



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Photography: Portraiture Skills (SCQF level 5)

CODE F51N 11

SUMMARY

The Unit is designed to enable the candidate to research styles of photographic portraits from both historical and contemporary periods and apply the acquired knowledge of skills and techniques in the production of their own portraits in a studio. The Unit requires the candidate to be reflective and evaluative about their own work.

The Unit is suitable for candidates who wish to obtain basic skills in photographic portraits.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Research styles and techniques used in historical and contemporary photographic portraits.
- 2 Produce finished photographic portraits in a studio to a given brief.
- 3 Evaluate the finished photographic portrait.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would benefit from having had some experience in basic photography.

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Intermediate 2 level (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5*).

**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.*

Administrative Information

Superclass: KE

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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

UNIT Photography: Portraiture Skills (SCQF level 5)

CORE SKILLS

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills in this Unit.

The Unit provides opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of the following Core Skills:

- ◆ Information and Communication Technology (SCQF level 4)
- ◆ Working with Others (SCQF level 4)
- ◆ Problem Solving (SCQF level 4)

These opportunities are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit Specification.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

UNIT Photography: Portraiture Skills (SCQF level 5)

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit Specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

OUTCOME 1

Research styles and techniques used in historical and contemporary photographic portraits.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Select a range of historical and contemporary photographic portraits.
- (b) Describe clearly the background and composition of the subject in each of the chosen photographic portraits.
- (c) Describe accurately the lighting technique used in each of the chosen photographic portraits.

OUTCOME 2

Produce finished photographic portraits in a studio to a given brief.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Select the correct camera and lighting equipment for each photographic portrait in a studio in response to the given brief.
- (b) Choose a suitable background and position the subject appropriately to create different styles of photographic portraits in a studio in response to the given brief.
- (c) Use correct lighting techniques and exposure to create different photographic portraits in a studio in response to the given brief.
- (d) Select and present the finished photographic portraits.

OUTCOME 3

Evaluate the finished photographic portrait.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the finished photographic portrait in terms of aesthetic quality, style and technique.
- (b) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the presentation format chosen for the finished photographic portrait.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

Evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria for this Unit.

Written and/or oral recorded evidence and product evidence is required. This evidence will be produced under open-book conditions.

The candidate will produce a folio of work which will include:

- ◆ a workbook which contains historical and contemporary photographic portraits gathered from different sources and annotations about the background, composition and techniques used
- ◆ three finished photographic portraits taken in a studio
- ◆ an evaluation of one of the finished photographic portraits

The evidence required for each Outcome is as follows:

Outcome 1

Written and/or oral recorded evidence and product evidence to include four different photographic portraits which the candidate has personally selected is required.

The range of portraits selected must:

- ◆ reflect different historical and contemporary styles of portraiture
- ◆ be examples of formal and informal portraiture
- ◆ have been taken in a studio

The term contemporary will mean within the last 30 years.

It would be appropriate for this evidence to be in the format of a traditional or electronic annotated workbook.

Outcome 2

Product evidence in the form of three different finished photographic portraits which the candidate has produced, on their own, is required for this Outcome.

The candidate must work to a clear, given brief which details that the finished portraits must:

- ◆ be taken in a studio
- ◆ demonstrate the correct use of the following lighting techniques:
 - window light
 - artificial light (lamps/flash)

It would be appropriate for this evidence to be presented in the format of traditional prints, electronic display or digital print. The minimum print size should be 6 x 4" (10 x 15 cm).

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

UNIT Photography: Portraiture Skills (SCQF level 5)

Outcome 3

Written and/or oral recorded evidence which the candidate has generated in open-book conditions is required to demonstrate achievement of this Outcome.

The candidate will select one photographic portrait from Outcome 2 for evaluation.

This evaluation should be approximately 300–400 words.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Photography: Portraiture Skills (SCQF level 5)

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 an optional Unit of the National Certificate in Art and Design, but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

The Unit is designed to familiarise the candidate with the historical and contemporary practice found in the genre of portrait photography. The candidate will gain experience in the creative processes involved in the development of photographic portraits. It will prepare them to apply the process of research and development of practical skills in the production of their own creative photography.

Health and safety guidance relating to studio practice should be given. The candidate will be expected to adopt safe working practices at all times.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Many of the skills achieved in this Unit will be transferable to other photography Units. The candidate should be given the opportunity to gather relevant information on their own and should be encouraged to make use of relevant websites and other resources.

Outcome 1

The candidate could gather a minimum of four examples of historical and contemporary portraiture from at least three different sources and from the mid nineteenth century to the present day. Candidates should be encouraged to explore different sources rather than simply taking from books on photography.

The intention is that the candidate will gather experience and knowledge of the different approaches taken to portrait photography by describing each image gathered in terms of lighting, position and photographic techniques.

The teacher/lecturer may wish to provide information on historical and current professional portrait photographers but should ensure that each candidate supports their own photography through their own research.

The candidate could be given a series of questions linked to portraiture and style of the period to assist them in having a direction and purpose to their work. For example they could be asked to look at how the family has been recorded by portrait photographers over the ages or how women have been portrayed in portraits, both historically and contemporarily.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Photography: Portraiture Skills (SCQF level 5)

Outcome 2

The teacher/lecturer will provide a clear brief which outlines the requirement to produce three finished photographic portraits which demonstrate the following lighting conditions:

- ◆ window light
- ◆ artificial light (lamps/flash)

There is no requirement for ‘professional’ studio lighting and candidates can make use of existing window light and reflectors or angle poised lamps or any other source of artificial lighting.

In this Unit the term ‘studio’ means indoor environment.

The candidates could work in a team of two, alternating between the role of photographer and assistant. Each lighting technique could be introduced in the form of a practical demonstration and supported by classroom instruction.

Candidates should be introduced to a variety of different posing styles, lighting arrangements and portraiture styles.

The sitter could be, for example, a classmate or a staff member.

In order that candidates have a meaningful experience, they should be encouraged to think about what the lighting is actually doing to the appearance of the subject. The candidates could take their studio (classroom or any indoor) portraits against a plain background but they could also be encouraged to photograph their sitter a distance from the background and contextualise the sitter and their environment. Perhaps the use of limited depth of field to isolate the sitter from any background could be considered.

Opportunities for candidates to discuss their work and their practical assignments as a group would be advantageous. Regular reviews of the candidate’s work and ideas to apply the research to their own image making would be beneficial.

Outcome 3

This Outcome is designed to allow the candidate to reflect on their work and identify and evaluate strengths and weaknesses of the application of skills and techniques acquired throughout the process to their own portraits.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

In this Unit the candidate will be researching a variety of photographic portraits, following a brief to produce their own portrait images and evaluating their own photographic skills. This offers ideal opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving*.

If using electronic formats for their portraits, candidates would have the opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Information and Communication Technology*.

The candidate will be required to work closely with models and possibly an assistant during Outcome 2. This offers ideal opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Working with Others*.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

The Evidence Requirements provide specific requirements for this Unit assessment. They clearly set out what is to be addressed by candidates and what evidence teacher/lecturers should look for.

Outcome 1

An appropriate instrument of assessment is a suitable structured assignment resulting in an annotated workbook.

Outcome 2

A suitable instrument of assessment is a structured practical assignment resulting in the production of three portraits taken in a studio.

Much of the evidence should arise out of the photo shoots but may also include reflective statements made by the candidate on his/her experience related to the work produced and previous research.

Centres must ensure the folio is the candidate's own work. The three photographic portraits produced should show technical competence.

Outcome 3

A suitable instrument of assessment could be a written and/or oral recorded report with a suggested word count of approximately 300–400 words.

Teachers/Lecturers may wish to provide a pro forma for this assessment.

This Outcome is designed to encourage the candidate's self evaluation of their own work.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by information and communications technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

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).