

SQA Advanced Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Art and Design Context

Unit code: HT6E 48

Superclass: JA

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Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to provide candidates, from a wide range of art and design disciplines, with a historical and contemporary understanding of art and design. It should allow the candidate to contextualise historical and contemporary factors in art and design within a specific subject area. It is intended that the candidate will, as part of this process, develop research and analytical skills through the gathering, organising, developing and documenting of relevant data.

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

- 1 Identify a range of contemporary and historical art and design areas.
- 2 Evaluate a specific contemporary and historical area of art and design.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre.

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.*

SQA Advanced Unit Specification

Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication and Information Technology* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components. Further details are provided in the support notes.

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. Outcomes 1 and 2 may be assessed together.

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

Identify a range of contemporary and historical art and design areas.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Research
- ◆ Documentation
- ◆ Contextualisation
- ◆ Presentation

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ generate annotated visual research to demonstrate knowledge and/or skills
- ◆ source information and images or any other relevant information from the area of study which should be placed within the context of the candidate's particular field of enquiry
- ◆ reference all information
- ◆ present this evidence in a manner appropriate to the programme or area of study

Assessment Guidelines

Assessment evidence could be presented as a sketchbook, workbook, notebook and diary or as part of an integrated assessment to cover social, political, technological, ecological and contemporary categories. Candidates should demonstrate that they can identify, source, record and organise and present selected relevant material. This will illustrate their understanding of the contemporary and historical aspects of their chosen area of art and design. Evidence produced by the candidate should reflect SCQF level 8.

There is an opportunity for this Outcome to be assessed with Outcome 2 as an integrated learning activity. It could form part of a set project as specific research activity. If delivered with practical Units, then an Assessment Matrix should be devised.

Outcome 2

Evaluate a specific contemporary and historical area of art and design.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Demonstration of an understanding of a specific area
- ◆ Analysis of a specific area
- ◆ Contextualisation of a specific area
- ◆ Presentation of data

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ identify key factors which influence the chosen area of study
- ◆ systematically analyse data
- ◆ organise and document reference material
- ◆ present findings in a selected format
- ◆ include visual material to substantiate their analyses

Assessment Guidelines

In order to achieve this Unit, candidates are required to present sufficient evidence in the form of a written/oral digital presentation. A written format should be approximately 1,500 words and if an oral or digital presentation is chosen, then a minimum of 10–15 minutes would be appropriate. Centres should ensure that evidence generated is the candidate's own work.

SQA Advanced Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Art and Design Context

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 should enable candidates to become more aware of the historical and contemporary aspects of their particular field of study, and allow them to research a particular area which reflects their own practice.

This could be achieved through detailed research and analysis where the emphasis is not merely placed on an accumulation of facts, but focuses on the contextualisation of a chosen area of art and design and its relevance to personal art practice.

Candidates should foster the skills of research through identifying, sourcing, gathering, interpreting, organising, developing, documenting, recording, referencing and presenting self-sourced information. They should be able to deal with questions on art and design effectively, confidently and from an informed self-sufficient viewpoint.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit could be integrated and/or assessed with other relevant Units where appropriate. For example, research for this Unit could form part of the candidate's initial concept development for a design brief and assessed as such.

The effectiveness of the delivery and assessment of this Unit could be enhanced through lecture-based tutorials which look at many different art movements, artists and designers. Visiting practitioners and visits to relevant venues could also enhance and inform the candidate experience. Reflective discussions and seminars could also be valuable in the delivery of this Unit.

The production of complementary and contextualised artwork based on the candidate's area of research could also enhance the candidate's experience.

All assessment should be conducted in conditions where arrangements have been put in place to ensure the authenticity of the candidate's work.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Candidates should be encouraged to define research objectives and develop techniques for accessing, reading and evaluating a range of complex sources of information on social, political, technological, ecological and contemporary categories. Instruction in the effective use of use of learning resources will allow candidates to effectively access appropriate books and web based data. Candidates need to be familiar with appropriate methods, which could be computer or paper based, to record, reference and organise appropriate material. Checklists or support notes could be provided to encourage systematic analysis and evaluation of current information from a range of paper based and internet sites.

Although skills in written and/or oral communication are not formally assessed candidates should, in the presentation of research findings, express essential ideas and information accurately and coherently using a formal, logical structure. Word processing of extended written reports and use of software to check spelling, punctuation and syntax for accuracy should be encouraged as good practice. Candidates should produce and present information and ideas to a standard which would be acceptable and appropriate for a professional readership/audience. This could include the use of technology to underpin any oral presentation of research. All candidates should be encouraged to develop oral communication skills as they undertake the Unit by questioning, giving information and responding to a range of others in a way which progresses communication.

Open learning

Outcome 2 of this Unit could be delivered through distance learning, particularly through the use of a Virtual Learning Environment. However, it would require planning by the centre to ensure the sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence was suitable

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.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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

FURTHER INFORMATION: Call SQA's Customer Contact Centre on 44 (0) 141 500 5030 or 0345 279 1000. Alternatively, complete our [Centre Feedback Form](#).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Art and Design Context

The purpose of this Unit is to provide you with background knowledge of art and design contexts through detailed research of a particular theme relating to your chosen discipline. It will help you understand your chosen discipline and place it in a historical and contemporary context. You will be expected to undertake the research activities and analysis listed below:

- ◆ source contemporary and historical art and design areas
- ◆ document the contemporary and historical art and design data
- ◆ reference the contemporary and historical art and design data
- ◆ contextualise contemporary and historical art and design data
- ◆ interpret a specific area of contemporary or historical art and design
- ◆ evaluate a specific area of contemporary or historical art and design
- ◆ communicate an understanding of a specific area of contemporary or historical art and design
- ◆ present your findings in a selected format

In Outcome 1 you will be expected to:

- ◆ generate annotated visual research to demonstrate your knowledge and skills
- ◆ source information and images or any other relevant information from your area of study which should be placed within the context of your own area of art practice
- ◆ reference all information
- ◆ organise, develop and present in a manner appropriate to your programme or your own area of art practice

In Outcome 2 you will be expected to:

- ◆ identify key factors which influence your chosen area of study
- ◆ systematically analyse data
- ◆ organise and document reference material
- ◆ present findings in a selected format
- ◆ include visual material to substantiate your analysis