

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Sign Painting Techniques

Unit code: F03G 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to develop the candidate's ability to prepare thumbnail sketches and working drawings for potential sign projects and to develop hand lettering skills and embellishment skills in traditional sign painting. It provides the opportunity to embellish lettering to create the illusion of 3D images.

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

- 1 Prepare thumbnail sketches and working drawings for signage to meet a supplied specification.
- 2 Prepare and paint surfaces.
- 3 Demonstrate hand lettering techniques.
- 4 Embellish lettering to create the illusion of 3D images.

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 is at the discretion of the centre; however, it is advisable that candidates should have an appreciation of a signmaking environment either through a craft level signmaking course or through relevant work experience.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Problem Solving, Planning and Organising and Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5 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: The Unit could be assessed by an holistic project. This would consist of a supplied specification which would require the candidate to produce thumb nail sketches and working drawings for use in sign painting applications. Candidates would develop one of the proposed designs prepare and paint the background and the lettering with embellishments as outlined in the specification. If assessment is carried out in this way at the end of the unit, it may be helpful to carry out several formative assessments during the delivery of the Unit. In this way candidates can monitor their progress against each knowledge and skills item. Alternatively each outcome could be assessed separately.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Sign Painting Techniques

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

Outcome 1

Prepare thumbnail sketches and working drawings for signage to meet a supplied specification

Knowledge and skills

- ◆ Accuracy of Measurement
- ◆ Scale
- ◆ Drawing skills
- ◆ Sign layout composition
- ◆ Lettering proportions
- ◆ Analysis of sign design/colour impact
- ◆ Presentation techniques
- ◆ Design specification
- ◆ Planning and organising

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ Produce and present five thumbnail sketches with colour samples, layout, content, font style, proportions and shapes matching the requirements of the specification.
- ◆ Prepare at least two full size working drawings to a standard capable of being transferred to a painted surface. Each of these full size visuals should be accurate in terms of layout, content, font, style, proportion and shapes which could be transferred to a painted surface.

Assessment guidelines

See Outcome 4 for further details. The assessment throughout the Unit will be carried out in supervised workshop conditions.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Sign Painting Techniques

Outcome 2

Prepare and paint surfaces

Knowledge and skills

- ◆ Materials
- ◆ Tools and equipment
- ◆ Surface preparation techniques
- ◆ Health and Safety
- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Coating Systems
- ◆ Methods of application
- ◆ Quality control
- ◆ Time management

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ Prepare surfaces using appropriate tools and techniques.
- ◆ Apply finished coatings to three surfaces evenly, with no blemishes and minimum streaking or colour variation.
- ◆ List any defects on the applied paint finishes.
- ◆ Use quality control measures to ensure surfaces meet the required standard, and reflecting on their finished sign boards.
- ◆ Demonstrate effective time management skills in the completion of tasks.
- ◆ Follow the health and safety requirements required when using materials, application methods and tools.

Assessment guidelines

See Outcome 4 for further details. The assessment throughout the Unit will be carried out in supervised workshop conditions

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Sign Painting Techniques

Outcome 3

Demonstrate hand lettering techniques

Knowledge and skills

- ◆ Measurement techniques
- ◆ Letterform techniques
- ◆ Spacing, spelling and punctuation
- ◆ Hand lettering techniques
- ◆ Presentation methods
- ◆ Planning and organising
- ◆ Critical thinking
- ◆ Time management

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ Apply hand painted lettering to previously painted surfaces.
- ◆ Demonstrate hand lettering in a range of letters, fonts, and proportions which meets the needs of the specification.
- ◆ Execute clean, sharp well formed opaque lettering.
- ◆ Demonstrate accuracy and consistency in spacing, spelling and punctuation in the hand lettering.
- ◆ Present work to a standard acceptable to a client.
- ◆ Demonstrate effective time management in the completion of tasks.

Assessment guidelines

See Outcome 4 for further details. The assessment throughout the Unit will be carried out in supervised workshop conditions

Outcome 4

Embellish lettering to create the illusion of 3D images

Knowledge and skills

- ◆ Embellishment techniques
- ◆ Care and use of brushes tools and equipment
- ◆ Accuracy of measurement
- ◆ Accuracy of spelling and punctuation
- ◆ Outlining
- ◆ Blending
- ◆ Planning and organising

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Sign Painting Techniques

- ◆ Critical thinking
- ◆ Time management

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ Produce one finished sign that displays hand lettering including outline, blended shading and blocking and cast shadows, to meet the supplied specification.
- ◆ Demonstrate a range of embellishments to show consistency and accuracy in spacing and use of finishes.
- ◆ Execute clean, sharp well formed opaque outlining, blending, shading and blocking and cast shadows.
- ◆ Use embellishments on a range of letters, fonts, and proportions, appropriate to the specification.
- ◆ Demonstrate effective time management in the completion of tasks.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this Unit could be holistic. The candidate could be given a specification which requires them to design and execute a painted sign. They could show their design ideas through a series of initial sketches to match the supplied specification and this work could then be developed into a working drawing intended for a practical project. Candidates should plan, undertake and produce relevant thumbnail sketches or drawings prior to hand drawing or computer generation of the working drawing. The candidate could develop one of these working drawings into a final sign which would require them to prepare and paint three different backgrounds, painting and embellishing the lettering required in the signage.

Alternatively each Outcome could be assessed separately.

Where holistic assessment is preferred, practice exercises should be a formative element of the Unit so that the candidate does not undertake the assessment until he/she can tackle each part confidently.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F03G 34
Unit title: Sign Painting Techniques
Superclass category: JB
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Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Sign Painting 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

The Unit is intended to provide candidates with basic sign writing ability an opportunity to further develop their skills in the production of lettering with embellishment.

Throughout the Unit the candidate will develop skills in lettering, outlining, highlighting, shading/blocking, blending, cast shadows, all intended to enhance the appearance of letters whilst avoiding critical interference with the legibility of the copy.

Delivery of Outcome 1 should develop the candidates experience in producing thumbnail sketches and then taking these forward to prepare working drawings.

Outcome 2 gives the candidate experience in the preparation of surfaces and the application of surface coatings systems. Theoretical knowledge of materials will be an important element of the coursework with recognition of defects particularly those involving application being of significance.

Outcome 3 concentrates on the candidate's ability to produce quality lettering as part of the sign writing process. Practice exercises will be an important aspect of increasing the candidates' skills in this area. Although the notional time for the unit is 40 hours candidates will benefit from as much practice time as is feasible. Candidates should also understand the need to select appropriate colour schemes to maintain the legibility of the signage.

Outcome 4 is about embellishing plain lettering with outlines, adding an illusion of a third dimension with shading/blocking and shadows. Once again as much practice time as is feasible is advised.

Throughout the Unit aspects of health and safety should be incorporated into the candidates learning. Additionally candidates should be encouraged to look after tools and materials.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is an optional Unit within the Higher National Certificate in Sign Design and Graphics group award. There may be opportunities to link with other aspects of the course for both delivery and assessment. Aspects of the design and colour scheming process will have an application in other units. The Unit is primarily designed to provide candidates with the technical, creative knowledge and skills related to the specific occupational area.

Lectures and tutor demonstrations will assist the candidates in preparation for the assessment. Group discussions, practice assignments and the creation of physical samples will also assist candidates in their approach, to preparing for the assessment.

There will be an element of time management for the candidate to consider as has been stated practice exercises will be necessary and will utilise time.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Sign Painting Techniques

If assessment is carried out at the end of the unit, it may be helpful to carry out several formative assessments during the delivery of the Unit. In this way candidates can monitor their progress against each knowledge and/or skills item. Set dates for submission to get the candidates used to working to timescales could be helpful.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Candidates will develop the Core skill of problem solving — planning and organising and critical thinking as they will be dealing with planning their own activities, ensuring they have appropriate materials and tools available when they are needed to carry out the job and will then produce the sign, lettering or embellishment as required. Additionally candidates will be encouraged to assess the quality of their work and learn how correct any blemishes, developing some evaluation skills. Scheduling and timing of activities and processes are developed along with the candidate's time management skills.

Open learning

This Unit is not suitable for an open learning or distance learning mode of study because the practice required for sign painting techniques needs to be under supervised, controlled instruction.

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: Sign Painting Techniques

This Unit is designed to introduce you to Sign Painting Techniques at HNC Level. It is intended as an option for those interested in pursuing traditional sign writing techniques. Previous experience of basic sign writing skills will be advantageous.

Outcome 1 will involve you in preparing small thumbnail sketches of sign projects and then turning these into working drawings.

Outcome 2 is all about the preparation of surfaces and the application of paints prior to the finished lettering being applied.

Outcome 3 involves you in producing quality lettering as part of the sign writing process. Practice exercises will be an important aspect of increasing your skills in this area.

Outcome 4 will give you experience of embellishing plain lettering with outlines, adding an illusion of a third dimension with shading/blocking and shadows.

Assessment of these Outcomes will be attained through the production of practical sign exercises and subsequently judged on the presentation quality of your work.