



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Photographing People (SCQF level 5)

Unit code: H28V 11

Superclass: KE

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Summary

The purpose of this Unit is to broaden the candidates' skills and experience in photography, specifically developing understanding of how to photograph people. Candidates will review a range of photographs of people and different styles and approaches. Building on this, they will then plan a series of sessions where they can develop their skills in directing and posing people for photographic assignments. Candidates will select the best images from their work and present them. The Unit has been developed as part of the National Progression Award in Photography at SCQF level 5 and is a mandatory Unit but may be delivered as a free-standing Unit. No previous experience of photography is required and it may facilitate progression to further photographic studies.

Outcomes

- 1 Plan photography sessions based on a selection of images taken by leading people/portrait photographers.
- 2 Take controlled and composed photographs of people on location.
- 3 Present selected photographs of people.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, an interest in photography/creative digital media would be beneficial.

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 5 (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.*

General information (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Photographing People (SCQF level 5)

Core Skills

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills component:

Complete Core Skill None

Core Skill component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4
 Planning and Organising at SCQF level 4

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

National Unit specification: Statement of Standards

Unit title: Photography: Photographing People (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

Plan photography sessions based on a selection of images taken by leading people/portrait photographers.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Choose images of people, including groups and individuals, and provide reasons for the choice of images.
- (b) Describe the style, posing and technical photographic approach of each chosen image.
- (c) Devise a plan for three people photography sessions based on the techniques identified in the selected images.

Outcome 2

Take controlled and composed photographs of people on location.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Select appropriate imaging equipment.
- (b) Photograph people on location indoors and outdoors.
- (c) Safely store all images taken.

Outcome 3

Present selected photographs of people.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Select appropriate images of people from the planned photography sessions.
- (b) Explain why the photographs were selected.
- (c) Present the photographs.

National Unit specification: Statement of Standards (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Photographing People (SCQF level 5)

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria for this Unit. Written and/or oral recorded and product and performance evidence are required. The final product evidence can be submitted electronically or traditionally printed.

Outcome 1

Candidates must select 10 images of people taken by people/portrait photographers, providing reasons for their choices. The selection must include group and individual shots. For each of these images, candidates must describe:

- ◆ The style
- ◆ The lighting
- ◆ The viewpoint
- ◆ The facial expression(s) of the subject(s)
- ◆ The organisation and posing of people
- ◆ The choice of location/setting
- ◆ The mood/atmosphere

After viewing a range of photography styles and approaches candidates must make a practical plan for three photography sessions, deciding on what their approach will be. The practical plan will include technical, creative and location choices for the three photography sessions, based on the images chosen for this Outcome. The plan must:

- ◆ identify the location for the photography sessions.
- ◆ identify the photographic equipment required.
- ◆ identify the camera settings that will be used.
- ◆ identify the posing and framing that will be used in each photography session.
- ◆ identify the mood and a desired effect.

Outcome 2

Candidates must take photographs of people, on location indoors and outdoors, over a minimum of three photo sessions. At least one of the images must be a group shot. A minimum of 100 images must be taken. At least one of the photography sessions must use artificial light rather than natural daylight as the main light source. For each session the candidate must:

- ◆ choose suitable locations.
- ◆ select appropriate imaging equipment.
- ◆ select appropriate camera settings.
- ◆ select appropriate lighting.
- ◆ take photographs of people on location.
- ◆ safely store all images using easily retrievable names.

National Unit specification: Statement of Standards (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Photographing People (SCQF level 5)

Candidates must show knowledge and understanding of setting the camera controls to produce to best results, minimising colour casts, camera shake and poor exposure. Candidates will show that they can frame a photograph with consideration to the space surrounding the subject. They can choose suitable viewpoints. In addition they must demonstrate they can choose appropriate lighting conditions to photograph people.

The candidate must show they have considered the subject in the picture either by taking the photograph at a decisive moment and/or by directing them in their positioning and importantly capturing a relevant facial expression.

Outcome 3

From the images taken in Outcome 2, candidates must select five of the most effective images for presentation, including at least including one group image and one image taken indoors, and explain reasons why these images have been selected. The images must be technically competent well exposed and in focus.

Candidates must provide a description of the effectiveness of each image.

Candidates must present the five images as prints — minimum size 6" x 4" (15.24 cm x 10.16 cm). The physical prints do not need to be produced by the candidate.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Photography: Photographing People (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 broadly aligns to the following National Occupational Standards in Photo Imaging from Creative Skillset:

- PI-3 Plan and organise photographic assignments
- PI-4 Evaluate and select technology and/or equipment
- PI-7 Undertake photographic assignments
- PI-23 Research and access images
- PI-24 Source and acquire images
- PI-26 Store, conserve and preserve images

This is a mandatory Unit in the National Progression Award in Photography at SCQF level 5, but may be delivered as a free-standing Unit.

The Unit develops awareness of how to work with people as subjects in front of the camera. Candidates will gain experience in posing and engaging with the people in the pictures. Overcoming initial shyness and lack of experience in photographing people is a key aspect for this Unit.

In terms of research, candidates will demonstrate that they have an understanding of different styles of pictures of people. The subject matter for these should be both indoor and outdoor locations. The pictures should include individual portraits and group photographs. The types of people photographs should be as diverse as practically possible for the delivering centre.

After viewing a range of photography styles and approaches the candidate must make a practical plan, deciding on what their approach will be. Candidates should use research carried out during Outcome 1 as the basis for their plan.

Emphasis must be placed on showing the creative elements of a successful picture of a person/people with consideration of the mood of the picture, eg casual, formal, quirky, etc.

Candidates must select appropriate imaging equipment. Complex camera settings are not assessed in this Unit and it is suggested that simple automatic functions of cameras are used. These automatic functions should however be matched to the project. This should allow candidates to concentrate on the other aspects of photographing people. For the purposes of this Unit, a group photograph is defined as including more than one person.

Five of the best images, including one group image and one image photographed indoors, must be chosen and the reason why they have been chosen explained. Completing reasoning for choices of images orally in a group setting could aid learning through the sharing of peer learning and assessment and should be encouraged.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Photographing People (SCQF level 5)

The production of the prints of the five most effective photographs should be completed after review stage in Outcome 3. The physical prints do not have to be produced by candidates; simple presentation of the prints is required; flush mounting on card is acceptable. The majority (approximately 80%) of time should be used on planning, evaluating and taking pictures of people on location rather than on print supply and post production.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

This Unit is focussed on practical picture planning and picture taking.

Outcome 1

The tutor may begin this Unit by introducing a wide range of pictures of people and lead discussions on how and why they were photographed. The pictures should include outdoor and indoor settings and individual and group pictures of people.

The tutor may encourage candidates to look for different categories of photographs of people and well known contemporary photographers' work should be shown and described. Where possible, guest speakers and commercial visits should be used. The internet (particularly image libraries), magazines, books and electronic media should be used as resources.

Posing techniques should be demonstrated and examples of effective posing researched by candidates. Candidates should create a plan identifying any ideas/concepts arising from the images they have seen. This plan is designed to give a starting point for the type of photographic sessions they will undertake in Outcome 2.

Group work and learning would be beneficial, with different opinions and views discussed potentially building candidates' understanding and knowledge of pictures of people.

Outcome 2

A clear project brief should be created by the tutor. This should provide guidance and confirmation of the content of this Outcome and the assessment conditions. A series of photographic sessions should be devised by the tutor to allow candidates to plan effective photo sessions. These sessions must include at least one group photography opportunity. At least one of the sessions must be carried out indoors in artificial lighting. Formative assessment is greatly encouraged to build candidate skills and provide feedback. It should also be used to reinforce the assessment conditions and standards.

Outcome 3

Where possible, choosing of images should be carried out in a group setting where competing views can be considered. The tutor must however ensure the final choices are each candidate's own. The process of choosing images should be related to creativity and technical competence and candidates should be encouraged to be analytical in both of these areas. Formative assessment, where candidates choose the most appropriate photograph from a set provided by the tutor, may build candidate skills. This may be particularly useful in terms of deciding on the best technical aspects of a photograph.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Photography: Photographing People (SCQF level 5)

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 tutors should look for. A holistic instrument of assessment is recommended for this Unit, covering all three Outcomes. This holistic assessment may be a combination of product evidence and performance evidence gathered using observation checklists.

Outcome 1

An observation checklist would provide a structured record of candidate achievement in this area. It could accurately record individual candidate performance in a group setting, where ideas and concepts are being discussed.

The explanations by candidates can be conveyed to the tutor orally and recorded via a checklist, or presented as a written submission.

Candidates must create a practical plan. The plan can be conveyed to the tutor orally and recorded via a checklist, or presented as a written submission.

Outcome 2

Product evidence of the range of pictures taken over all photography sessions is required. There is no upper limit in the number of pictures required, although it is anticipated that the candidate may have a minimum of one hundred images to choose from.

The framing, viewpoint and interaction with the subject in the pictures are the key assessed elements, however the images should be technically competent; well exposed and in focus. These technical issues can be supported by the use of a camera with appropriate automatic functions. Exposure and focus problems may also be minimised by the choice of photographing people in a well-lit location in natural daylight. When photographing people indoors candidates must show their skills in colour balance, exposure and minimising camera shake.

Images must be stored safely using easily retrievable names and should be retained as assessment evidence.

Outcome 3

Product evidence in the format of five final photographs is required. The use of contact sheets or appropriate software could assist in choosing the most appropriate images. Both electronic and physical prints are acceptable and are of equal value. The candidate does not have to produce the print themselves or devise the electronic production and can use commercial printing services for this.

The explanations for the choices of photographs can be conveyed to the tutor orally and recorded via a checklist or submitted as written work.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Candidates must present the five images as prints. The physical prints do not need to be produced by the candidate. The selected images may be presented on card.

A holistic checklist may be useful to ensure that all candidates cover all Performance Criteria in Outcome 3. This would be particularly useful if a group approach is used.

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 Communication 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)*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will learn to describe what makes a good image when photographing people. They will do this through evaluating existing images and then producing their own images and evaluating them.

Candidates will:

- ◆ use ICT to find photographs, take photographs and store photographs.
- ◆ evaluate existing photographs using the correct terminology often in groups.
- ◆ understand the components of a successful photograph and be able to communicate this to others.
- ◆ plan their own photography with a clear understanding of style and approach based on their evaluation of other's work.
- ◆ select appropriate equipment and explain why.
- ◆ direct subjects when taking photographs.
- ◆ choose their best photographs and explain why, often to groups of peers.

As they are doing this Unit candidates may develop aspects of the Core Skills in *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)*, *Problem Solving*, *Working with Others* and *Communication*.

This Unit has the Critical Thinking and Planning and Organising components of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when candidates achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4 and Planning and Organising at SCQF level 4.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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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
02	Core Skills Components Critical Thinking and Planning and Organising at SCQF level 4 embedded.	09/10/2012

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