



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Photography: Camera Techniques (SCQF level 6)

CODE F51S 12

SUMMARY

This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to develop knowledge and understanding of a range of camera techniques; an understanding of the underpinning knowledge behind these techniques; develop good practice to produce and evaluate their own, original and well planned photography. Successful completion of this Unit should prepare the candidate for more advanced photographic training/study.

This Unit is suitable for candidates who wish to gain experience and knowledge about camera techniques.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of camera techniques.
- 2 Produce photographic images to a given brief.
- 3 Evaluate the finished images.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

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

Administrative Information

Superclass: KE

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CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Higher level (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6*).

**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.*

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 5)
- ◆ Problem Solving (SCQF level 5)

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

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

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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

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of camera techniques.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Explain clearly the different properties of light and how images are formed using a lens.
- (b) Describe accurately the principle control functions of an SLR and/or SLR Digital camera.
- (c) Describe accurately the purpose and function of different lens focal lengths.
- (d) Explain clearly the use of flash techniques.
- (e) Describe accurately the relationship between shutter speed, aperture and ISO.
- (f) Explain clearly the different uses of meter settings on the camera(s).

OUTCOME 2

Produce photographic images to a given brief.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Photograph subjects using correct shutter speed controls.
- (b) Photograph subjects using correct lens aperture control.
- (c) Photograph subjects demonstrating the effects of different focal lengths.
- (d) Photograph subjects using correct flash techniques.
- (e) Present images in an appropriate format.

OUTCOME 3

Evaluate the finished images.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the finished photographs in terms of style and technique.
- (b) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the presentation format chosen for each of the photographs.

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 will be produced to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved all of the Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

This evidence will be produced in both closed-book and open-book conditions.

The candidate will produce evidence of work which will contain:

- ◆ written and/or oral recorded evidence demonstrating an understanding of a range of camera techniques
- ◆ four finished photographs
- ◆ an evaluation of the finished images

The evidence required for each Outcome is as follows:

Outcome 1

Written and/or oral recorded evidence is required for this Outcome. The evidence will be in the form of a centre generated multiple choice or question and short answer style assessment and obtained under supervised conditions. The assessment will be closed-book and the candidate should be given no more than one hour to complete.

The assessment should allow the candidate to generate evidence which covers the achievement of all Performance Criteria.

It would be appropriate for this evidence to be recorded orally or in written or electronic format.

Outcome 2

Product evidence in the form of four images demonstrating the four different camera techniques is required for this Outcome.

The candidate will work to a given brief and produce an image for Performance Criteria (a), (b), (c) and (d) in this Outcome.

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).

Centres must ensure that the evidence is the candidate's own work. The images produced should be aesthetically and technically consistent with the brief.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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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 the four finished photographs from Outcome 2 for evaluation.

- ♦ this evaluation should be approximately 400–500 words

National Unit Specification: support notes

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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 has been designed to enable the candidate to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the theory of light and image formation and the features of a camera.

Outcome 2 requires the candidate to work to a given brief which will clearly outline the specific techniques to be used for the production of photographs. The intention is for the candidate to demonstrate their ability to competently use the most commonly used techniques, controls and functions of a camera to create successful, aesthetically pleasing and technically accurate photographs.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Candidates are expected to learn and understand the concept of image formation and light, understand and use the features of cameras and produce photographs to a standard that meets the Outcomes and Performance Criteria. The skills achieved in this Unit are transferable to other photography Units.

The knowledge and understanding of the theory in this Unit should ideally be delivered in a classroom situation with the practical skills explained through teacher/lecturer demonstration.

Outcome 1

The intention is that the candidate will gain technical experience of cameras and their features. The candidate could be encouraged to keep a file or notebook containing detail of the theory and a record of any exercises undertaken.

The teacher/lecturer should explain:

- ◆ shutter speeds/aperture combinations and their effect on the photograph
- ◆ image formation
- ◆ 35mm and medium format camera construction, digital and film image capture, flash synchronisation, fill flash proportions, and use of filters
- ◆ depth of field and field of focus and the use of light meters to manage tonal reproduction

Outcome 2

The candidate is required to apply their knowledge and understanding of camera techniques by producing photographs to a teacher/lecturer devised brief which should outline requirements that meet the Performance Criteria.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Some of the teacher/lecturer demonstrations could include:

- ◆ photographing a fast moving subject by panning using a slow shutter speed to freeze the motion of the main subject whilst blurring the background to retain the impression of speed.
- ◆ using correct exposure to photograph a predominately dark subject against a dark background to show retention of shadow and form — eg model wearing dark clothes against a dark background. This technique could also be demonstrated for light subject eg white marble architectural detail.
- ◆ using different focus eg a wide aperture and telephoto lens to select main element of the picture but throwing the rest of the photograph out of focus.
- ◆ using fill flash on location to raise the luminance in shadow areas eg softening harsh shadows and adding a catch light to a portrait.

Candidates should be advised not to regard the production of their own photographs as a purely technical photographic exercise but also to regard this as an opportunity to produce an aesthetically pleasing photograph.

The candidate should be encouraged to consider appropriate viewpoint and framing for effective compositions. The distance, height, camera angle and decisions about vertical or horizontal framing should also be considered when deciding on the shot.

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 photographs.

The candidate should receive guidance and feedback throughout the work of this Unit as they develop their skills and techniques.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

In this Unit the candidate will follow a brief to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of four different camera techniques; produce their own examples and evaluate their own photographic skills. This offers ideal opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving*.

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

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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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

A suitable instrument of assessment would be a closed-book supervised assessment lasting no more than one hour. A multiple choice or question and short answer style assessment should be devised by the teacher/lecturer.

Outcome 2

A suitable instrument of assessment is a structured practical assignment resulting in the production of four photographs.

The finished four images should be assessed taking into consideration the application of the technical skills. There should be a proven skill and use of camera techniques demonstrated by the candidate in the finished images created.

Centres must ensure the folio of evidence is the candidate's own work.

Outcome 3

A suitable instrument of assessment could be a written and/or oral recorded report with a suggested word count of approximately 400–500 words.

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

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

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).