



Higher National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Mixed Media Development

Unit code: FD6A 35

Superclass: JB

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Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop knowledge and skills in the creative use of mixed media. Candidates will investigate the contemporary and historical use of mixed media and research and investigate source material. They will enhance their skills through the practical exploration of mixed media.

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

- 1 Analyse examples of historical and contemporary mixed media artworks.
- 2 Develop experimental concepts in response to a brief.
- 3 Develop ideas from experimental concepts.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. Candidates should have an understanding of the creative process having completed HN Units in Contemporary Art Practice or have similar qualifications or experience.

Credit points and level

2 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 8: (16 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.*

General information (cont)

Core Skills (One of the following statements should be used)

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill of 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.

Assessment

This Unit is assessed by:

Outcome 1 is assessed by the production of annotated sketchbooks, or similar, containing visual research evidence and analysis.

Outcome 2 is assessed by the production of annotated sketchbooks, or similar, which contain evidence of preliminary developments.

Outcome 3 is assessed by the production of developmental pieces and by an oral or written critical analysis of those pieces.

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

Analyse examples of historical and contemporary mixed media artworks

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Research methods
- ◆ Analysis
- ◆ Historical context
- ◆ Contemporary context
- ◆ Media
- ◆ Techniques
- ◆ Style

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ source a variety of examples of mixed media artform
- ◆ analyse each example in relation to techniques, materials, media, style and content

Assessment Guidelines

Candidate work could be contained in an annotated sketchbook, workbook or worksheets detailing ideas, techniques and materials. Written commentary could be in the form of annotations. Oral commentary could be given in response to oral questioning.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Mixed Media Development

Outcome 2

Develop experimental concepts in response to a brief

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Research
- ◆ Source material
- ◆ Interpretation of brief
- ◆ Experimental approaches

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ understand limitations of the brief, issues and requirements
- ◆ research concepts
- ◆ experiment with a combination of media to achieve a variety of effects

Evidence should be presented as a sketchbook/folio of research evidence and developmental/experimental work.

Assessment Guidelines

A brief could be provided by the tutor for this Outcome, but could also be generated by the candidate.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Mixed Media Development

Outcome 3

Develop ideas from experimental concepts

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Exploration of media
- ◆ Styles and techniques
- ◆ Substrates and grounds
- ◆ Use of materials
- ◆ Critical analysis

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can, with reference to a brief:

- ◆ develop ideas for an artwork
- ◆ develop styles and techniques
- ◆ explore the use of different substrates and grounds
- ◆ use a range of materials in combination
- ◆ critically analyse the work with regard to its potential for development into artwork

Evidence should be in the form of exploratory/developmental pieces in any suitable format. Critical analysis should take the form of a group discussion or discussion between the tutor and the candidate. Alternatively, each developmental piece of work could be annotated.

Assessment Guidelines

Ideas can be presented as sketches or three dimensional maquettes, models, etc could be produced.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Mixed Media Development

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 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is primarily intended to enable candidates to develop the imaginative and inventive use of mixed media.

The aim of the Unit is to develop and build a visual language using mixed media techniques and materials.

In **Outcome 1** candidates should research mixed media and collect examples of both contemporary and historical mixed media pieces. They should make comments on the pieces regarding their use of media, their effectiveness, use of colour, technique, materials, etc.

In **Outcomes 2 and 3** imaginative and experimental approaches to the use of mixed media should be encouraged. The candidates should work to project brief(s). The variety of materials and tools which could be used is extensive. Artwork created could be two-dimensional, three-dimensional or a combination of both and could include a variety of elements such as drawing, printmaking, painting, construction, sculpture, illustration, digital and time-based media, photography, assemblage, dyeing, sewing manipulation techniques, waxing, stitching, construction, sculpture, and papermaking.

Work produced could be specific to an area of study or a combination of one or more subjects. At this stage work will be purely developmental.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit has been developed as part of the HND Contemporary Art Practice Group Award. 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.

The Unit could be introduced with an illustrated lecture where a wide range of examples of mixed media work are shown and discussed with the candidates. Sources of research could be suggested and candidates directed to find examples of personal interest to themselves.

For **Outcome 1** examples of mixed media work would normally be contained in a sketchbook and kept for reference. Annotations are therefore the most helpful way of critically evaluating the collected examples. Annotations should make critical reference to the style, use of materials and media of each piece and include some historical detail to allow the piece to be considered in context. This would provide the necessary evidence for assessment.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Mixed Media Development

For **Outcomes 2 and 3** preliminary drawings and ideas would be presented as sketches contained in sketchbooks. Three dimensional maquettes or models could also be produced.

Experimental pieces in a range of media should be retained in a workbook, folio or sketchbook and larger experimental pieces should also be presented for assessment.

For **Outcome 3** it is recommended that three developments be presented and critically analysed. A group discussion on all pieces presented is suggested as this allows candidates to develop confidence in stating their creative aims and in justifying their creative decisions. However, analysis could also be in the form of annotated sketches or developmental works. Candidates could also discuss their work individually with the tutor. Whichever format is chosen, a checklist should be used to ensure that a consistent range of analysis is achieved.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Candidates have to conduct in depth research, accessing and studying a range of complex source materials. They should make effective and responsible use of equipment and software applications, and use appropriate methods for keeping all research data secure and well organised. Analytical examination of information accessed is essential, and criteria for evaluation could be identified to support this process. Efficient systems of recording and storing research findings should be developed. Findings may be presented orally or in writing and candidates should express complex ideas and information accurately and coherently, using appropriate terminology. Centre designed checklists for self assessment may be helpful to enhance communication skills development. Oral work should demonstrate the use of effective verbal and non-verbal techniques, including the ability to present materials to a professional standard and provide confident, in depth responses to detailed questions from others.

Open learning

The practical nature of parts 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 candidate 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.

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for candidates

Unit title: Mixed Media Development

This Unit is designed to give you the skills and knowledge required to develop creative work using mixed media. It is intended to allow you to explore and develop your creative skills in an innovative way and to develop and apply your skills of critical analysis, evaluation and reflection.

In **Outcome 1** you will:

- ◆ Research and collect examples of historical and contemporary mixed media
- ◆ Describe the techniques and media used in the examples
- ◆ Comment on style and content of the examples

In **Outcome 2** you will:

- ◆ Work to a brief to explore the production of mixed media work
- ◆ Research ideas for mixed media work using a variety of methods and sources
- ◆ Experiment with mixed media to achieve a variety of effects

In **Outcome 3** you will:

- ◆ Explore the potential of a range of media
- ◆ Develop a range of ideas in the form of sketches, roughs, maquettes, models or other exploratory media
- ◆ Critically analyse the suitability of your ideas