



Higher National Graded Unit Specification

General Information for Centres

This Graded Unit has been validated as part of the Photography HND award. Centres are required to develop the assessment instrument in accordance with this validated specification. Centres wishing to use another type of Graded Unit or assessment instrument are required to submit proposals detailing the justification for change for validation.

Graded Unit Title: Photography: Graded Unit 2

Graded Unit Code: DX0D 35

Type of Graded Unit: Project

Assessment Instrument: Practical Assignment

Credit points and level: 2 HN 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.*

Purpose: This Graded Unit is designed to provide evidence that the candidate has achieved the following principal aims of the HND Photography.

- ◆ to gain knowledge and skills of investigation, planning and problem solving
- ◆ develop competencies in specialised areas of his/her choice in line with their preferred career aims
- ◆ adopt innovation and creativity in his/her work and be able to respond quickly to the challenges posed by changes in the photography profession
- ◆ develop the ability to apply acquired photographic knowledge and skills
- ◆ develop the technical skills required in current photography practice
- ◆ develop research, evaluation and analytical skills

Recommended Prior Knowledge and Skills: It is recommended that the candidate should have completed or be in the process of completing the following Units relating to the above specific aims prior to undertaking this Graded Unit:

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| ◆ <i>Photography: Theory</i> | <i>DW8E 34</i> |
| ◆ <i>Photography: Portraiture</i> | <i>DW8C 34</i> |
| ◆ <i>Photography: Applied Techniques</i> | <i>DW7X 34</i> |
| ◆ <i>Photography: Studio Still life</i> | <i>DW7T 34</i> |

- ◆ *Photography: Photojournalism* DW8A 35
- ◆ *Photography: Advertising* DW7V 35
- ◆ *Creative Industries: An Introduction* DMOV 34

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Problem Solving in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Assessment: This Graded Unit will be assessed by the use of a practical assignment. The developed ‘fleshed-out’ assignment should provide the candidate with the opportunity to produce evidence that demonstrates she/he has met the aims of the Graded Unit that it covers.

This Graded Unit should be undertaken on an individual basis. Candidates should be encouraged to develop an appropriate project that involves them utilising the knowledge and skills required to support the planning, organisation and development of at least 10 examples of illustrated research, 20 images on the chosen theme which must be presented appropriately for the chosen theme and include evaluation statements. It is recommended a holistic approach to assessment is used covering all stages of the Graded Unit, ie planning, developing and evaluating.

A candidate-centred approach should be adopted at all times. The main emphasis of this Unit lies in the development of ideas and the images produced and approximately 70% of the time should be allocated to this area.

With regard to the images the following points should be achieved:

- ◆ images must be technically and/or aesthetically competent
- ◆ composition and lighting must achieve the effect identified in the brief
- ◆ the exposure and/or lighting ratios are correct for the desired effect

Administrative Information

Graded Unit Code: DX0D 35

Graded Unit Title: Photography: Graded Unit 2

Original date of publication: August 2006

Version: 03 (July 2018)

History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Photography: Portraiture code corrected. Conditions of assessment 3rd paragraph “assignment, case.” deleted.	Jan 08
03	Update of Conditions of Assessment	Jul 2018

Source: SQA

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Higher National Graded Unit Specification: Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates

Graded Unit Title: Photography: Graded Unit 2

Conditions of Assessment

The candidate should be given a date for completion of the project. However, the instructions for the assessment task should be distributed to allow the candidate sufficient time to assimilate the details and carry out the assessment task. During the time between the distribution of the assessment task instructions and the completion date, assessors may answer questions, provide clarification, guidance and reasonable assistance. Reasonable assistance is the term used by SQA to describe the difference between providing candidates with some direction to generate the required evidence for assessment and providing too much support which would compromise the integrity of the assessment. Reasonable assistance is part of all learning and teaching processes.

In relation to the assessment of Higher National Project-based Graded Units, assessors may provide advice, clarification, and guidance during the time between the distribution of the project instructions and the completion date, ie at each stage of the project.

At this level, candidates should work independently. It is up to Centres to take reasonable steps to ensure that the project is the work of the candidate. For example, Centres may wish to informally question candidates at various stages on their knowledge and understanding of the project on which they have embarked. Centres should ensure that where research etc, is carried out in other establishments or under the supervision of others that the candidate does not receive undue assistance.

Remediation allows an assessor to clarify candidate responses, either by requiring a written amendment or by oral questioning, where there is a minor shortfall or omission in evidence requirements. In either case, such instances must be formally noted by the assessor, either in writing or by recording, and be made available to the internal and external verifier.

In relation to Higher National Project-based Graded Units, candidates must be given the opportunity for remediation at each stage of the project.

The evidence for a Higher National Project-based Graded Unit is generated over time and involves three distinct stages, each of which has to be achieved before the next is undertaken. This means that any re-assessment of stages must be undertaken before proceeding to the next stage. The overall grade is derived from the total number of marks *across all* sections, and should reflect the ability of the candidate to work autonomously and the amount of support required. In relation to Higher National Project-based Graded Units, candidates who have failed any stage of the project and have been unable to provide the necessary evidence through remediation must be given the opportunity for re-assessment of that stage.

Any candidate who has failed their graded unit or wishes to upgrade their award must be given a re-assessment opportunity, or in exceptional circumstances, two re-assessment opportunities. In the case of project-based graded units, this must be done using a substantially different project.

The final grading given must reflect the quality of the candidate's evidence at the time of the completion of the graded unit. Candidates must be awarded the highest grade achieved — whether through first submission or through any re-assessment, remediation, and/or reasonable assistance provided.

Higher National Graded Unit Specification: Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Graded Unit Title: Photography: Graded Unit 2

Instructions for designing the assessment task

The assessment task is a project. The project undertaken by the candidate must be a complex task which involves:

- ◆ variables which are complex or unfamiliar
- ◆ relationships which need to be clarified
- ◆ a context which may be familiar or unfamiliar to the candidate

The assessment task must require the candidate to:

- ◆ analyse the task and decide on a course of action for undertaking the project
- ◆ plan and organise work and carry it through to completion
- ◆ reflect on what has been done and draw conclusions for the future
- ◆ produce evidence of meeting the aims which this Graded Unit has been designed to cover

The project must involve a practical assignment culminating in a finished product and candidates must demonstrate the application of the skills and knowledge that fall within the context of Photography. The brief should allow a degree of choice in the way a project is taken forward.

Higher National Graded Unit Specification: Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Graded Unit Title: Photography: Graded Unit 2

The candidate will be asked to:

Interpret a brief

Gather information in response to the brief

Submit a proposal demonstrating the ability to integrate research into the creative solutions

Produce a product to an acceptable standard

Evaluate the product

The most appropriate approach to the project is one that requires candidates to integrate the knowledge and skills to produce a creative solution to a given brief. The candidate should be asked to research, consider and develop a product within the available timescale and resources available to them.

Each candidate must provide his or her individual responses to the given brief and assessors must be satisfied that the work has been completed by the individual candidate. The project consists of three stages: planning, developing and evaluating. Work on the developing stage should not proceed until the planning stage is satisfactorily completed.

Guidance on grading candidates

Candidates who meet the minimum Evidence Requirements will have their achievement graded as C — competent, or A — highly competent or B somewhere between A and C. The grade related criteria to be used to judge candidate performance for this Graded Unit is specified in the following table.

Higher National Graded Unit specification: Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Graded Unit Title: Photography: Graded Unit 2

Grade A	Grade C
<p>Is a seamless, coherent piece of work which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Has sufficient evidence for the three essential phases of the project, is produced to a high standard and is quite clearly inter-related. ◆ Demonstrates an accurate and perceptive interpretation of the brief which shows insight and a high level of creativity. ◆ Is highly focused and relevant to the tasks associated to the project. ◆ Has clear and cohesive concepts developed from the brief. ◆ Uses a presentation which is of a high standard and appropriate to the concepts of the brief in the written work. ◆ Effectively consolidates and integrates required knowledge and skills. 	<p>Is a co-ordinated piece of work which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Has sufficient evidence for the three phases of the project. ◆ Demonstrates an acceptable interpretation of the brief. ◆ Is focused and relevant to the tasks associated with the brief. ◆ Displays satisfactory structured concepts. ◆ Produces a product to an acceptable standard. ◆ Uses language which is adequate in terms a accuracy and technical content within the written work.

The project will be marked out of 100. Assessors will mark each stage of the project, taking into account the criteria outlined. The marks will then be aggregated to arrive at an overall mark for the project. Assessors will then assign an overall grade to the candidate for this Graded Unit based on the following grade boundaries.

A = 70% — 100%
 B = 60% — 69%
 C = 50% — 59%

Note: the candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified below for each stage of the project in order to achieve the Graded Unit.

Evidence Requirements

The project consists of three stages: planning; developing; and evaluating. The following table specifies the minimum evidence required to pass each stage.

Note: The candidate must achieve **all of the minimum evidence** specified below for each stage of the project in order to pass the Graded Unit.

Higher National Graded Unit specification: Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Graded Unit Title: Photography: Graded Unit 2

Project Stage	Minimum Evidence Requirements
Stage 1 — Planning	<p>The planning stage is worth 15% of the marks.</p> <p>The plan must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Research and analytical skills relevant to the brief. ◆ Critical and Evaluative thinking ◆ The candidate's personal response to the brief ◆ Explanation of techniques ◆ Identification of materials ◆ Schedule <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Planning stage.</i></p>
Stage 2 — Developing	<p>The developing stage is worth 70% of the marks.</p> <p>Evidence of the candidate carrying out the project, implementing the plan and managing the practical task in the form of product evidence which shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – effective application of practical skills – effective application of problem-solving skills – effective presentation techniques – awareness of industry standards – effective integration of interdisciplinary skills in specialist areas <p>Evidence Requirements will reflect the demands of the selected medium, but suggested guidelines are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A completed product ◆ A portfolio of research, development and exemplar materials ◆ A project log/diary <p>A combination of these would be appropriate</p> <p>Maximum mark allocation: 70 marks</p> <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Developing stage.</i></p>

Higher National Graded Unit specification: Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

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Project Stage	Minimum Evidence Requirements
Stage 3 — Evaluating	<p>The evaluating stage is worth 15% of the marks.</p> <p>An evaluation of the effectiveness of the approach taken to all stages of the practical activity that considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the analysis of the task – the planning and organisation of the project – carrying through of the plan to completion – the Outcome <p>Specific evidence: a written and/or oral evaluation report that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Identification of criteria on which the evaluation is based ◆ Examination of the effectiveness of the original analysis and objectives ◆ Reference to any difficulties overcome during the course of the project ◆ Conclusions as to how the process could be improved, with recommendations for any future work ◆ Detailed evidence to support all aspects of the evaluation <p>Minimum written evidence: 1,000 words</p> <p>Minimum oral evidence: 10 minutes material (eg powerpoint etc)</p> <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Evaluating stage.</i></p>

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Equality and inclusion

This graded 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.