

Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Mixed Media Techniques

Unit code: F1H0 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to select and apply a range of mixed media techniques and processes, and to explore these to develop and produce artwork.

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

- 1 Investigate and develop techniques that make use of mixed media.
- 2 Produce art work using mixed media.

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. It would be beneficial that the candidate should have some prior knowledge and experience in art and design. This could be evidenced by the successful completion of NQ level Art and Design Units, Higher Art or similar qualifications or experience.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Problem Solving 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 by a single holistic instrument of assessment covering all Outcomes that would require candidates to produce a project in response to a given brief.

Each Outcome could also be assessed separately.

Evidence for Outcome 1 should be presented as a collection of examples of mixed media techniques.

Evidence for Outcome 2 should be presented as pieces of mixed media artwork.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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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 develop techniques that make use of mixed media

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Mixed media techniques
- ◆ Selection of source material
- ◆ Experimentation with mixed media
- ◆ Visual, tactile and textural potential
- ◆ Exploration of creative uses
- ◆ Development of ideas
- ◆ Critical reflection
- ◆ Safe working practices

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can, in relation to a given brief:

- ◆ Produce experimental samples which show understanding of mixed media techniques
- ◆ Produce samples that use a wide range of techniques in differing combinations
- ◆ Critically reflect on the experimental pieces
- ◆ Develop and refine ideas towards finished solutions
- ◆ Use safe, tidy and considerate working practices at all times

Evidence should be presented as a collection of examples that show the exploration of wide range of mixed media techniques, accompanied by oral/written commentary or annotations that demonstrate critical reflection. Tutors should use a checklist to record the ongoing use of safe, tidy and considerate studio practice.

Assessment Guidelines

Candidates should be encouraged to produce evidence in any format that allows exploration of media – folio of examples, sketchbook, digital, photographic, large exploratory pieces, maquettes, models or any other formats that allow for creative exploration.

The work produced for this Outcome could be used as a starting point for Outcome 2 and both Outcomes can be assessed holistically.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Mixed Media Techniques

Outcome 2

Produce artwork using mixed media

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Development of concepts
- ◆ Selection of techniques
- ◆ Use of materials and processes
- ◆ Production
- ◆ Critical thinking
- ◆ Studio work practice

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ Develop concepts to produce mixed media artwork
- ◆ Critically review, select and apply a combination of techniques and materials in the production of final mixed media artwork
- ◆ Demonstrate safe, tidy and considerate approaches to studio work practices

Evidence should be presented as a piece or pieces of mixed media artwork that could be in any format and of any size. Tutors should use a checklist to record the ongoing use of safe, tidy and considerate studio practice.

Assessment Guidelines

Consideration should be given to the scale and complexity of final work. If, for example, the work is simplistic in technique or concept, candidates could be asked to produce alternative finished concepts or a greater number of exploratory pieces.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F1H0 34
Unit title: Mixed Media 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: Mixed Media 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 intended to allow candidates studying in areas of art and design, the opportunity to explore and develop the range of possibilities, materials, techniques and processes using mixed media to produce artwork. This is pertinent to a range of specialist areas in art and design and the Unit is recommended as suitable for a holistic and integrated approach with other Art and Design Units.

It is recommended that this Unit be delivered early in the course, as it will build skills and knowledge that can be applied across many creative processes.

Outcome 1

The candidate should be given a brief that outlines:

- ◆ Suggested approaches eg thematic, integrated project, related to other art and design Units.
- ◆ Suggested two and three dimensional possibilities and potential materials and media.
- ◆ Possible ways of presenting the collection of work.
- ◆ Timeline/timescale/schedule of tasks.

After negotiation with the tutor regarding the brief, the candidates would:

- ◆ Collect and select suitable source material. This could be organic, man made, found material, photographs, digital imagery, printed material. The source should reflect the candidate's own interests and ideas.
- ◆ Experiment and explore the creative, visual, tactile and textural potential of a range of media combinations. The exploration should be limited only by candidates' imagination and could include any combination of media.
- ◆ Develop concepts and ideas using selected combinations of mixed media. From the experiments and explorations, the candidate should progress their ideas and concepts further.
- ◆ Produce a collection of example combinations for assessment and be able to comment on these and reflect on the potential for further development. Comments could be in the form of annotations or be delivered as oral commentary.

Exploration of the widest possible range of potential materials, techniques and solutions should be encouraged and candidates should work independently in the pursuit of a personal line of enquiry and experimentation.

Experimental samples could, for example, take the form of a range of paints, used with additives and applied to a variety of prepared surfaces such as wood, plastic, clay, glass, paper, metal, and textiles. Three-dimensional examples could explore the use of plastic, wood, metal, glass, stone, concrete, clay and methods of joining/fixing using a variety of combinations. Exploration could also make use of lens-based and digital/new media.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Mixed Media Techniques

Outcome 2

Candidates should build on the knowledge and skills gained in Outcome 1 to produce mixed media artwork. Candidates would select suitable mixed media techniques developed from those explored in Outcome 1 and apply these to produce final artwork(s). The final piece(s) produced should reflect the exploration and development that had taken place earlier in the Unit and build on the knowledge and skills gained during the process of exploration and experimentation.

For both Outcomes 1 and 2, candidates must demonstrate safe and considerate working practices at all times. Candidates should demonstrate an ability to structure their work practices in a way that takes into account the safety and needs of both themselves as well as others.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit has been developed as part of the HN Art and Design Award. It is recommended that the Unit is taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes. Opportunities may be taken to link or integrate with other aspects of the course and a thematic approach adopted for both delivery and assessment.

The Unit is designed to provide candidates with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in the use of mixed media and apply these to produce artwork. The Unit allows the candidates to experiment, explore, develop and produce mixed media artwork. Candidates should work independently in this Unit and develop personal interests and themes.

The Unit is recommended for early delivery in a programme of study and may be assessed by both formative and summative methods but it is recommended that an integrated and holistic approach be used.

For both Outcomes, a brief should be provided which describes possible influences, approaches, media, techniques and processes.

For Outcome 1 the candidate will produce experimental pieces, which may include two or three dimensional processes, detailing sources, ideas, concepts and showing exploration and development of a variety of mixed media approaches, techniques and processes.

For Outcome 2, the candidate will be asked to produce mixed media art work progressed from the investigation and development work produced in Outcome 1.

Candidates should work independently in this Unit and develop personal interests and themes.

For both Outcomes 1 and 2, safe, tidy and considerate approaches to studio work practices should be adhered to by candidates at all times.

As the Unit is delivered over a period of time, it would be good practice for the course/ curriculum delivery team, to archive candidate exemplars of - a robust pass; a pass; a borderline and an unsuccessful submission/remediation. This is especially useful if the candidate work has been externally verified. This archive of candidate exemplars will underpin standards and help in the induction process for new tutors and candidates.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Mixed Media Techniques

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

The ongoing production and generation of mixed media artwork will involve a range of problem solving activities and processes. Candidates will undertake detailed planning and organisation of the processes and techniques necessary for completion of the experimental pieces, and engaged in critical thinking. In the production and refinement of experimental samples candidates will analyse, select and justify media, materials, tools and equipment. Applying creative methods and techniques to complete the pieces, working to a timescale and observing safe and considerate studio practice will be an aspect of good working practice. Review, reflection and evaluation of intended and achieved effects will be fundamental to the presentation of work.

There are opportunities to develop skills in the application of technology in a range of contexts. Access to, and critical evaluation of, web based information on formats, materials and techniques would be of value to underpin practical work. Creative exploration of mixed media techniques could include experimentation with digital, lens-based and new media formats. Candidates could develop the ability to manipulate and edit images using professional software packages to meet identified needs of purpose and context. Considerations of security and safety would be a routine practice.

Open learning

The practical nature of parts of this Unit would make it difficult to deliver via open learning. However, it may be possible for candidates to access source information and complete written work electronically.

For further information and advice 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. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Mixed Media Techniques

In this Unit you will investigate, experiment and explore a variety of mixed media materials, techniques and processes, and produce mixed media artwork.

For Outcome 1 you will produce experimental samples of mixed media techniques that use a wide range of techniques and combinations of techniques. You will then reflect on the Outcome of the experimental pieces and choose materials and methods to develop ideas towards final solutions.

For Outcome 2 you will build on the knowledge and skills gained in Outcome 1 to select and use techniques to produce mixed media artwork.

For both Outcomes 1 and 2, you will use safe, tidy and considerate approaches to studio work practices at all times.

This Unit may provide you with opportunities to develop and practise the Core Skills of Problem Solving and Information Technology. Both the research and the design and developmental process will involve you in analytical approaches to planning and organising your work and this could include web based research of current professional issues. You will consider all the factors which will have impact on the creative process and develop your critical thinking and evaluative skills throughout all stages of the Unit. Creative exploration of mixed media techniques could include experimentation with digital and new media which will allow you to further enhance your abilities to work with technology.