

## Higher National Unit specification

### General information for centres

**Unit title:** Electronic News Gathering

**Unit code:** F1N1 35

**Unit purpose:** This Unit is designed to develop knowledge and skills in broadcast journalism using Electronic News Gathering (ENG) and Video Journalist techniques. It will enable candidates who have achieved some journalistic skills in print journalism to expand into the area of video broadcasting.

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

- 1 Operate a lightweight portable single camera for news gathering.
- 2 Write editorial for a visual news story using ENG techniques.
- 3 Record and edit, using ENG techniques, a video news story to a given brief.

**Credit points and level:** 1 HN credit at SCQF level 8: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8\*)

*\*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. However, it would be beneficial if the candidate had some basic knowledge of broadcasting, television news and factual programming. This could be demonstrated by achievement of one of the following:

- ◆ F45K 34 *Editing: An Introduction*
- ◆ DM22 34 *Camera: An Introduction*
- ◆ Relevant work experience

**Core Skills:** There are opportunities to gather evidence towards Core Skills in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components. Further detail is provided in the Support Notes.

## **General information for centres (cont)**

**Context for delivery:** This Unit is delivered as part of an optional element of the HNC/HND Practical Journalism. 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:** Outcome 1 will be assessed by observation of the candidate together with recorded video footage. Outcome 2 will be assessed by the submission of appropriate documentation. Outcome 3 will be assessed by the submission of both documentation and recorded footage. Centres must have the necessary arrangements in place to ensure authenticity of work submitted for assessment.

## **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**

Operate a lightweight portable single camera for news gathering

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Rigging and setting up camera for recordings
- ◆ Basic shooting techniques
- ◆ Current Health and Safety procedures

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can, in an authentic environment, correctly rig and set up a lightweight portable camera, record accurately a minimum selection of six video sequences that will be edited together in the final news story and whilst doing so observe current Health and Safety rules/law/arrangements. The candidate will also be required to log the recorded footage for editing.

The assessment will be carried out under open-book conditions. However, it is recommended that Centres produce a suitable marking matrix recording the observation of the candidate in the setting up procedures and the recording of video footage. Two hours should be allocated for the duration of the assessment. Centres should identify clearly the area/environment in which the visual sequences are to be recorded.

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

The candidate should be given a suitable brief enabling him/her to record a selection of video sequences, thereby providing the necessary evidence to satisfy this Outcome. Centres will produce a suitable marking system enabling candidates to be assessed by observation.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Electronic News Gathering

### **Outcome 2**

Write editorial for a visual news story using ENG techniques

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Identification of key facts relevant to visual news stories
- ◆ Voice-over techniques
- ◆ Writing editorial material for short news items

#### **Evidence Requirements**

The candidate will need to provide evidence to demonstrate his/her Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that he/she can identify relevant key facts for a visual news story and write the appropriate voice over and links to accompany a visual news story between 90 seconds and two minutes in duration.

The assessment should be carried out under open-book conditions. To aid authenticity centres should apply a time restraint appropriate to the news story brief. This should normally be between 60 and 90 minutes.

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

Evidence Requirements cover Assessment Guidelines for this Unit.

### **Outcome 3**

Record and edit, using ENG techniques, a video news story to a given brief

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Interpret news items for ENG coverage
- ◆ Writing editorial for voice over
- ◆ Recording video sequences
- ◆ Editing news story to requirements of briefs
- ◆ Current Health and Safety procedures

#### **Evidence Requirements**

The candidate will need to provide evidence to demonstrate his/her Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that he/she can, for a given brief, write and record, using ENG techniques, a short visual news item of between 90 seconds and two minutes suitable for inclusion into a television news programme. Evidence will include written copy material together with final edited visual sequences to accompany a news package. The candidate will also show evidence of observing current Health and Safety procedures.

The assessment will be carried out under open-book conditions.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Electronic News Gathering

### **Assessment Guidelines**

The candidate need not edit his/her package but may use the services of a picture/ENG editor to produce the final cut news package. Centres will need to provide the candidate with a suitable brief that will enable him/her to produce the necessary material for submission as evidence. The topic for the brief will be at the discretion of the centre and could pertain to sport, current affairs or any other suitable newsworthy topic. If the assessments for Outcomes 2 and 3 are combined the programme duration should be two minutes.

## Administrative Information

**Unit code:** F1N1 35  
**Unit title:** Electronic News Gathering  
**Superclass category:** KA  
**Original date of publication:** June 2007  
**Version:** 02

### History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Amendments to assessment time for Outcome 3	10/05/10

**Source:** SQA

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## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes**

### **Unit title:** Electronic News Gathering

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 designed to develop knowledge and skills in broadcast journalism using Electronic News Gathering (ENG) and Video Journalist techniques. The Unit will also enable the candidate who has already achieved some journalistic skills in print journalism to expand in to the area of video broadcasting. The candidate will be introduced to the operation and shooting techniques with a lightweight portable single camera. The candidate will be taught how to interpret and establish pictorial information relevant to news stories and write the accompanying copy. The candidate will be taught how to deliver in-vision links as well as write and record appropriate voiceovers, to accompany video sequences.

### **Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit**

This Unit is primarily designed to provide the candidate with technical and professional knowledge and skills relating to television news items.

Outcome 1 deals with the basic functions of the video camera and basic shooting techniques required for a television news package. Two hours should be allocated for the assessment.

Outcome 2 is very much interpreting a news item prior to the recording of the relevant editorial as a visual medium and scripting the voice over. To simulate a news room environment centres should take on the role of news editor and, for assessment purposes, instruct the candidate to submit for assessment a report on a news topic up to an agreed running time. Opportunity for the candidate to appear in-vision delivering links should be encouraged. A time restraint appropriate to the brief should apply. This should normally be between 60 and 90 minutes.

Outcome 3 is the producing of a complete news package from a given brief to be included in a news/magazine programme. Again, to simulate a news room environment, centres should take on the role of news editor and, for assessment purposes, instruct the candidate to submit for assessment a news package up to an agreed running time and to be delivered within a set deadline. The news item should be between 90 seconds and two minutes. If the assessments for Outcomes 2 and 3 are combined the programme duration should be two minutes.

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Electronic News Gathering

### *Opportunities for developing Core Skills*

The Core Skill component of — *Produce well-structured written communication on complex topics* — at SCQF level 6 could be developed in this Unit.

The specific skills for this Core Skill component are:

- ◆ Present all essential ideas/information and supporting detail in a logical and effective order
- ◆ Use a structure which takes account of purpose and audience and links the major and minor points in ways which assist the clarity and impact of the writing
- ◆ Use conventions which are effective in achieving the purpose and adapted as necessary for the target audience
- ◆ Use spelling, punctuation and sentence structures which are consistently accurate
- ◆ Vary sentence structure, paragraphing and vocabulary to suit the purpose and target audience

The Core Skill component of — *Produce and respond to oral communication on a complex topics* — at SCQF level 6 could be developed in this Unit.

The specific skills for this Core Skill component are:

- ◆ Use vocabulary and a range of spoken language structures consistently and effectively at an appropriate level of formality
- ◆ Convey all essential information, opinions or ideas with supporting detail accurately and coherently and with varied emphasis as appropriate
- ◆ Structure communication to take full account of purpose and audience
- ◆ Take account of situation and audience during delivery
- ◆ Respond to others, taking account of their contributions

The Core Skill of Working with Others at SCQF level 6 could be developed in this Unit

The specific skills for this Core Skill are:

- ◆ Analyse the activity by defining the goal and identifying the component tasks and roles which make up the activity, taking account of the size and expertise of the group
- ◆ Negotiate roles and responsibilities with others, taking account of own strengths and weaknesses and those of colleagues
- ◆ Negotiate working methods and rules for managing the group's work
- ◆ Support co-operative working
- ◆ Evaluate and draw conclusions about own contributions to group activity, and justify this by referring to supporting evidence



## Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

### Unit title: Electronic News Gathering

The Core Skill component of — *Planning and Organising* — at SCQF level 6 could be developed in this Unit.

The specific skills for this Core Skill are:

- ◆ develop a plan
- ◆ identify and obtain resources to carry out the plan
- ◆ carry out the task

The Core Skills will be developed without certification.

### Open learning

The Unit could be delivered by open learning but would require planning by the centre to ensure that candidates had access to suitable equipment. A robust system of quality assurance in terms of ensuring that evidence had been produced to the required standard along with authenticity of candidate evidence would also be required.

### 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk)).

## **General information for candidates**

### **Unit title:** Electronic News Gathering

The Unit is designed to give you an insight into the visual practices of television news. You will learn how to use a camera in a news gathering environment and write and record the appropriate voice over material, as well as present, by an in-vision link, a news package.

Outcome 1 is very much a practical Outcome where you will be introduced to a lightweight portable single camera and shown the basic functions of camera operation. You will also be taught how to develop your skills as an ENG camera operator.

In Outcome 2 you will be taught how to interpret a news item and identify relevant camera shots that relate to written copy and recorded, either as a voice-over or an in-vision link or both. You will also have the opportunity to appear in-vision recording an introductory link to a news item.

Outcome 3 will place you in the position as a video journalist where you will be taught the necessary skills to go on location and identify, evaluate and produce a short news item package to a given brief that would be played into a news programme.

Outcome 1 will be assessed by recorded video footage and observation. Outcome 2 will be assessed by the submission of appropriate documentation. Outcome 3 will be assessed by documentation and recorded footage.

There will be opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication, both written and oral, Problem Solving and Working with Others at SCQF level 6.