Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Exhibition: Modular Design Systems and Techniques

Unit code: DX00 34

Unit purpose: This Unit has been designed to enable candidates to develop skills in the creative use of materials, components and finishes as determined within a modular context. It will provide candidates with technical and professional knowledge and skills relating to the exhibition industry.

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

1   Investigate and source modular design systems and components.
2   Demonstrate an awareness of creative visual techniques employed by exhibition designers.
3   Produce a design proposal for a modular concept using contemporary systems.

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. Candidates should be able to demonstrate basic skills in carrying out research and investigation.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Problem Solving, Communication and Numeracy 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: One holistic assessment may be used to cover Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 and an integrative project assessment is encouraged. Alternatively Outcomes 1 and 2 can be assessed separately by means of a portfolio/sketchbook with supporting evidence. Outcome 3 is assessed by a portfolio of visual output.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Exhibition: Modular Design Systems and Techniques

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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

Investigate and source various modular design systems and components

Knowledge and/or skills

- ♦   Contemporary sector developments
- ♦   Contemporary components and materials
- ♦   Flexible use of materials and finishes
- ♦   Use of space/volume
- ♦   Cost parameters and budgets

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can source, select and specify components, materials and equipment.

Evidence should be presented through an illustrated report of no less than 500 words, or an annotated sketchbook of no less than 4 x A3 pages, or a recorded presentation of not less than three minutes.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome may be combined with Outcome 2.

Outcome 2

Demonstrate an awareness of creative visual techniques employed by exhibition designers

Knowledge and/or skills

- ♦   Sources of information
- ♦   Specific market needs and dynamics
- ♦   Contemporary visual image technology
- ♦   Project concepts and outputs

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Exhibition: Modular Design Systems and Techniques

Evidence Requirements

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

♦ produce an illustrated report of no less than 500 words, or an annotated sketchbook of no less than 4 x A3 pages, or a recorded presentation of not less than three minutes, with reference to visual, interactive, interpretive and multimedia techniques

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome may be combined with Outcome 1.

Outcome 3

Produce a design proposal for a modular concept using contemporary systems

Knowledge and/or skills

♦ Requirements of a project brief
♦ Initial visual project concepts
♦ Concepts for development
♦ Communication of visual ideas

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can complete a design presentation based on previous research and collated data and information for Outcomes 1 and 2.

This should be not less than 4 x A3 sheets of a sketchbook or an illustrated report of not less than 500 words, or a recorded presentation of not less than three minutes.

Assessment guidelines

Outcomes 1 and 2 should be an underpinning element of the assessment for this Outcome.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DX00 34

Unit title: Exhibition: Modular Design Systems and Techniques

Superclass category: JC

Original date of publication: August 2006

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History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Exhibition: Modular Design Systems and Techniques

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 an option within the HN 3D Design group award framework.

This Unit is intended to give candidates an insight into contemporary approaches to design and techniques aligned with modular developments: The concept of modular design is based on a specific unit of measurement or component or module being multiplied a number of times to create various design statements.

The Unit is intended to offer candidates the opportunity to examine modular design and encourage them to consider this within the various fields of interpretation and communications–based spatial design, including that of museums and galleries, commercial exhibitions, theme parks, interpretive exhibits and visitor centres.

It is important that candidates understand their own ideas; know why they conceived the idea and why it is appropriate to the project. Modular design plays a fundamental part in all the design disciplines.

Exhibition design is content–driven and the ideas approach is vitally important: Where is the information? How do you get it across? Perceived from the perspective of knowledge and technology of today, exhibitions have increasingly become multi-sensory and interpretive experiences.

It is therefore the responsibility of the designer to be well informed and have specific knowledge, relating to industry sector developments and dynamics.

Although not formally assessed an understanding of legislation, agreements and good practice with regard to copyright, intellectual copyright and the need to acknowledge the contribution of others to the work will be necessary.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is designed to develop the candidate's ability to source information and data and use these results in relation to various forms of modular design through an evaluation of the information collated and decisions reached.

In Outcome 1 candidates should undertake a variety of exercises and studies, which will enable them to pursue the ideals inherent in various design sector philosophies, and stimulate as wide a choice as possible when making appropriate decisions.

Candidates should research and justify personal decisions through the use of industry acknowledged methods of communication, which reflect their personal and original thoughts and ideas.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Exhibition: Modular Design Systems and Techniques

In Outcome 2 candidates should demonstrate an understanding of the suitability and selection of the various techniques employed by designers. The candidate should consider traditional and contemporary effects and techniques. The 'fit for purpose' nature/quality of the product and the appropriateness of specified materials should also be considered by candidates.

In Outcome 3 candidates should clearly meet the requirements of the brief and provide creative solutions to clients within the exhibition sector. The evidence of having completed the design process will be determined by a presentation of a portfolio of appropriate creative output.

The ability to solve design problems is paramount to practising as an exhibition designer. Clients demand value for money installations and the ability to design using modular concepts, thus creating efficiencies through the use of specific materials and components, is important. Candidates should be conscious of the professional responsibilities and basic principles necessitated in this design process.

It is proposed that Outcomes 1 and 2 be delivered as an underpinning piece of investigation and as a design project for Outcome 3.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

All elements of the core skill of Problem Solving, that is, planning and organising, critical thinking, and reviewing and evaluating, should be developed and enhanced as candidates undertake the practical work for the Unit. They are required to examine aspects of modular design, analyse a brief, and establish clear objectives. Identifying and assessing the relevance of all factors which may affect the success of designing for a multi sensory interpretive experience will require sophisticated creative thinking. Understanding and acknowledging legislative constraints, and working within the limitations of resources will need a strong understanding of industry practice. Identifying and implementing creative communications based spatial design solutions will involve the interpretation and application of knowledge on-going opportunities for review and modification. Candidates may benefit from personal interviews with the assessor to reinforce analytical and evaluative approaches to working practice.

Candidates could also be supported in the development of techniques for accessing, interpreting and evaluating a range of complex sources of current information, including current guidelines on good practice. Although skills in written and/or oral communication are not formally assessed candidates should, in the presentation of a design solution, express essential ideas and information accurately and coherently using a range of media suited to the needs of a potential client. This could include the use of technology to underpin professional presentation of design work.

Accuracy in interpreting complex numerical and graphic information and the ability to calculate, apply and present complex data underpins the competencies developed in the unit. Candidates could be provided with formative opportunities to enhance skills in the interpretation of in practical contexts. The emphasis of formative work should be on Numeracy as a tool to be used and applied efficiently and critically in modular design contexts.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Exhibition: Modular Design Systems and Techniques

Open learning

The practical nature of parts of this Unit make it difficult to deliver on an open learning basis. However, it may be possible for candidates to access source information and complete written work electronically. Candidates may be given a secure user account where they will send their responses. For information on open learning arrangements, please refer to the SQA guide *Assessment and Quality Assurance of Open and Distance Learning* (**www.sqa.org.uk**).

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: Exhibition: Modular Design and Techniques

This Unit will give you an insight into the nature of modular design within exhibitions and displays. You will learn to consider the techniques employed by designers to convey information and product.

You will carry out an investigation and source modular systems and components. You will develop an awareness of visual techniques employed by designers. You will design proposal for an interpretation or communications–based spatial design

Outcome 1 examines your ability to source and record information and data relating to modular developments within the exhibition industry. Your investigation will examine the various systems and components available, their flexibility and adaptability for client purpose and suitability within the design process.

Outcome 2 asks you to consider and record various visual techniques available to the designer and evaluate their feasibility and appropriateness when used in conjunction with modular systems.

For Outcome 3 you will develop a design presentation for a proposed concept using the information and research you have gained from Outcomes 1 and 2. You are encouraged to be experimental and creative in the production of your ideas and thoughts. Sketchbooks, recorded logs and illustrated reports with a final portfolio of creative output are required as evidence.