

Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Ceramics: Project

Unit code: F1TS 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to produce ceramic pieces and encourage the development of a personal style through working in an independent way. Candidates will research and analyse styles of ceramics and use their visual investigation to inform the development of design ideas for their own piece of ceramics. Candidates will produce, present and evaluate their final ceramic pieces.

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

- 1 Research, investigate and analyse styles and designs for a piece of ceramics, working to a self-generated project brief
- 2 Develop designs for a piece of ceramics
- 3 Produce, present and evaluate a piece of ceramics

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 the Unit is at the discretion of the centre. Candidates should have an understanding of design process having completed HN Units in Art and Design or have similar qualifications or experience. These may include 2D/3D processes, ceramics, drawing skills, sketchbook preparation.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Problem Solving, Information Technology and Communication 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.

Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres (cont)

Assessment: This Unit should be assessed by a project brief generated by the candidate.

Outcome 1 is assessed by production of a project brief, and a collection of sources and ideas and sample pieces with explanatory commentary.

Outcome 2 is assessed by sketchbook/folio/collection of developmental work with accompanying annotations or commentary.

Outcome 3 is assessed by the production, presentation and evaluation of a solution that meets the requirements of the project brief.

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

Research, investigate and analyse styles and designs for a piece of ceramics, working to a self-generated project brief

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Producing a project brief
- ◆ Project planning
- ◆ Research skills
- ◆ Techniques and materials
- ◆ Analytical skills
- ◆ Use of tools and production methods
- ◆ Problem solving skills
- ◆ Health and safety requirements

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ Produce a project brief that is realistic for the time allocated to the project
- ◆ Investigate designs, styles and techniques for a piece of ceramics
- ◆ Produce sample pieces that show exploration of techniques and materials
- ◆ Use tools and materials in accordance with current health and safety requirements
- ◆ Record production processes used

Evidence should be presented in the form of a project brief, a collection of sources and ideas and sample pieces with explanatory commentary.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Ceramics: Project

Assessment Guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome can be combined with Outcomes 2 and 3 as part of a holistic assessment for the Unit, details of which are given under Outcome 3 below.

Candidates should provide their own brief to work to and may find it useful to devise a simple schedule of work to aid time management. The design brief should include consideration of the intended site, purpose, and audience for presentation purposes.

Outcome 2

Develop designs for a piece of ceramics

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Working to a brief
- ◆ Design process
- ◆ Reflective practice and evaluation
- ◆ Materials and techniques
- ◆ Use of tools and production methods

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can, in working to a self-generated brief:

- ◆ Use visual investigation to inform the development of design ideas and samples
- ◆ Develop designs for a piece of ceramics that show the development of a personal line of enquiry
- ◆ Evaluate design concepts and production methods in terms of suitability for development into a final piece
- ◆ Produce developmental work which fulfils the requirements of the brief

Evidence should be presented in the form of a sketchbook/folio/collection of developmental work with accompanying annotations or commentary.

Assessment Guidelines

It is recommended that the assessment of this Outcome be combined with Outcomes 1 and 3 as part of a holistic assessment.

Evaluation and reflective practice could be evidenced by annotations or recorded class/individual critiques where candidates can give clear justification for their selection of a design, materials, tools, techniques and production methods for final production.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Ceramics: Project

Outcome 3

Produce, present and evaluate a piece of ceramics

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Problem solving
- ◆ Materials and techniques
- ◆ Production methods
- ◆ Use of tools and equipment
- ◆ Presentation
- ◆ Evaluative techniques
- ◆ Time management
- ◆ Safe working practices

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ Produce and present a finished piece/s of ceramics that fulfils the requirements of the brief
- ◆ Produce a technical description of the processes used to produce the finished piece
- ◆ Use selected techniques, materials, tools and production methods
- ◆ Manage time to complete the required work within the allotted timeframe
- ◆ Justify and evaluate creative solutions in relation to the creative concept, use of materials and success in meeting the requirements of the brief
- ◆ Critically reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of the final piece and suggest possible improvements or developments
- ◆ Show due consideration to current health and safety practices

Evidence should in the form of a presentation and evaluation of final piece/s of ceramics with accompanying details of the technical processes used in the production of the finished piece.

Assessment Guidelines

It is recommended that this Unit is assessed with one holistic assessment and that the entire body of work produced for the Unit is presented on completion of all Outcomes.

It is recommended that the finished piece be recorded in digital or illustrative format for portfolio submission.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F1TS 35
Unit title: Ceramics: Project
Superclass category: JR
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Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Ceramics: Project

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

If appropriate, tutors should supply notes on ceramic firing programmes and glazing techniques, explaining key stages in the firing and glazing processes.

Candidates should write a project brief and then produce a body of research material and exploratory work that shows a thorough investigation and analysis of chosen styles and designs. This investigation will be used to influence final designs. Work produced should clearly show development from original source material.

Candidates could select drawings and sketches from other areas of their course work such as life drawings, observational or development drawings or mixed media work, and use these as a starting point for development of ideas and concepts for ceramic pieces.

The development of designs should show considered selection of the materials and understanding of techniques to be used. Where a kiln has been used in the production of ceramic samples, candidates should keep a record of firing temperatures and note the techniques and materials used. A selection of ceramic techniques could be used in the production of samples such as coiling, slabbing, carving and throwing. In addition a selection of decorative techniques could be used such as under glaze, glazing, lustre etc. It would be beneficial if candidates gained an understanding of all the processes involved, which may include kiln and shelf preparation, firing programmes and firing temperatures of ceramics, mixing of glazes, lustre firing temperatures and so on.

Exploration of media and materials should be encouraged throughout, with tutors supporting candidates in their creative exploration.

Candidates should present development and final designs in sketchbooks and/or as a folio of developments. This should be accompanied by experimental sample pieces and the final finished piece. It would also be advisable for candidates to photograph three-dimensional work as part of their logbook or sketchbook.

A health and safety checklist could be supplied in the form of a risk assessment that candidates could complete as they work through the Unit.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Ceramics: Project

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit has been developed as part of the HND Art and Design Group Awards. It is recommended that it should be 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.

It is recommended that the Unit be assessed via holistic assessment at the end of the Unit. This will allow the assessor to examine evidence of the complete design process from selection of initial sources to final production.

In **Outcome 1:** Candidates will generate their own project brief and investigate and analyse styles and designs that can inform their development of ideas for a finished piece of ceramics. Source material and preliminary drawings should show a progressive development of styles and ideas. Experimental samples should relate clearly to preliminary sketches and show considered use of materials. Candidates should keep a record of how any ceramic samples were produced. The tutor may provide guidance on suitable source material, examples of techniques to explore and timelines for the key stages of the design process.

Having investigated source material, candidates should select ideas and develop concepts for a final piece of ceramics for **Outcome 2.** At this stage candidates should show the ability to critically reflect on the success or otherwise of their concepts and show that they can make suitable selections of ideas to take forward to a final piece. To reinforce any evidence gathered during a critique, annotations to sketchbook work should be encouraged.

For **Outcome 3,** final pieces of ceramics should demonstrate clear stylistic links with all development stages. This final piece should be of presentation standard. Candidates should keep a log of the processes used in the production of their final piece.

Candidates should show an awareness of health and safety issues and follow safe and considerate working practices at all times. A short risk assessment could be used to evidence this, or the tutor could use an observation checklist to record candidates' work practices.

Learning and teaching materials should be accessible and inclusive and where applicable positively promote equality and cultural diversity.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Ceramics: Project

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

All elements of the Core Skill of Problem Solving should be naturally developed and enhanced to a sophisticated level as candidates undertake the investigation and practical work needed to fulfil the requirements of a brief and produce a finished piece of ceramics. They have to research media, materials and production techniques before selecting information to support the creative process. Access to and evaluation of a range of online information on arts practice should ensure understanding of features of contemporary approaches. Timescales, targets and available resources will be factors to be critically considered in the initial stages of experimental design. Use of production methods which observe health and safety requirements will be routine. Identifying and justifying the use of techniques, forms and materials to others in formative sessions could provide opportunities to develop both creative problem solving and communication skills. Evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses in the design and production process could be used to suggest possible modifications for future working.

There are opportunities to develop oral and written skills to reflect working practice as candidates complete their work and present it to others. Technical descriptions of the brief and process should be presented clearly and coherently, and spelling, punctuation and professional terminology should follow accepted conventions. Use of appropriate software and self-assessment checklists could support and enhance communication skills. Group discussion of issues during formative work could allow candidates to practise their oral skills in a working environment. As work is presented to others, candidates should be encouraged to use effective verbal and non-verbal communication techniques and to respond confidently to comments and questions.

Open learning

The practical nature of this Unit would make it difficult to deliver via open learning. Although the planning and evaluative stages could be delivered in this way, it would require a considerable degree of planning by the centre to ensure the sufficiency and authenticity of candidates' evidence.

For further information and advice please refer to the SQA document *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning* which is available on SQA's website: **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: Ceramics Project

This Unit will enable you to produce ceramic pieces, enhance your ability to work in an independent way and encourage development of a personal style.

This Unit will allow you to extend your skills and knowledge through the exploration and analysis of ideas, development of concepts and production of designs and presentation of ceramic work.

There are three Outcomes in this Unit.

For Outcome 1 you will produce a project brief for the production of a finished ceramic piece. You will investigate designs, styles and techniques of ceramic design. From these investigations you will produce sketches and sample pieces that explore a range of techniques and materials and keep a record of how these were produced.

For Outcome 2 you will develop your ideas and concepts for a piece of ceramics that meets the requirements of your project brief. You will reflect upon the success of your developments and give reasons for the selection of the design, materials, tools and techniques that you have chosen.

In Outcome 3 you will produce, present and evaluate a finished piece of ceramics. This piece will be based on the final concept that you produced in Outcome 2. You will also record the techniques and materials used to produce the piece.

Throughout the Unit you will have to use tools and equipment safely and correctly and show consideration for the health and safety of others in your working practices.

The Unit may also provide you with opportunities to develop a number of Core Skills, which could include Problem Solving (Planning and Organising, Critical Thinking), oral/written Communication, and IT skills.