

SQA Advanced Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Public Art: Introduction

Unit code: HT56 47

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to give the candidate an opportunity to produce an artwork for a specific location or site. Candidates will investigate selected uses of public art, research a brief and develop and select concepts for an artwork suitable for a specified location.

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

- 1 Investigate selected public artworks
- 2 Research a brief for a public artwork
- 3 Develop and select concept/s for artwork for a specified location

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: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. It would be beneficial if the candidate had some prior knowledge of the design process evidenced through Higher Art and Design or other art and design related Units at National Certificate level.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Problem Solving and 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: The assessment for this Unit will be based on the following:

Outcome 1: Research material

Outcome 2: Contextualised research material with accompanying annotations/commentary

Outcome 3: Presentation of artwork concepts

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

Investigate selected public artworks

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Research methods
- ◆ Historical and contemporary context
- ◆ Cultural, social and political influences
- ◆ Analysis

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ Generate research using a variety of sources
- ◆ Analyse public artwork in context
- ◆ Explain the processes, methods and materials used in production of artwork

Evidence should be presented in a form that contains referenced, annotated visual material or as commentary with accompanying visual material.

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed on its own or as part of a holistic assessment for the whole Unit. A summative assessment should be carried out for all Outcomes at the end of the Unit.

Outcome 2

Research a brief for a public artwork

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Identifying requirements of the brief
- ◆ Research
- ◆ Specified location/site
- ◆ Health and safety considerations

SQA Advanced Unit Specification

- ◆ Identification of historical and/or contemporary use of site

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ Identify the key elements of the brief
- ◆ Produce investigative research
- ◆ Investigate and record the location/site
- ◆ Show consideration of health and safety factors
- ◆ Identify historical and/or current uses of the site

Evidence should be presented in any suitable format that contains referenced visual material with commentary.

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed on its own or as part of a holistic assessment for the whole Unit. A summative assessment should be carried out for all Outcomes at the end of the Unit.

Outcome 3

Develop and select concept/s for artwork for a specified location

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Problem solving
- ◆ Materials and methods
- ◆ Refining visual concepts
- ◆ Studio work practice
- ◆ Critical evaluation

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ Explore and experiment with ideas
- ◆ Produce potential visual solutions
- ◆ Use safe and considerate studio work practices
- ◆ Analyse concepts in relation to the brief

Evidence should be in the form of a visual material, either two- or three-dimensional accompanied by commentary

Assessment guidelines

Candidates would not be expected to produce full-scale completed pieces. Concepts could be presented as models, maquettes, illustrations, digital presentations, for example.

SQA Advanced Unit Specification

This Outcome could be assessed on its own or as part of a holistic assessment for the whole Unit. A summative assessment should be carried out for all Outcomes at the end of the Unit.

SQA Advanced Unit Specification

Administrative Information

Unit code: HT56 47

Unit title: Public Art: Introduction

Superclass category: JA

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SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of SQA Advanced Qualifications.

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SQA Advanced Unit Specification

SQA Advanced Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Public Art: 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

This Unit gives candidates an introduction into the process of producing art for specific sites. Candidates will develop skills in researching a site and identifying potential solutions to a public art brief.

The emphasis is placed upon the candidate's creative response to their research in producing conceptual ideas.

Outcome 1

This gives candidates the opportunity to research examples of public art in context. This could include visits to installation pieces, or to view public artworks in situ. These could be temporary artworks such as performance pieces, works in two and/or three dimensional media, transitional pieces, digital artworks, for example. Candidates should research both contemporary and historical public artworks.

Outcome 2

Candidates should work from a brief that details the production of an artwork for a specified site and which will clearly set out the aims of the project. This may be a live or a simulated project but it should reflect current art practice. Different modes of research, both written and visual should be used. Candidates should investigate the site and record it by producing photographs, drawings or plans, as well as oral/written comments about current and past use of the site, any safety issues, suitability of scale of proposed artwork, for example. Some initial sketches of ideas could be produced on site as an immediate response to the environment. These should form the basis for concept development in Outcome 3.

Outcome 3

Candidates should develop initial ideas and explore concepts in response to the brief and the research information gathered. Concepts should be analysed and revisited to enable candidates to fully explore the potential of their ideas. Critical reflection should take place to identify the most appropriate concepts for presentation as final solutions.

Because of the nature and scale of artworks created for public spaces, candidates would not be expected to produce full-scale completed artworks. Scale models or maquettes of three-dimensional concepts could be produced and similarly, scaled-down versions of two-dimensional works could also be submitted. These could be accompanied by a representation of the artwork in situ, as a digital collage or an artist's impression.

Evidence should be presented as a visual presentation with evaluative oral/written commentary. The presentation could be informal in nature and take place as a developmental discussion, or could be structured as a formal presentation.

SQA Advanced Unit Specification

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit has been developed as part of the SQA Advanced Certificate and SQA Advanced Diploma Art and Design Group Awards. 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.

For Outcome 1 the brief should be provided by the tutor and should relate to a specific site, which may be visited by the candidates. This will allow the candidates to consider the wider implications of the site and to make personal judgements regarding the best use of the space as allocation for an artwork. Site could be outdoor or indoor locations; artworks could be permanent/transient. Any medium may be considered as appropriate, as long as it is suitable for the site and candidates should be encouraged to be experimental in approach.

As part of the initial research candidates should be encouraged to share research and discuss their findings as a group. Visual research could include photographs, digital imagery; site plans as well as examples of other artwork. All research should be retained in any suitable format and include commentary. It would then be expected that from this point the candidates work individually. Whilst working through the design concepts a candidate would be expected to consider potential final use of materials and their suitability for use on the identified site. Considerations should always include health and safety implications of materials and structures and installation.

The final proposal should be presented in any appropriate form to tutor or peers. Evidence may be recorded by appropriate means such as video or checklist. Concepts could be presented as models, maquettes, illustrations, digital presentations, for example. Although the production of full-scale artwork is not required for final assessment, candidates could produce full-scale finished pieces.

A holistic approach to assessment is strongly recommended.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

All elements of the Core Skill of Problem Solving will be naturally developed and enhanced to a sophisticated level as candidates produce an artwork for a specific location or site. In order to develop concepts, they have to investigate selected public artworks, researching and evaluating a wide range of complex information on cultural, social and political issues. Information should be summarised and collated using accepted conventions and formats.

Critical evaluation of factors relevant to the brief, such as appropriate resources, timescales and health and safety issues will be fundamental to efficient working practice. From start to completion of the design and production process candidates should be encouraged to review and refine creative solutions as they develop and select concept/s suitable for a specific location and situation. Identifying and justifying the use of forms and materials to others in group discussions could provide opportunities to enhance oral communication and problem solving skills in a working environment. This could support reflective practice and be used as the basis for evaluation, including recommendations for future working.

SQA Advanced Unit Specification

Open learning

The various elements to this Unit would make it difficult to deliver via open learning. Although parts of this Unit could be delivered by distance learning, it would require a considerable degree of planning by the centre to ensure the 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

Unit title: Public Art: Introduction

This Unit will introduce you to the process involved in producing a site-specific artwork. You will work from a brief that will identify a site for which you must design an artwork. The emphasis of the Unit is on research as well as the creative design process.

This Unit has three Outcomes.

In **Outcome 1** you will:

- ◆ Research public artworks and their context
- ◆ Analyse examples of public art
- ◆ Consider the processes, methods and materials used in production of public artworks

In **Outcome 2** you will work to a brief for a site-specific public artwork. You will use research methods to:

- ◆ Make a record of the specified site
- ◆ Research the use of the site/area
- ◆ Consider the potential of the site

In **Outcome 3** you will:

- ◆ Produce initial ideas and concepts for an artwork for the site that you have researched
- ◆ Develop and analyse these concepts
- ◆ Present your final concepts in two and/or three dimensions and in any medium that is appropriate to the site and the brief

At all times throughout the Unit you should use safe and considerate studio work practices.