



## **National Unit specification: general information**

**Unit title:** Photographing Places (SCQF level 4)

**Unit code:** H28W 10

**Superclass:** KE

**Publication date:** October 2012

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 02

### **Summary**

This Unit provides candidates with an understanding of what makes a good image when photographing places. Candidates will review a range of photographs of places, including different styles and approaches. Using this experience they will then plan a series of sessions where pictures of places can be taken. Candidates will select the best images from their work and present them. This is a mandatory Unit and been developed as part of the National Progression Award in Photography at SCQF level 4 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 of outdoor places.
- 2 Take a range of controlled and composed photographs of outdoor places.
- 3 Present selected photographs of outdoor places.

### **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 4 (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4\*)

*\*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 Places (SCQF level 4)

### **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 Places (SCQF level 4)

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 of outdoor places.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Choose images of outdoor places.
- (b) Explain why the images were selected.
- (c) Describe the style and photographic approach for each chosen image.
- (d) Create a plan for photography sessions of outdoor places.

### **Outcome 2**

Take a range of controlled and composed photographs of outdoor places.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Select appropriate imaging equipment.
- (b) Produce well composed and exposed photographs of outdoor places.
- (c) Safely store all images taken.

### **Outcome 3**

Present selected photographs of outdoor places.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Select photographs of outdoor places.
- (b) Explain why the photographs were selected.
- (c) Present the photographs.

## **National Unit specification: Statement of Standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Photography: Photographing Places (SCQF level 4)

### **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 three diverse images of places taken outdoors, with an explanation for their choices. For each image, candidates must describe the style and photographic approach in terms of:

- ◆ The choice of location
- ◆ The framing
- ◆ The viewpoint
- ◆ The time of day

Candidates must show they have considered the choice of place and vantage points to photograph either using creativity in their choice and their photographic approach.

Candidates must create a practical plan identifying a minimum of two ideas/concepts arising from images they have seen. The plan must include details of possible locations, ideas for framing and a range of potential viewpoints. This must be based on the images selected in this Outcome.

#### **Outcome 2**

Candidates must take a minimum of 30 photographs in a minimum of four outdoor places and must select appropriate imaging equipment. Complex camera settings are not assessed and simple automatic functions of cameras can be used. Candidates must demonstrate that they can choose appropriate lighting conditions (time of day, direction of light, weather conditions) to show a location or place to its best advantage.

Images must be stored safely using easily retrievable names.

#### **Outcome 3**

Candidates must select two of the images taken in Outcome 2 for presentation and explain reasons why these images have been selected. Candidates must present prints of two images — minimum size 6" x 4" (15.24 cm x 10.16 cm). The physical prints do not have to be produced by candidates.

## National Unit specification: support notes

**Unit title:** Photography: Photographing Places (SCQF level 4)

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 broadly aligned 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 4, but may be delivered as a free-standing Unit. The Unit is designed to introduce candidates to the planning and undertaking of considered photographs of a place or location.

Candidates will demonstrate their understanding of different styles of pictures of outdoor places such as landscape, rural/urban, buildings. These styles should be as diverse as practically possible for the delivering centre. After viewing a range of photography styles and approaches candidates must make a practical plan, deciding on what their approach will be.

Candidates will show that they can frame a photograph with consideration to the space surrounding the subject and that they can choose a suitable viewpoint. Completing this orally in a group setting could aid learning through the sharing of peer learning and assessment, and should be encouraged.

The production of the prints of the final two photographs of places should be completed after candidate consideration and peer and tutor comment. The prints do not have to be produced by candidates, simple presentation of prints is required; mounting on light card is acceptable. The majority (approximately 80%) of time should be used on planning, evaluating and taking pictures 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 location images of outdoor places and lead discussions on how and why they were photographed. The tutor may encourage candidates to look for different categories of photographs of outdoor places, such as landscape, urban landscape, architectural structures, buildings, etc. The internet (particularly image libraries), magazines, books and electronic media should be used as resources.

## **National Unit specification: support notes**

### **Unit title:** Photography: Photographing Places (SCQF level 4)

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

#### **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 for candidates to plan. The plan can be revisited at any point to allow for additional considerations to be made.

The tutor will demonstrate framing and viewpoint approaches. Formative assessment is greatly encouraged to build candidate's skills and provide feedback. It should also be used to reinforce the assessment conditions and standards.

#### **Outcome 3**

The use of formative exercises is encouraged to allow a range of images to be edited before the candidate considers choosing their best images. Encouragement should be given to allow candidates to assist other candidates in their choices of images by sharing their views. 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.

### **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 recorded using an observation checklist.

#### **Outcome 1**

An observation checklist would provide a structured record of candidate achievement in this area. It could accurately record individual student 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, which is designed to give a starting point for the type of photographic sessions they will undertake in Outcome 2. The plan can be conveyed to the tutor orally and recorded via a checklist, or presented as a written submission.

## **National Unit specification: support notes (cont)**

**Unit title:** Photography: Photographing Places (SCQF level 4)

### **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 will have a minimum of thirty images to choose from.

The framing, viewpoint and understanding of the place or location in the pictures are the key assessed element, 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 photography taking place in a well-lit locations in natural daylight. Images taken for this Unit should be retained as assessment evidence.

### **Outcome 3**

All images should be viewed by candidates and the tutor to allow appropriate choices of images to be made. The use of contact sheets or computer software packages may assist this process. The choice of either prints or electronic presentation is a decision for candidates with either method acceptable and neither favoured.

When explaining reasons for selection of images, the explanations can be conveyed orally and recorded via a checklist, or presented as a written submission. Candidates must present prints of two images. This presentation can be electronic or as prints on light card or similar material.

## **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 understand and 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.

## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Photography: Photographing Places (SCQF level 4)

Candidates will:

- ◆ use ICT to find photographs, take photographs and store photographs.
- ◆ evaluate existing photographs using the correct terminology often in groups.
- ◆ identify 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.

### 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](http://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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