UNIT   Art and Design: Exploratory Media Handling (SCQF level 6)

CODE   F5CJ 12

SUMMARY

This Unit will enable the candidate to develop the skills and techniques used in handling media and to experience the value of an exploratory, experimental approach to visual art or design work. The candidate will produce artwork through exploring and experimenting with new and existing media handling techniques and combinations. A final art or design work will be produced and evaluated using selected media and techniques.

This Unit is suitable for candidates who:

♦ are completing a general programme of art and design Units
♦ wish to develop skills in the applied media handling

OUTCOMES

1   Investigate and use a variety of media and techniques in response to a given brief.
2   Produce development work in response to the given brief.
3   Produce and evaluate finished art or design work in response to the given brief.

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.

Additional copies of this Unit Specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Customer Contact Centre, telephone 0845 279 1000.

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 4)
♦   Problem Solving (SCQF level 5)
♦   Communication (SCQF level 5)
♦   Working with Others (SCQF level 4)

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 and use a variety of media and techniques in response to a given brief.

Performance Criteria

(a)　Identify the requirements in response to the given brief.
(b)　Select a variety of media and techniques in response to the given brief.
(c)　Demonstrate the creative potential of selected media and techniques in response to the given brief.

OUTCOME 2

Produce development work in response to the given brief.

Performance Criteria

(a)　Select and justify the choice of media and techniques in response to the given brief.
(b)　Develop and experiment with combinations of media and techniques in response to the given brief.
(c)　Demonstrate refinement of the media and techniques in response to the given brief.

OUTCOME 3

Produce and evaluate finished art or design work in response to the given brief.

Performance Criteria

(a)　Select a suitable combination of media and techniques for a specified art or design work in response to the given brief.
(b)　Produce finished artwork showing confident application of selected media and techniques in response to the given brief.
(c)　Evaluate the effectiveness of the finished art or design work in response to the given brief.

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.

Product evidence and written and/or oral recorded evidence should be produced to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved all of the Outcomes and Performance Criteria. The evidence should be produced under open-book conditions with assessment evidence being gathered throughout the Unit.

Candidates should produce a folio of work in response to a given brief which will include:

♦   the identification of the requirements of the given brief. This will include the target market/audience, theme or visual focus, timescales and the use of media and techniques.
♦   creative exploration of selected media, techniques and media combinations.
♦   the production of annotated development work demonstrating experimentation with a minimum of four combinations of media and techniques and recording descriptions of media, processes and techniques.
♦   progressive refinement of media handling and techniques.
♦   the production of final art or design work including an evaluation of the effectiveness of the decision making and choice of media handling skills and techniques.

The Assessment Support Pack for this Unit provides sample assessment material. Centres wishing to develop their own assessments should refer to the Assessment Support Pack to ensure a comparable standard.

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 Unit is intended to complement other Units within the National Certificate in Art and Design. It is possible the Unit could be taught alongside *Art and Design: Expressive Drawing*, *Art and Design: Digital Media*, *Art and Design: Introduction to Printmaking* or other Units. This Unit is designed to allow the candidate to explore and experiment with the process of handling media and then apply a combination of processes to a final art or design work. The Unit is intended to enable the candidate to experience traditional and/or new media handling skills and to become confident in mixed media applications.

Outcome 1

For this Outcome the candidate is required to identify and explore a variety of media handling skills in response to the given brief. This part of the Unit is designed to encourage exploratory work; producing a wide variety of examples experimenting with different combinations of media. It may be new territory for the candidate and some lines of enquiry may have an end whilst some may not. The candidate can work with traditional wet and dry media, or new media including video animation, lens based work, installation, performance etc.

Outcome 2

For this Outcome work should be produced that demonstrates the development of combining selected media from the initial experimental work using a combination of traditional and new media. The candidate can then produce work which shows a refinement of ideas and combinations towards the production of finished art or design work.

Outcome 3

For this Outcome finished work should be produced. The work should show the selection of a combination of media and techniques developed in the previous Outcomes. An evaluation of the process and media used should be completed.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to develop confidence in using a variety of media. This Unit will allow exploration, experimentation, and development in the handling of traditional and/or new media.

It is envisaged that there be no limit to the creative process through experimentation and exploration. The media could be in 2D or 3D, lens based, digital, video, animation or traditional forms. If for example, the Unit was integrated with a printmaking Unit, it could include the use of other media such as collage, paint or digitally manipulated images.

It would be advisable for teachers/lecturers to show the work of a wide variety of art and design practitioners to give the candidate an understanding of the processes and any theory underpinning their work. During the delivery of the Unit it would benefit the candidate to visit local and national galleries, to read periodicals, to research the Internet to become aware of and discover new and emerging artists and designers.

Teachers/lecturers should develop a brief providing guidance and inspiration which takes account of differing candidate abilities. The given brief should allow for personalisation of the theme or focus for the activity and include timescales for completion of key stages to assist candidate planning and time management. Teachers/lecturers should demonstrate a variety of media handling processes to the candidate who has more limited experience of exploratory work and therefore requires greater levels of support.

Candidate centred activity could be supported by group discussions during and towards the end of the Unit in order to help the candidate to reflect on their choices and the decision making process.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Through using the Internet to research practising artists and designers, the candidate would have the opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Information and Communication Technology*.

Investigation of the brief, the development process and the final evaluation would allow the candidate to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving*.

Through group discussions and on-going evaluation of the process the candidate would have the opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Working with Others* and *Communication*.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

A suitable instrument of assessment for this Unit would be a practical exercise(s).

As this Unit can be integrated with others, a brief could be written by teacher/lecturers which applies only to this Unit, or could be written to apply to several Units.

The process used to produce the finished artwork could be evaluated as a teacher/lecturer led discussion, evaluating the candidate art or design work.

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**).