technically and/or aesthetically competent
- ◆ composition and lighting must achieve the effect identified in the brief
- ◆ the exposure and/or lighting ratios are correct for the desired effect

Administrative Information

Graded Unit Code: DW91 34

Graded Unit Title: Photography: Graded Unit 1

Original date of publication: August 2006

Version: 02 (April 2009)

History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Reduction from 20 to 10 images on the chosen theme within the 'Assessment' section.	22/4/09

Source: SQA

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Higher National Graded Unit Specification: Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates

Graded Unit Title: Photography: Graded Unit 1

Conditions of Assessment

The candidate should be given a date for completion of the project. However, the instructions for the assessment task should be distributed to allow the candidate sufficient time to assimilate the details and carry out the assessment task. During the time between the distribution of the assessment task instructions and the completion date, assessors may answer questions, provide clarification, guidance and reasonable assistance. The assessment task should be marked as soon as possible after the completion date. The final grading given should reflect the quality of the candidate's evidence at the time of the completion date. Reassessment of this Graded Unit should be based on a significantly different assessment task.

The evidence for the project is generated over time and involves three distinct stages, where each stage has to be achieved before the next is undertaken. Thus any reassessment of stages must be undertaken before proceeding to the next stage.

If a candidate fails the project overall or wishes to upgrade, then this must be done using a *substantially different* project, ie all stages are undertaken using a new project, assignment, case study, etc. In this case, a candidate's grade will be based on the achievement in the *reassessment*.

At this level, candidates should work independently. It is up to Centres to take reasonable steps to ensure that the project is the work of the candidate. For example, Centres may wish to informally question candidates at various stages on their knowledge and understanding of the project on which they have embarked. Centres should ensure that where research etc, is carried out in other establishments or under the supervision of others that the candidate does not receive undue assistance.

Instructions for designing the assessment task

The assessment task is a project. The project undertaken by the candidate must be a complex task which involves:

- ◆ variables which are complex or unfamiliar
- ◆ relationships which need to be clarified
- ◆ a context which may be familiar or unfamiliar to the candidate

The assessment task must require the candidate to:

- ◆ analyse the task and decide on a course of action for undertaking the project
- ◆ plan and organise work and carry it through to completion
- ◆ reflect on what has been done and draw conclusions for the future
- ◆ produce evidence of meeting the aims which this Graded Unit has been designed to cover

Higher National Graded Unit Specification: Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Graded Unit Title: Photography: Graded Unit 1

The project must involve a practical assignment culminating in a finished product and candidates must demonstrate the application of the skills and knowledge that fall within the context of Photography. The brief should allow a degree of choice in the way a project is taken forward.

The candidate will be asked to:

Analyse the task and decide on a course of action for undertaking the project

Plan and organise work and carry it through to completion

Reflect on what has been done and draw conclusions for the future

Produce evidence of meeting the aims which this Graded Unit has been designed to cover

The most appropriate approach to the project is one that requires candidates to integrate the knowledge and skills to produce a creative solution to a given brief. The candidate should be asked to research, consider and develop a product within the available timescale and resources available to them.

Each candidate must provide his or her individual responses to the given brief and assessors must be satisfied that the work has been completed by the individual candidate. The project consists of three stages: planning, developing and evaluating. Work on the developing stage should not proceed until the planning stage is satisfactorily completed.

Guidance on grading candidates

Candidates who meet the minimum Evidence Requirements will have their achievement graded as C — competent, or A — highly competent or B somewhere between A and C. The grade related criteria to be used to judge candidate performance for this Graded Unit is specified in the following table.

Higher National Graded Unit specification: Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Graded Unit Title: Photography: Graded Unit 1

Grade A	Grade C
<p>Is a seamless, coherent piece of work which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Has sufficient evidence for the three essential phases of the project, is produced to a high standard and is quite clearly inter-related. ◆ Demonstrates an accurate and perceptive interpretation of the project brief using a highly focused planned and systematic approach. ◆ Approach to the brief's key tasks is clear and well structured throughout and language used is of a high standard in terms of level, accuracy and technical content. ◆ Effectively consolidates and integrates required knowledge and skills. 	<p>Is a co-ordinated piece of work which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Has sufficient evidence for the three essential phases of the project, is produced to an adequate standard. ◆ Demonstrates an acceptable interpretation of the project brief using a focused planned approach. ◆ Demonstrates an acceptable approach to the brief's key tasks, is satisfactorily structure and language used is adequate in terms of level, accuracy and technical content. ◆ Consolidates and integrates knowledge and skills but may lack some continuity and consistency.

The project will be marked out of 100. Assessors will mark each stage of the project, taking into account the criteria outlined. The marks will then be aggregated to arrive at an overall mark for the project. Assessors will then assign an overall grade to the candidate for this Graded Unit based on the following grade boundaries.

A = 70% — 100%
 B = 60% — 69%
 C = 50% — 59%

Note: the candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified below for each stage of the project in order to achieve the Graded Unit.

Evidence Requirements

The project consists of three stages: planning; developing; and evaluating. The following table specifies the minimum evidence required to pass each stage.

Note: The candidate must achieve **all of the minimum evidence** specified below for each stage of the project in order to pass the Graded Unit.

Higher National Graded Unit specification: Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Graded Unit Title: Photography: Graded Unit 1

Project Stage	Minimum Evidence Requirements
<p>Stage 1 — Planning</p>	<p>The planning stage is worth 15% of the marks.</p> <p>The Action Plan must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ identification of the aims of the photographic project ◆ selection of justification of the techniques or approach required to undertake the photographic project ◆ details of how the photographic project will be completed ◆ identification of research required to complete photographic project <p>Sources of information eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ text books ◆ internet ◆ books and magazines ◆ interview with photographers ◆ completing the case study report within a realistic timescale <p>Evidence should normally be provided in the form of a written plan contained in the workbook.</p> <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Planning stage.</i></p>
<p>Stage 2 — Developing</p>	<p>The developing stage is worth 70% of the marks.</p> <p>Evidence of the candidate carrying out the project, implementing the plan and managing the practical task in the form of product evidence which shows:</p> <p>A completed Photographic Project Portfolio</p> <p>An analysis of the photographic project in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ operational objectives ◆ application of practical skills ◆ effective presentation techniques <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Developing stage.</i></p>

Project Stage	Minimum Evidence Requirements
Stage 3 — Evaluating	<p>The evaluating stage is worth 15% of the marks.</p> <p>An Evaluation report which should include:</p> <p>An outline of the photographic task. An overview of the planning and developing stages of the photography project. Identification of areas of the action plan which have been modified during the course of the delivery. Positive aspects Areas for improvement Identification of any Knowledge and skills which have been gained or developed. Conclusions</p> <p>Minimum written evidence: 500 words or 5 minutes oral presentation</p> <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Evaluating stage.</i></p>

Higher National Graded Unit specification: Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Graded Unit Title: Photography: Graded Unit 1

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