

SQA Advanced Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Printmaking Development

Unit code: HX2H 48

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to develop the candidates' knowledge of printmaking processes and printmaking terminology. Candidates will acquire the necessary skills to enable them to make artists' prints.

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

- 1 Research printmaking processes.
- 2 Source and prepare images for print.
- 3 Produce experimental prints.

Credit points and level: 2 SQA Credits at SCQF level 8: (16 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. Candidates should have an understanding of the design process having completed SQA Advanced Units in Contemporary Art Practice or have similar qualifications or experience. It would be beneficial, although not essential, if candidates had previous experience in one of the following areas: drawing, painting, photography, experimental printmaking, printmaking and producing print.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill of Problem Solving 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: Outcome 1 is assessed by the production of a sketchbook/folder/workbook with commentary, in response to a research brief.

Outcome 2 is assessed by sourcing and manipulated images for print.

Outcome 3 is assessed by the production of experimental prints.

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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 printmaking processes

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Printmaking processes
- ◆ Printmaking terminology
- ◆ Collation and organisation of information

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ collect and collate examples of a range of printmaking processes from published sources
- ◆ collect examples of original printmaking from first hand sources
- ◆ detail the printmaking processes used in the examples and their main characteristics

Evidence should be presented as a sketchbook/folder/workbook with commentary.

Assessment Guidelines

It is recommended that at least seven examples are collected — two of which should be original handmade prints. Details of processes could be annotated visuals, diagrammatic illustrations or oral descriptions.

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Outcome 2

Source and prepare images for print

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Sourcing images
- ◆ Manipulating images for development
- ◆ Safe and considerate working practices
- ◆ Preparation for print
- ◆ Critical evaluation

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ Source images for print
- ◆ Manipulate and make images ready for printmaking
- ◆ Critically evaluate and select images most suitable for development into artist prints
- ◆ Prepare plates, stencils or screens
- ◆ Prepare paper or surfaces
- ◆ Prepare inks
- ◆ Make ready work area
- ◆ Adhere to current health and safety practices

Evidence should be presented as a collection of source materials and manipulated images collated in a sketchbook/folio. Images should be suitable for printing using two or more layers.

Evidence of preparation for print and adherence to health and safety requirements should be recorded on a checklist.

Assessment Guidelines

Suitable processes for printmaking could include silkscreen, relief, litho, monotype and intaglio.

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Outcome 3

Produce experimental prints

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Inking
- ◆ Registration
- ◆ Use of presses, barren or silkscreen equipment
- ◆ Experimentation
- ◆ Presentation of prints
- ◆ Cleaning and care of equipment
- ◆ Safe working practices
- ◆ Critical evaluation

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ Work with printmaking processes to produce experimental prints
- ◆ Produce prints using a minimum of two processes
- ◆ Demonstrate accurate registration of layers
- ◆ Show a range of experimental approaches
- ◆ Use safe and considerate work practices
- ◆ Critically evaluate prints in terms of their potential for development

Evidence should be presented as a collection of clean experimental prints, accompanied by an oral/written evaluation.

Assessment Guidelines

It is recommended that a minimum of four experimental prints be produced.

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Administrative Information

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SQA Advanced Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Printmaking Development

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 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

Although the Unit is expressed in generic terms its content should be related to a context familiar to the candidates and appropriate in terms of their Course of study. It would be beneficial to candidates if the Unit was delivered in conjunction with Units such as drawing, painting, photography, public art, textiles, graphic design or illustration.

Outcome 1 develops the candidates' knowledge of printmaking terminology and their ability to identify the characteristics of different printmaking techniques. Candidates will become familiar with the vocabulary of printmaking and the range of results that it is possible to achieve from a variety of methods of printmaking, such as etching, drypoint, lithography, collograph, screenprint, woodcut and linocut.

Outcome 2 allows candidates to develop knowledge and skills relating to the sourcing and manipulation of images and the preparation for the printmaking process.

Candidates will source images and consider their potential for development. Suitability of selected material might include, for example, use of colour, composition, amount of detail and suitability for printing in two layers.

Having prepared the images for print, candidates will then make ready the print area. A demonstration from the tutor, showing a working layout of the printmaking area, would be helpful here.

In **Outcome 3**, having made all the necessary preparations, candidates will produce experimental prints.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit has been developed as part of the SQA Advanced Diploma in Contemporary Art Practice. 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.

This Unit is designed to give candidates an opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in printmaking. It assumes no prior knowledge. The candidate should be offered two or more forms of printmaking.

The tutor could introduce the Unit by showing examples of different processes of printmaking — ideally originals to show unique qualities of paper and execution of prints but any other format would be acceptable. Where possible candidates should visit galleries or print workshops, be directed to useful websites and given a suitable booklist. Candidates should annotate or comment on their collated published examples by describing the process used and source.

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They should be encouraged to find examples by internationally recognised practitioners of contemporary printmaking practice. Examples of original printmaking from first hand sources should also be collected.

It is recommended that a total of at least seven examples are collected — two of which should be original handmade prints, which could be obtained by exchanging work with members of the peer group.

Worksheets should be devised which give the candidates a resource to enable them to use the methods of printmaking independently in future. It is important that the candidates develop this in a format most suited to their own learning styles and could be a written, illustrated, diagrammatic or oral record of the method and its terminology. Worksheets detailing processes can be self-generated by the candidate and could either be annotated or entirely diagrammatic.

For **Outcome 1**, selection of source materials could be evidenced by source book; sketchbook, mood boards or portfolio. Students could work to a theme or a prepared brief.

Suggested sources could be:

- ◆ previously produced drawings
- ◆ photocopies
- ◆ photographic sources
- ◆ computer generated or manipulated images
- ◆ text

Source material could be developed and made suitable for print by:

- ◆ drawing
- ◆ collage
- ◆ photography
- ◆ photocopying
- ◆ digital output
- ◆ tracing

It would be possible to link this activity to another appropriate Unit, for example within briefs for drawing, painting, illustration, graphics or printed textiles.

Outcome 2 is intended to enable the candidate to prepare images, materials and equipment for print in a form appropriate to the process to be undertaken. This could be through:

- ◆ hand cut stencil
- ◆ prepared and exposed photosensitive screens
- ◆ prepared and etched intaglio plates
- ◆ prepared and etched litho plates
- ◆ cut relief plates
- ◆ constructed collograph plates
- ◆ monotype/monoprint
- ◆ inks prepared appropriate to process
- ◆ prepared paper or surfaces appropriate to process. use archival papers whenever possible
- ◆ organise work area ready to print

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Any method of producing experimental prints is appropriate and may be for example, relief, silkscreen, lithography, collograph, etching, drypoint, monotype/print.

Reflection as to the effectiveness of the preparation could be assessed by oral response and subsequent modifications carried out accordingly. This should be supported by a checklist.

For **Outcome 3** candidates must produce experimental prints using at least two different printmaking processes. One of these prints should demonstrate accurate registration of at least two layers. One of these prints may be unique. Margins of work should be clean. As an example, candidates might produce an experimental drypoint and a simple silkscreen. Understanding of skills and process could then lead to experimental prints in drypoint and a silkscreen print showing accurate registration of at least two colours.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

All elements of the Core Skill of Problem Solving, that is, planning and organising, critical thinking and reviewing and evaluating, should be naturally developed as the unit is undertaken. The initial preparation of a workbook of examples to underpin the practical process of printmaking will involve identification and analysis of a range of factors impacting on the process. As candidates source, manipulate and make images ready for printmaking awareness of applied best practice in preparing and using materials will require creative critical thinking. The ability to adhere to current health and safety practice is integral to achievement. As work progresses personal responses could be discussed with peers and the assessor to encourage on going evaluation of and reflection on the process.

Open learning

The practical nature of parts of this Unit would make it difficult to deliver via open learning. However, it may be possible for candidates to access source information and complete written work electronically.

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.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Printmaking Development

This Unit will enable you to make artists prints. You will explore printmaking processes and research examples of printmaking practice. You will become familiar with printmaking terminology.

In **Outcome 1** you will:

- ◆ Research printmaking processes. This will include both practical experiments of printmaking processes and sourcing examples from published sources of artists' contemporary printmaking practice.

In **Outcome 2** you will:

- ◆ Select sources for printmaking.
- ◆ Make ready and present your selected images for print.
- ◆ Plan colour separations or layers appropriate to the process you are undertaking.
- ◆ Prepare plates, photo-stencil, paper stencil as appropriate.
- ◆ Reflect on the effectiveness of preparation. This could take place throughout the Unit and not be specifically at the end of any one activity.
- ◆ Prepare work area.
- ◆ Cut papers or make ready your print surface, fabric or any other surface suitable to your process. Use archival papers when possible.
- ◆ Prepare rollers, squeegees etc.
- ◆ Prepare inks.

In **Outcome 3** you will:

- ◆ Set up your registration system.
- ◆ Print accurately, in register, keeping the non-printed surfaces of your work clean.
- ◆ Use at least two different printing processes.
- ◆ Reflect on the effectiveness of the process and modify if necessary.
- ◆ Work within current health and safety regulations throughout.
- ◆ Present your prints.