

National Qualifications 2015

**Notes of Information for Teachers/Lecturers for the Project-based National Course:
Photography – Higher**

February 2015

Photography

1. Submission Notes for Project-based National Course: Photography

1.1 Introduction

This document provides notes on particular aspects of the Practical Assignment submission requirements for the Project-based National Course – Photography – Higher (C06M 12).

It should be read in conjunction with the *Arrangements for Project-based National Course: Photography* and the *Practical Assignment Specification - Photography*

1.2 Photography

The candidate will be required to produce a body of work to be used in a photo-essay. The theme of the essay must be chosen from one of the six briefs given below.

Brief 1 Youth Culture

Brief 4 Technology

Brief 2 The Natural World

Brief 5 The Urban Environment

Brief 3 Photo Surrealism

Brief 6 The Visual Elements In The Environment

1.3 Practical Assignment

The **Practical Assignment** is not concerned exclusively with practical activity, but is designed to emphasise skills relating to the application of practical skills and related knowledge and understanding, to a situation that involves task management. Candidates are provided with a brief and are expected to demonstrate attainment relating to:

- interpreting the brief
- gathering information to clarify the brief
- deciding on a product, or activity/event, or performance to develop
- selecting and managing materials/resources
- producing the product or organising the activity/event or delivering the performance
- evaluating the product or activity/event or performance through feedback.

The following evidence must be submitted to SQA for the Practical Assignment.

- Plan of Action
- Development
- Extended Evaluation Report

Note: In addition, candidates will be expected to submit all notes used during write-up sessions for external marking.

2. Submission requirements for Photography

2.1 Plan of Action

Total: 40 marks

Candidates should adhere to the following:

- the Plan of Action (1000 words max; 500min) will be produced in a **supervised environment**
- preparation should be carried out beforehand
- candidates may communicate with each other when producing their Plans but each Plan must be tailored to the candidate's own project and should be the candidate's own work.

The candidate should first consider the Briefs and, after choosing one, carefully plan their assignment. At this stage, discussion with teachers or lecturers is recommended.

The candidate must decide from what angle they will approach the theme, with what interpretation and then conduct the research accordingly.

Some of the questions that may be considered are:

- where
- who or what
- when
- how
- accessibility.

These and other questions along with the candidate decisions and choices will be presented in a Plan of no more than 1000 words or 500 minimum.

2.2 Photography: Development stage

Total: 120 marks

The candidate must submit 12 finished images (maximum A4/minimum A5). The final images submitted should clearly illustrate the theme and the interpretation chosen by the candidate.

Technical elements, eg print quality **30 marks**

Suitability of images to theme and thematic approach **60 marks**

Recce evidence, eg contact sheets, commercial enprints

Support notes should indicate final decisions on:

- chosen images
- size
- orientation (landscape/portrait)
- manipulation used, eg filters, digital techniques **30 marks**

All evidence including planning, development and evaluation stages should be presented in an A4 or A3 folio.

2.3 Extended Evaluation Report

Total: 40 marks

The Extended Evaluation Report should be 1000 words or equivalent at Higher level.

Candidates may carry out preparation beforehand.

Candidates are allowed 2-3 hours for completing the Extended Evaluation Report at Higher level.

Candidates are allowed to take one side of A4 notes which they have prepared into the examination room but should not take in a draft of the Evaluation Report. The centre has responsibility for ensuring that this is adhered to. **The accommodation should also reflect supervised conditions and candidates should not communicate with each other in any way.**

The Evaluation should include the following:

- a summary of the assignment
- evaluation of the effectiveness of the image choices
- evaluation of the effectiveness of the selected approach(es)
- justification of the use of and evaluation of the success of any camera, chemical or darkroom techniques used to achieve the objective
- description of how unforeseen events were handled
- justification of the use of and evaluates the success of any digital techniques used
- evaluation of the effectiveness of the planning stage.

3. Details on the use of Materials and Equipment

Teachers are responsible for conveying to candidates any helpful or relevant information from these notes such as use of source materials or restrictions in scale of work.

Still Photography

There is equipment available to candidates in this medium ranging from the more traditional SLR cameras to digital cameras which can be directly linked to computers for enhancement and printout.

No matter what technology is employed, still photography should meet the demands of the criteria for the particular activity to be undertaken. Images from digital cameras or from scanners should be derived from primary sources such as subjects photographed by the candidate. Candidates are asked to detail the platform used and the software employed.

4. Assessment

Internal Assessment

Candidate attainment will be assessed against the Outcomes and Performance Criteria for the level concerned. Unit assessments contained in the National Assessment Bank (NAB) will support teachers/lecturers in making these judgements.

External Assessment

The three external assessment instruments are the **Plan of Action**, the **Development** phase and the **Extended Evaluation Report**.

Practical work will comprise of a candidate portfolio which will be externally assessed.

5. Labelling and Packaging of Submissions

Labelling

The Practical Assignments must be submitted in individual portfolios which will be suitable for transportation.

Centres are requested to label the front of candidates' folios with the following details:

- course name and number
- candidate name and candidate number
- candidate's date of birth
- title of the brief.

Packaging for Uplift

It is the responsibility of the centre to devise and have in readiness means of packing which will, as far as possible, ensure safe arrival of the candidates' work.

Packages will be uplifted where appropriate, from examination centres in Scotland on Friday 5 June 2015 by the SQA appointed carrier.

SQA should be informed immediately by telephone to Douglas Ramsay, 0345 213 6600 if there are any delays.

6. Return of Work

Photography projects, submitted to SQA for external assessment may be returned to a centre, candidate or a candidate's representative (parent or guardian) using a *Request for Return of External Assessment Material* form. Forms and details of the associated charges can be found on SQA's website www.sqa.org.uk/returnofmaterials.

All requests for return of materials must be submitted to SQA by **Friday 25 September 2015**. Please note that any late requests after 26 September will be subject to an **additional late charge of £14.50 per candidate**.

7. Warning to Candidates

Candidates should be reminded that any coursework submissions must be their own work. If it is established that the work of another candidate has been submitted as their own, SQA may cancel awards in all the candidate's subjects. This course of action will also apply to work which has been plagiarised without acknowledgement of the source in a bibliography.