

SQA Advanced Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Art and Design Context: Personal Investigation

Unit code: HT4G 48

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to undertake a personal investigation of their art and design discipline by identifying, synthesising and analysing a specific art and design topic.

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

- 1 Undertake an investigation of an art and design discipline.
- 2 Synthesise and present a personal investigation.

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: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. However, it would be beneficial if candidates had knowledge and skills of research methods and report writing.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication and Information Technology at 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: A holistic approach to assessment is encouraged for this Unit.

Outcome 1 will be assessed by a folder of research evidence.

Outcome 2 will be assessed by a written or oral presentation.

SQA Advanced Unit Specification

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

Undertake an investigation of an art and design discipline

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Research skills/techniques
- ◆ Collation
- ◆ Referencing conventions

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by investigating an art and design discipline showing that they can:

- ◆ source information and images — contemporary and or historical
- ◆ use various research methods
- ◆ place researched material within the context of the particular field of enquiry
- ◆ collate and document material
- ◆ generate annotated visual research
- ◆ use standard referencing conventions to reference the gathered information

Evidence should be presented in a folder/portfolio and should equate to at least 12 x A4 pages.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome may be combined with Outcome 2.

Candidates should use evidence collated from a wide spread of sources such as internet, books, visual imagery and textual information. Candidates should demonstrate a personal understanding of their chosen area of study.

SQA Advanced Unit Specification

Outcome 2

Synthesise and present a personal investigation

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Integration of data
- ◆ Evaluation
- ◆ Synthesis
- ◆ Personal response
- ◆ Presentation skills

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ present information
- ◆ select and present visual material to support written/oral presentation
- ◆ show a personal interpretation of the gathered research material
- ◆ use standard referencing conventions to reference the gathered information

Evidence should take the form of an illustrated written presentation and an oral/digital presentation with supporting visual material.

Assessment guidelines

It is recommended the illustrated written presentation should contain a minimum of 2,000 words — an oral presentation that should be approximately 10 minutes duration.

The assessment of this Outcome may be combined with Outcome 1.

SQA Advanced Unit Specification

Administrative Information

Unit code:	HT4G 48
Unit title:	Art and Design Context: Personal Investigation
Superclass category:	JA
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History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

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SQA Advanced Unit Specification

SQA Advanced Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Art and Design Context: Personal Investigation

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 will enable candidates to give a personal response to a specific art and design subject. The candidate should be able to demonstrate a holistic understanding and a comprehensive insight into their chosen topic. The subject may be in a contemporary or historical context. Normally the topic will relate directly to the specialist discipline being studied. The candidate should employ a variety of research techniques to collect evidence, demonstrate ability to contextualise factors and interpret different points of view objectively.

It would be highly advantageous for consideration to be given to research methodologies and approaches. It may also be useful that candidates are engaged in debate to enable them to deal with questions an art and design effectively, confidently and from an informed viewpoint.

Candidates should develop the skills of research through identifying, sourcing, gathering, interpreting, organising, developing, documenting, recording and referencing information.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit has been developed as part of the SQA Advanced Diploma 3D Design Group Award. It is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Opportunities may be taken to link or integrate with other aspects of the course and a thematic approach adopted for both delivery and assessment. Research for this Unit could form part of the candidate's initial concept development for a design brief. For example, if a candidate was researching aspects of modernism to produce artwork in a Cubist style this could be recorded and incorporated in the assessment evidence for this Unit.

It is intended that the candidate will produce in an historical or contemporary context a specific, focused, personal investigation of their art and design discipline. Through evaluating and contextualising their own choice of topic for investigation, candidates should develop a comprehensive understanding of the theories, principles and concepts relating to their chosen art and design discipline.

The delivery and assessment of this Unit would be enhanced through lecture-based tutorials, which look at many different art and design movements and involve candidates in discussion about the contextualisation of these in relation to their own disciplines.

Integrated assessment for Outcomes 1 and 2 is possible.

SQA Advanced Unit Specification

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Formative input should encourage candidates to define formal objectives for the investigation and decide on strategies for managing the practical aspects of research activity. Instruction in the effective use of learning resource centre systems will allow candidates to access and analyse a range of complex information. Skills in accessing and evaluating electronic sources which provide an effective source of current complex information on professional concerns, issues and ideas will be developed, in order that candidates are able to read in depth and in detail current materials from a range of internet sites. Evaluation of information accessed could include a check on currency, authority, accuracy, and balance. The need to develop efficient systems of recording, coding and storing outline information for ease of reference, such as log books and folders should be emphasised.

Although skills in written communication are not formally assessed, candidates could be provided with checklists detailing investigative reporting requirements. They should express essential ideas and information accurately and coherently, use a formal structure and check language, spelling, punctuation and syntax for accuracy. Using up-to-date software packages for word processing and editing where practical will support the development of writing skills to a professional standard.

If evidence is presented orally, candidates should also be able to:

- ◆ adapt language and style to the needs of their audience
- ◆ use appropriate pace and tone
- ◆ use effective non-verbal communication
- ◆ use audio visual support confidently
- ◆ respond to in depth questioning confidently and accurately

Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by open learning. However it would require planning by the centre to ensure sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence.

For further information and advice please refer to the SQA document *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning* which is available on SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk.

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.

SQA Advanced Unit Specification

General information for candidates

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This Unit will allow you to undertake a personal investigation of aspects within your chosen design discipline and to synthesise and present the information collated within a contemporary or historical context.

In **Outcome 1** you will be expected to identify a particular aspect of your design discipline that interests you. You will source and gather information from a contemporary and/or historical perspective. You will use a range of different sources to obtain this information such as books, periodicals, internet, visits, case studies, etc. You will interpret and collate the information.

In **Outcome 2** you will be expected to develop this information into a single body of work. This will normally be presented as an illustrated in-depth text. It may be possible to present your work in a different format if your Tutor thinks this appropriate.

Finally you will document, record and reference the material that you have compiled.