National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Photographing Places (SCQF level 5)

Unit code: H28W 11

Superclass:	KE
Publication date:	October 2012
Source:	Scottish Qualifications Authority
Version:	02

Summary

This Unit develops and broadens skills in photography/creative media. Candidates will select examples of photographs of places/locations both interior and location photographs. Based on this research they will plan a series of sessions where they can develop their skills in framing and creating interesting and dynamic viewpoints for photographic images. Candidates will select the best images from their work and present them. This is a mandatory Unit and has been developed as part of the National Progression Award in Photography at SCQF level 5 but may also 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 interior and exterior places taken by location photographers.
2 Take photographs of interior and exterior places on location.
3 Present a selection of photographs of interior and exterior 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 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 Places (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 5
                             Planning and Organising at SCQF level 5

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 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 of interior and exterior places taken by location photographers.

Performance Criteria

(a)   Choose a range of interior and exterior images providing reasons for the choice of images.
(b)   Describe the style, viewpoint and technical photographic approach of each chosen image.
(c)   Create a plan for photography sessions of interior and exterior places on location.

Outcome 2

Take photographs of interior and exterior places on location.

Performance Criteria

(a)   Select appropriate imaging equipment.
(b)   Photograph a variety of places using natural light and artificial lighting.
(c)   Safely store all images taken.

Outcome 3

Present a selection of photographs of interior and exterior places.

Performance Criteria

(a)   Select images of interior and exterior 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 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 ten diverse images of places taken indoors and outdoors, providing reasons for their choices. For each of these images candidates must describe:

♦   The lens used
♦   The lighting
♦   The viewpoint
♦   The exposure
♦   The framing of the image
♦   The choice of location

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

♦   identify the locations for the photography sessions.
♦   identify the photographic equipment required.
♦   identify the camera settings that will be used.
♦   identify the viewpoint and framing that will be used in each photography session.
♦   identify the mood and desired effect.

Outcome 2

Candidates must select appropriate imaging equipment and camera settings and must photograph locations indoors and outdoors over a minimum of five photo sessions. At least one of the sessions must be photographed (indoors or outdoors) using artificial light rather than natural daylight as the main light source. Candidates must set the camera controls to produce to best results, minimising colour casts, camera shake and under-exposure.

Candidates will show that they can frame a photograph with consideration to the space surrounding the subject. They will show they can choose a suitable viewpoint, appropriate lighting conditions and appropriate camera settings to photograph places in a technically competent and creative manner.

Images must be stored safely using easily retrievable names.

National Unit specification: Statement of Standards (cont)

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

Outcome 3

From the images taken in Outcome 2, candidates must select five of the most effective images for presentation, including at least one image taken indoors, and explain reasons why these images have been selected. Candidates must provide a description of the mood/atmosphere of each image.

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

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Photography: Photographing Places (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 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 5, but may be delivered as a free-standing Unit.

The Unit develops candidates' awareness of how to work on location with different places as subject matter. Candidates should show understanding of a building or structure, exploring its shape and function. Outdoor landscapes and environments would provide excellent subject matter. Experimentation with different times of day or angles of view may provide opportunities innovate/creative images.

In terms of research, candidates will demonstrate that they have an understanding of different styles of photography of places. The subject matter for these should be both indoor and outdoor locations. Pictures should range from individual detail images to wider views of places. The types of places photographed should be as diverse as practically possible for the delivering centre. Candidates should use research carried out during Outcome 1 as the basis for their plan.

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 places.

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.

The production of the prints of the five most effective photographs of places should be completed after candidate consideration, and peer and tutor comment during 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 places on location, rather than on print supply and post production.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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

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 places and leading discussions on how and why they were photographed. The tutor may encourage candidates to look for different categories of photographs of places including both interiors and exteriors. 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), magazine, books and electronic media should be used as resources.

Tutors should explain the aesthetic considerations of a successful photograph of places. Framing and viewpoint techniques should be demonstrated and examples of effective framing viewpoints researched by candidates.

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 to allow candidates to plan effective photo sessions. 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.

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.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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

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 places in a well-lit location in natural daylight. When photographing places 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.

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.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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

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 these 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.
♦ 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 5 and Planning and Organising at SCQF level 5.

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 5 embedded.	09/10/2012