SQA Advanced Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Photography: An Introduction

Unit code: HT42 47

Unit purpose: The Unit is designed to give candidates opportunities to develop knowledge and skills in making and looking at photographic images. Candidates will explore the differences and similarities of modern and historical photographic equipment and techniques. Candidates will follow specified and self-initiated briefs to produce and present original images, demonstrating how basic photographic techniques and considerations can affect the appearance and meaning of what is photographed.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

1   Research and evaluate photographic image-making equipment and techniques.
2   Produce photographic images to set briefs.
3   Present and evaluate finished own images.

Credit points and level: 1 SQA Credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*).

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 National 1 to Doctorates.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Candidates should have a basic knowledge of camera/lighting skills. It would be beneficial if the candidate had completed some of (but not limited to) the following NQ units:

Photography: Basic Camera Techniques F8KH 12
Photography: An introduction D952 11
Photography: Camera Techniques F51S 12
Photography: Creative image-making techniques F8KK 12
Art & Design: Introduction to photography EF77 11

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Problem Solving, Information Technology and Oral Communication at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Assessment: This Unit could be assessed holistically by a portfolio of evidence generated by the candidate's responses to the learning outcomes. Much of the evidence should arise naturally out of the set briefs, but will also include reflective statements by the candidate on his or her experience related to the work produced.

Outcome 1   Candidates should compile a workbook containing examples of photographic image-making equipment and found images that demonstrate photographic techniques and camera controls.

Outcome 2   In consultation with their tutor, candidates will produce original photographic images in response to four given briefs to demonstrate an understanding of the effects of photographic techniques and camera controls.

Outcome 3   Candidates should present their images from Outcome 2 in an appropriate format and evaluate their results.

SQA Advanced Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and evidence requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Research and evaluate photographic image-making equipment and techniques

Knowledge and/or skills

♦ Research skills
♦ Basic camera controls
♦ Photographic techniques
♦ Composition

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can produce an annotated workbook containing:

♦ a minimum of five examples of different photographic image-making equipment
♦ a minimum of five examples of different photographic techniques
♦ each example must include comments eg purpose, use, characteristics, features

Work produced outwith controlled conditions must be subject to authentication by the tutor.

Assessment guidelines

For Outcome 1 candidates should compile a workbook. This should contain examples and an evaluation of photographic equipment, controls and techniques.

Candidates should consider contemporary and traditional photographic equipment.

Evaluation of photographic images should consider the effects of formats, framing, composition, viewpoint, lens characteristics, exposure (time and brightness), focus, size, scale and viewing context.

Material should be selected from a range of sources and media.

Material should be referenced and attributed.

Workbook should be organised, well-developed and well-presented.

Outcome 2

Produce photographic images to specific briefs

Knowledge and/or skills

♦   Composition, lighting and viewpoint
♦   Exposure: calculation and control
♦   Selection of appropriate image making equipment for specific briefs

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

♦   select appropriate equipment and camera techniques
♦   produce photographic images to four prescribed briefs

Assessment guidelines

The assessment for this Outcome can be combined with Outcome 1 and 3 as part of a single assessment instrument for this Unit, details of which are given under Outcome 3.

The assessment requires the candidate to produce photographic images to specific instructions in a given brief and also self-initiated images in consultation with their tutor. As part of a given brief, candidates may be directed to use a variety of different photographic techniques and controls to make several different images of the same subject. The relative successes of different photographic approaches could be discussed in tutorials and group seminars with a view to informing further prescribed briefs and self-initiated projects. Candidates and tutors should consider: subject matter, framing and composition, viewpoint, scale, focus, lens characteristics, exposure, format, image and file sizes.

Outcome 3

Present and evaluate finished photographic images

Knowledge and/or skills

♦   Evaluate each image with regard to style, use of light, exposure and technical details
♦   Plan and deliver a presentation

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and skills by showing that they can:

♦   select and present images in an appropriate manner
♦   provide oral presentations and evaluation of their own images

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this outcome can be integrated with Outcomes 1 and 2.

The assessment requires the candidate to make a selection of images for final presentation. This selection should be informed by technical and aesthetic criteria established with formative guidance and feedback from the tutor and through group discussions of work-in-progress.

Candidates should select a minimum of four images for final presentation via any appropriate presentation method, including (but not restricted to) hard copy or electronic file. Images may form part of a theme or sequence if the candidate wishes or tutor chooses to request, but could also be a collection of unrelated single images.

Candidates should be able to discuss and explain their choice of final images. Rejected and/or alternative images may be included in the candidate's workbook in support and to indicate how and why their final selection was arrived at.

SQA Advanced Unit Specification

Administrative Information

Unit code: HT42 47

Unit title: Photography: An Introduction

Superclass category: KE

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SQA Advanced Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Photography: An Introduction

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

Advances in photographic equipment technology continue to make it easier and quicker to produce pictures. Outcome 1 presents candidates with the opportunity to research modern and historical equipment and images. The technical and aesthetic criteria that candidates must apply to select found images and information for their workbook should be applied to the selection of their own work for final presentation. Work-in-progress tutorials and seminar discussions should facilitate these evaluations and peer-assessments.

Silver-halide based materials, equipment and processes should be discussed when placing this Unit in context. However, practical use of this method of image-making is not mandatory in this Unit, but may be used if facilities and opportunities permit.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Digital image capture equipment increasingly has the capacity to record moving images and sound, which could be incorporated into multimedia presentations and assessment if desired. Final presentations therefore, should not be restricted to a static display of photographic prints (unless this is considered to be the most appropriate presentation format). Digital technology may offer possibilities for transmission and circulation of images and could be included and encouraged in the delivery and assessment of this unit, if possible and where appropriate.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

All elements of the core skill of Problem Solving, namely Planning and Organising, Critical Thinking, and Reviewing and Evaluating could be developed and enhanced as candidates undertake the unit. Candidates need to produce photographic images to specific instructions in a given brief and to produce self-initiated images. Analyse and seek solutions to a series of briefs. They will analyse requirements of these tasks and identify and plan what may be required in terms of available resources, techniques and controls. Implementing their initial plan as they explore their responses to stimuli, and identifying and applying suitable techniques will provide opportunities to develop problem solving skills to an advanced level. Subject, composition, technique and equipment decisions will be made and modified as the unit is undertaken. Evaluation which examines all stages of photographic design solutions and their potential and actual impact will be on-going and formally assessed. The relative successes of different photographic approaches could be discussed in tutorials and group seminars with a view to informing further prescribed briefs and self-initiated projects and further development.

Open learning

If this Unit is delivered by open learning methods, additional resources will be required for candidate support, assessment and quality assurance. For further information and advice please refer to the SQA guide: *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning (A1030), February 2001).*

Equality and inclusion

This unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements**.**

General information for candidates

Unit title: Photography: An Introduction

This Unit is designed to give you opportunities to develop knowledge and skills in a chosen area of creative arts. This is achieved by researching photographic equipment, techniques and images, by making original photographic images and by presenting them in an appropriate form.

The Unit is split into three Outcomes. In Outcome 1 you will compile a workbook with examples of modern and historical photographic equipment and techniques.

In Outcome 2 you will produce photographs to specific briefs and (in consultation with your tutor) self-initiated briefs. You will be encouraged to interpret and reproduce techniques and ideas discovered and discussed in your research for Outcome 1.

In Outcome 3 you will select and present your photographic images in an appropriate form for public display. This makes take the form of prints or digital presentation methods.