



Higher National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Photography: Portraiture

Unit code: H1LK 34

Superclass: KE

Publication date: June 2012

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to research, produce and present a series of portraits in the studio and on location. The candidate will also be able to research different styles of historical and/or contemporary portraits.

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

- 1 Research historical and/or contemporary portrait images.
- 2 Produce a range of portraits.
- 3 Present finished portrait images.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

Candidates should have a basic knowledge of camera/lighting skills and studio work practices. Candidate should have good interpersonal skills.

Credit points and level

2 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 7: (16 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.*

General information (cont)

Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication, Information Technology (ICT)* and *Problem Solving* 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: statement of standards

Unit title: Photography: Portraiture

Unit code: H1LK 34

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 historical and/or contemporary portrait images.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Portrait styles
- ◆ Lighting techniques
- ◆ Composition
- ◆ Context

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can produce an annotated workbook containing:

- ◆ a minimum of ten examples of different portrait images to include historical and/or contemporary portraits

Each example must include comments on composition, lighting, style and context.

Work produced out-with controlled conditions must be subject to authentication by the Tutor.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Portraiture

Outcome 2

Produce a range of portraits.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Logistical Planning for the given briefs
- ◆ Exposure calculation and control
- ◆ Use of model release forms
- ◆ Lighting, composition and viewpoint
- ◆ Working with others.

Evidence Requirements

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

Produce portrait images to five different given briefs. Over the series, all following points must be achieved:

- ◆ a range of lighting techniques must be used for the brief
- ◆ the exposure is correct for the desired effect for the brief
- ◆ model release forms must be used where applicable
- ◆ images must be technically and aesthetically consistent with the brief
- ◆ composition and lighting must achieve the effect identified in the brief
- ◆ at least one brief must be produced on location and one in studio
- ◆ directing and communicating with the subject
- ◆ one location brief must make use of controlled supplementary lighting.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Portraiture

Outcome 3

Present finished portrait images.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Presentation Media
- ◆ Presentation Skills

Evidence Requirements

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

Produce portrait images to five given briefs; choose a medium, and present the five images produced for Outcome 2.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Photography: Portraiture

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 for candidates who are taking a qualification in Photography at Higher National level. It may also be taken by candidates in relevant employment wishing to develop and/or enhance their skills. It is likely to be easier for individuals if the practical work of photographing people in the studio or location is undertaken by working in pairs. This will be achieved with each candidate taking turns to work as an assistant.

The focus on Outcome 1 should be on sources of research (eg exhibitions, professional photographers, internet, magazines, books, etc). The research should be collated in the form of a workbook, with a minimum of ten annotated examples. A proportion of the sourced images may come from other media such as painting and sculpture if the candidate wishes. The gathered research should inform the practical work in Outcome 2.

For Outcome 2 a specific series of portrait images should be produced to five given briefs. The briefs should enable the candidate to undertake a variety of portrait techniques. The candidate should be able to set up a studio and also organize a location shoot. They should be able to use the equipment and lighting to realise the intended style. The candidate should be able to organize people in the studio and on location for a portrait sitting.

For Outcome 3 the candidate should present their own images, either in physical or electronic form, which may include a presentation with class and Tutors present.

Guidance on the delivery of this Unit

This Unit is a core part of the HNC/D Photography. It should be delivered early in the award to enable candidates to utilise the skills, knowledge and understanding gained here in their research, planning, production and presentation of portrait images. Candidates will require guidance from the centre to ensure they adopt a suitable approach for each assessment.

Many of the skills achieved in this Unit will be transferable to other photography Units. Candidates should be given the opportunity to gather research information for themselves and they should be encouraged to make use of relevant websites and other resources.

While it would be useful to encourage guest speakers to have some input to the delivery of this Unit, it is appreciated that visits of this kind are often difficult to coordinate and integrate. However, input from current practitioners is encouraged wherever possible.

A student centred approach should be adopted at all times. The main emphasis of the Unit lies in Outcome 2 and approximately 70% of the time should be allocated to this area. Candidates will require guidance from the centre to ensure they adopt a suitable approach for each brief.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Portraiture

Guidance on the assessment of this Unit

This Unit could be assessed holistically by a portfolio of evidence generated by portraiture briefs. Much of the evidence should arise naturally out of the set of briefs but may also include reflective statements made by the candidate on his/her experience related to the work produced and previous research.

Outcome 1 should be assessed by the production of an annotated workbook. There should be at least ten examples of sourced portraiture illustrated in the workbook. The gathered research should inform the practical work in Outcome 2.

For Outcome 2 the candidate will be expected to generate creative visual responses to five given briefs. The five portrait images produced should show technical competence, and aesthetic judgment.

For Outcome 3 the candidate will present the finished work from Outcome 2.

The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 1

The assessment for this Outcome could be combined with Outcomes 2 and 3 as part of a single assessment instrument for this Unit, details of which are given under Outcome 3.

Outcome 2

The assessment for this Outcome could be combined with Outcomes 1 and 3 as part of a single assessment instrument for this Unit, details of which are given under Outcome 3.

The assessment would require the candidates to produce a series of portrait images to given briefs. The briefs should specify images produced in the studio and on location, using appropriate lighting styles. Each image should be produced using a combination of lighting, composition, viewpoint and approach to the subject.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Portraiture

Outcome 3

The assessment requires candidates to produce a series of portrait images to five given briefs. The briefs should include studio and location portraiture, and should include a variety of lighting techniques.

Each image should use a combination of lighting, composition, viewpoint and approach to the subject for the brief. All of the images produced should show technical competence, and aesthetic judgement, and be retouched where needed and presented in an appropriate manner. Candidates should discuss their technical and creative intentions for each image.

The candidate's final imagery should make reference to the research already carried out in the production of the workbook in Outcome 1. The workbook should show examples of historical and/or contemporary portraiture using other practitioner's work. The workbook should also show a critical engagement with the examples, commenting on factors such as composition, lighting, style, and context.

Online and Distance Learning

If this Unit is delivered by open learning methods, additional resources will be required for candidate support, assessment and quality assurance. For further information and advice please refer to the SQA guide: *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning (A1030), February 2001*

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Support in developing an effective search strategy for accessing and evaluating paper based and electronic sources of complex information on historical and contemporary images will be of value. The need to have efficient systems of recording, coding and storing outline information for ease of reference should be emphasised.

The production and discussion of initial drafts for the illustrated workbook is a useful way to ensure the development of skills in presentation and collation of relevant materials. Although communication skills are not formally assessed candidates should be expected to produce and present written and graphic work to a professional standard, and to communicate essential ideas and concepts effectively. Terminology and spelling used in annotation should be technically accurate, and the availability of suitable software to support effective professional presentation could further assist the development of skills in the use of technology.

As they work with others candidates should be aware of techniques to put subjects at ease, using such techniques as reflective listening and non-verbal communication, including making eye contact and relaxed body language. They should respond to questions confidently and in a way that progresses communication

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Portraiture

Elements of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving*, namely Planning and Organising, Critical Thinking, and Reviewing and Evaluating could be developed and enhanced as candidates undertake the Unit. Candidates need to analyse the issues inherent in a series of briefs. They should identify and consider variables, including resources available, and analyse the significance of each before exploring an appropriate strategic approach. Creative interpretation of briefs and selection of appropriate media will provide opportunities to develop problem solving skills to an advanced level. Evaluation of all stages of proposed design solutions and their potential and actual impact will be on-going and formally assessed.

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

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2012

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Business Development and Customer Support team, telephone 0303 333 0330.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Photography: Portraiture

This Unit is designed to enable you to produce and present a series of portraits in the studio and on location. You will also research different styles of historical and/or contemporary portraits.

You will research historic and/or contemporary portraits. The research should be collated in a workbook and will include a minimum of ten annotated examples commenting on composition, lighting, style and context. The research can include exhibitions, photographers, books, Internet, magazines, newspapers, etc. This research should influence your approach to the portraiture briefs.

You will produce studio and location portraits to given briefs. You may work as part of a team of two, alternating between the roles of photographer and assistant. You will produce five portraits. You will be involved in the planning of the session, including selection of equipment, setting up lighting and props, organising all people involved in the portrait session. Model release forms should be completed where appropriate.

You will select and present the five finished portraits.