SQA Advanced Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Photography: Environment

Unit code: HT46 48

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to research, produce, present and evaluate a series of images of the environment. Images will be produced on location. The candidate will also be able to research different styles of historical and/or contemporary images of the environment.

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

1   Research and evaluate historical and/or contemporary images of the environment.
2   Produce a range of images of the environment on location.
3   Present and evaluate finished images of the environment.

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

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 in the use of a range of cameras on location.

These could be exemplified by the following Unit:

Photography: Basic Camera Techniques   F8KH 12

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Problem Solving, Communication, Numeracy and Information Technology 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 covering all Outcomes. Much of the evidence should arise naturally out of the set of briefs but will also include reflective statements by the candidate on his/her experience related to the work produced and previous research. Outcome 1 should be assessed by the production of an annotated workbook. There should be at least 10 examples or sourced images of the environment illustrated in the workbook.

For Outcome 2 the candidate will be expected to generate creative visual responses to four given briefs. The four images of the environment produced should show technical competence and aesthetic judgement.

For Outcome 3 the candidate will present and evaluate the finished work from Outcome 2.

Integrative assessment should be encouraged across the range of Photography Units as appropriate to the framework in which the Unit is offered. If this approach is taken, then a matrix for assessment should be devised.

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 historical and/or contemporary images of the environment

Knowledge and/or skills

- ♦ Environment styles
- ♦ Use of light within the environment
- ♦ Composition
- ♦ Context

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 10 examples of different images of the environment from at least two different research sources
- ♦ an evaluation of the selected imagery using annotations. An oral evaluation could be used as an alternative

Each example must include comments on composition, lighting, style, context.

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

Assessment guidelines

The assessment for this Outcome could be combined with Outcomes 2 and 3 as part of a single assessment instrument for this Unit, details of which are given under Outcome 3.

Outcome 2

Produce a range of images of the environment on location

Knowledge and/or skills

♦ Logistical Planning
♦ Selection of appropriate equipment
♦ Exposure calculation and control
♦ Light, composition and viewpoint

Evidence Requirements

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

♦ produce images of the environment from a minimum of four different locations. Over the series, all the following points must be achieved:
 — the exposure must be correct for the desired effect for the assignment
 — images must be technically and aesthetically consistent with the assignment
 — composition and viewpoint must be selected to achieve the desired effect
 — use of light must achieve the desired effect

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.

Outcome 3

Present and evaluate finished images of the environment

Knowledge and/or skills

♦ Evaluative skills
♦ Presentation Media
♦ Presentation Skills

Evidence Requirements

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

♦ choose a medium and present all of the images produced in Outcomes 2 and 3. Presentation should be a minimum of five minutes or 500 words

Assessment guidelines

The assessment would require the candidates to produce a minimum of four images of the environment. The images could include a range of different styles of environment photography. Assignments should include a variety of uses of light, daylight and night shots.

Each image should use a combination of lighting, composition, viewpoint and approach to the subject for the brief. All of the images produced should show technical competence, and aesthetic judgement, and be retouched where needed and presented in an appropriate manner. Candidates should discuss their technical and creative intentions for each image.

The candidate's final imagery should make reference to the research already carried out in the production of the workbook in Outcome 1. The workbook should show examples of historical and/or contemporary environment photography using other practitioners' work. The workbook should also show a critical engagement with the examples, commenting on factors such as composition, lighting, style, and context.

Candidates should be working to the quality required for final presentation using a range of materials. Appropriate presentation can be decided by the individual centre assessing this Unit but it is envisaged that candidates present their work in a portfolio, workbook, flat mount or window mount. Alternatively, work could be presented digitally.

SQA Advanced Unit Specification

Administrative Information

Unit code: HT46 48

Unit title: Photography: Environment

Superclass category: KE

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Version	Description of change	Date

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SQA Advanced Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Photography: Environment

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 intended as an optional Unit for candidates who are taking the SQA Advanced Certificate or Diploma in Photography. It may also be taken by candidates in relevant employment wishing to develop and/or enhance their employment skills.

The term environment is used throughout this Unit to describe other types of work which may include landscapes, urban and rural as well as natural history.

This Unit is designed to develop the knowledge and skills of the candidate with in the context of photography taken in a variety of environments. The Unit should encourage candidates to experiment with concept and technical work.

It is not expected that this Unit should be evidenced through simple exercises, although appropriate evidence may be gathered in the form of an annotated workbook showing the various stages of research into historical and contemporary practitioners.

The focus on Outcome 1 should be on sources of research (eg exhibitions, professional photographers, internet, magazines, books etc). The research should be collated in the form of a workbook, with a minimum of ten annotated examples. A proportion of the sourced images may come from other media such as painting if the candidate wishes.

For Outcome 2 a minimum of four images of the environment should be produced. Images taken on location can range from urban, rural, daylight and night shots. Candidates should have the opportunity to explore a variety of techniques that may be used for photographing the environment. The candidate should be able to organise a location shoot, gain permission from the relevant organisation/body if the location requires it, and use the equipment and/or lighting to realise the intended style.

For Outcome 3 the candidate should present their own images, either in physical or electronic form, which may include a presentation with class and Tutors present.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is an optional Unit in the framework of the SQA Advanced Certificate/Diploma Photography. Candidates will require guidance from the centre to ensure they adopt a suitable approach for each assessment.

Many of the skills achieved in this Unit will be transferable to other photography Units. Candidates should be given the opportunity to gather research information for themselves and they should be encouraged to make use of relevant websites and other resources.

While it would be useful to encourage guest speakers to have some input to the delivery of this Unit, it is appreciated that visits of this kind are often difficult to coordinate and integrate. However, input from current practitioners is encouraged wherever possible.

A candidate-centred approach should be adopted at all times. The main emphasis of the Unit lies in Outcome 2 and approximately 70% of the time should be allocated to this area. Candidates will require guidance from the centre to ensure they adopt a suitable approach for each brief.

Candidates should be given demonstration of a range of cameras, light measurement and examples of published work. Candidates should be encouraged to research work which follows a concept or commentary on the environment or surroundings in society. Candidates are encouraged to approach the subject matter in the form or art and or commercial work.

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 the practical work for the Unit is undertaken. Candidates need to identify and consider variables, including resources and location, and analyse the relative significance of each before planning a strategic approach. Creative interpretation of briefs and selection of appropriate media will provide opportunities to develop problem solving skills to a sophisticated level. Evaluation of all stages of proposed design solutions and their potential and actual impact will be on-going and formally assessed.

Skills in developing an effective online search strategy for accessing and evaluating information on relevant issues and ideas should be developed. Current software packages could support all aspects of the research and design process. Candidates should naturally enhance their skills in the use, production and editing of digital images.

Although communication skills are not formally assessed candidates will be expected to analyse, produce and present written or oral evidence to standards acceptable in industry, and to express essential ideas, information accurately and coherently. If evaluation is presented orally, candidates should be reminded to:
♦   collate, organise and structure information effectively
♦   use an effective tone and pace
♦   select and present materials for impact
♦   use appropriate non-verbal communication techniques
♦   respond to questions in a way that progresses communication

Numeracy will be used as a working tool as candidates undertake and apply a range of calculations involved in practical work. Some candidates may benefit from support, such as software packages, to enhance Numeracy skills.

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: Environment

This Unit is designed to enable you to produce and present a series of images of the environment on location. You will also research and evaluate different styles of historical and/or contemporary environment/landscape work.

The research should be collated in a workbook and will include a minimum of ten annotated examples commenting on composition, lighting, style and context. The research can include exhibitions, photographers, books, internet, magazines, calendars etc.

You will be involved in the planning and research of suitable locations. You will then select suitable equipment for your chosen location. On location you will choose a viewpoint, consider your composition, lighting and exposure for your images.

You will produce four images of the environment. Your images should be of four distinct locations.

You will select and present the four finished images of the environment.