National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT　　　Art and Design: Contextual Studies (SCQF level 6)

CODE　　　F5CF 12

SUMMARY

In this Unit the candidate will develop awareness and understanding of selected areas of the visual arts or design in both historical and contemporary contexts. The candidate will investigate and evaluate collated visual imagery and factual research information selected from a range of sources, before explaining and communicating personal opinions and conclusions.

This Unit is suitable for candidates who:

♦　want to further develop their knowledge of art and design within a specific context
♦　are completing a general programme of art and design Units
♦　wish to develop an appreciation of art and design practice

OUTCOMES

1　Investigate an area(s) of the visual arts or design.
2　Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the selected area(s) of visual arts or design.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would benefit from previous experience of an art or design course or Units.

National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

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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)
♦ Communication (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

Investigate an area(s) of the visual arts or design.

Performance Criteria

(a) Select an area(s) of the visual arts or design for investigation.
(b) Gather relevant and accurate investigative material.
(c) Collate and present investigative research.

OUTCOME 2

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the selected area(s) of visual arts or design.

Performance Criteria

(a) Critically analyse the defining features of the selected area(s) of visual arts or design.
(b) Produce an accurate summary of factual information of the selected area(s) of visual arts or design.
(c) Provide a personal response supported by reasoned argument to the selected area(s) of visual arts or design.
(d) Identify potential use(s) for the acquired knowledge of the selected area(s) of visual arts or design.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Written and/or oral recorded evidence and product evidence in the form of collated visual research will be produced to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved all of the Outcomes and Performance Criteria. The candidate will produce a folio of evidence that is collated, organised and presented in a logical way using either traditional or electronic formats.

This will include:

♦ collated research and investigation evidence in the form of visual research and recorded information. This will include notes, cuttings, and sketches and collated factual information of the selected area(s) of the visual arts or design.
♦ analysis of the selected area(s) of the visual arts or design. This should include the use of relevant vocabulary and reasoned argument, a summary of the collated factual information and the critical analysis of the defining features of the selected area(s) of the visual arts or design.
♦ presentation of personal response demonstrating critical and reflective thinking which identifies potential uses for the acquired knowledge.

The candidate will produce the work under open-book conditions, throughout delivery of the Unit.

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

The specific content of this Unit should be based on area(s) of personal interest selected by the candidate but negotiated with the teacher/lecturer. The candidate will be involved in researching and investigating movements and specific artists/or designers in the visual arts or design.

The potential areas of study are wide ranging but any significant movements within visual arts or design may be considered appropriate topics for the investigation. Any significant artists or designers, either historical or contemporary may also be the focus of the investigation.

Detailed study of the area(s) of the visual arts or design will provide the candidate with opportunities to develop Critical Thinking skills and reflective practice that can be applied to practical art or design based activities.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

The candidate should have the opportunity to engage in active research and investigation. This should encourage and support awareness, knowledge and understanding of visual arts or design practice. This will allow the candidate to formulate, present and justify opinions and personal responses. Teaching and learning approaches may include visiting outside agencies, galleries or exploring the Internet and communicating directly with artists, designers, design companies and/or manufacturers.

Candidates can use a range of approaches in the production of evidence for this Unit. Research and investigation may be approached individually or as a group in order to widen the range of information gathered but this will be analysed and presented on an individual basis.

Evidence can be presented using a variety of approaches, for example using an integrated, annotated and illustrated study or PowerPoint or audiovisual presentation developed using a software package.

When undertaken as part of the National Certificate in Art and Design, this Unit should ideally be linked directly to practical activities and Units for example, *Art and Design: Project or Art* and *Design: Personal Project*.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Through providing detailed responses to the investigative material using relevant vocabulary and reasoned argument in defining the key features of the selected area(s) of the visual arts or design candidates will have the opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Communication*.

Candidates may have the opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Information and Communication Technology* in the collation of investigative research via the Internet and may also have additional opportunities through the selection of an area of ICT based art or design for investigation and study and where the candidate chooses to present the collated research using ICT based software packages.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

A suitable instrument of assessment for this Unit would be a practical exercise(s). Teachers/lecturers should assist candidates to prepare for assessment by advising and guiding them in the selection of work and how to present it logically and coherently. Candidates must however be given autonomy in making the final selection and presentation of their work for assessment, and should feel confident in doing so.

Evidence for Outcome 1 should be monitored and gathered on an ongoing basis with teacher/lecturers using individual and group tutorials for feedback to inform future learning. The selection and presentation of material for assessment of Outcome 2 is likely to take place towards the end of Unit delivery.

The teacher/lecturer must be satisfied that the evidence submitted is the work of individual candidates. Although group work may be used as a learning and teaching approach, any work that contributes to a candidate's assessment evidence must be carried out on an individual basis to ensure authenticity.

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**).