

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Observational Drawing Portfolio

Unit code: DX38 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop and build on previously acquired observational drawing skills. The candidates should be able to produce thematic drawings from first hand sources in monochrome and colour using a variety of drawing media and techniques. The candidates should also produce a series of drawings in a chosen style, medium or technique. This Unit would be relevant to candidates undertaking a course within an art and design discipline.

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

- 1 Produce a series of observational drawings based on a chosen theme using a range of media and techniques.
- 2 Produce a series of observational drawings in a chosen style, medium or technique.

Credit points and level: 1 HN 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 Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. However, it may be beneficial if the candidate had undertaken the Unit DV9A 34 Observational Drawing.

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: This Unit could be assessed by two instruments of assessment.

Candidates must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified by the unit. The minimum requirement is 12 drawings produced by the candidate over the two Outcomes. Evidence can be assessed by two assessments events.

The Unit should be approached as two individual drawing projects. Tutors may specify a precise brief for each particular drawing project. Subject matter and media can be chosen by candidates or tutors and should be relevant to the candidate's course of study.

General information for centres (cont)

Drawings submitted for assessment can be created in the studio or alternatively, produced elsewhere throughout the delivery of the unit. Candidates will be asked to produce drawings under controlled conditions where this assists ensuring the reliability of the evidence.

To ensure the reliability and authenticity of evidence, candidates may be required to produce examples of assessment evidence whilst working under tutor supervision.

Assessment may be linked to another unit if it is incorporated as an integrated project. An assessment matrix should be used to ensure that all knowledge and skills in each outcome are achieved in full.

Higher National 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

Produce a series of observational drawings based on a chosen theme using a range of media and techniques

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Range of techniques
- ◆ Variety of drawing media
- ◆ Understanding of analytical elements

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ produce a minimum of six drawings based on a chosen theme
- ◆ demonstrate competent and creative use of at least three different drawing mediums and use a range of techniques
- ◆ demonstrate understanding of the analytical elements of line, tone, structure, proportion, texture/pattern, shape, natural/local colour and perspective/depth which are implicit in the creation of observational drawings.

All drawings must be observed from primary sources and demonstrate understanding of the analytical elements implicit in the creation of observational drawings. A minimum of two of the drawings must be 'finished' drawings.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome can be a single assessment of a 'portfolio' of chosen examples of work produced by the candidate. This portfolio may include studies and finished drawings supported by preparatory drawings and sketchbook drawings. Assessment may be linked with another unit if it is incorporated as part of an integrated project.

Evidence should be produced under guidance from a tutor who can demonstrate techniques and advise candidates on appropriate materials and subject matter.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Observational Drawing Portfolio

Elements listed in the ‘knowledge and skills’ section are mandatory but they should be assessed holistically, assuring that the candidate has demonstrated creativity and has applied knowledge of the required skills to the work presented.

To ensure the reliability and authenticity of evidence, candidates may be required to produce examples of assessment evidence whilst working under tutor supervision.

Outcome 2

Produce a series of observational drawings in a chosen style, medium or technique

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Handling of media
- ◆ Development of style, medium or technique.
- ◆ Expressive mark-making
- ◆ Composition

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ produce a minimum of six drawings from selected first-hand source material which demonstrate competent and creative use of a chosen style, medium or drawing technique
- ◆ explore and develop use of the chosen style, medium or technique
- ◆ demonstrate skill in handling of media, expressive mark-making and composition

All drawings must be observed from primary sources and demonstrate understanding of the analytical elements implicit in the creation of observational drawings. A minimum of two of the drawings must be ‘finished’ drawings.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome can be a single assessment of a ‘portfolio’ of chosen examples of work produced by the candidate. This portfolio may include studies and finished drawings supported by preparatory drawings and sketchbook drawings. Assessment may be linked with another unit if it is incorporated as part of an integrated project.

Elements listed in the ‘knowledge and skills’ section are mandatory but they should be assessed holistically, assuring that the candidate has demonstrated creativity and has applied knowledge of the required skills to the work presented.

To ensure the reliability and authenticity of evidence, candidates may be required to produce examples of assessment evidence whilst working under tutor supervision.

Administrative Information

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Unit title: Observational Drawing Portfolio
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Observational Drawing Portfolio

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 is primarily intended to enable candidates to build on the knowledge and skills required to produce competent observational drawings from primary sources. The aim of the unit is to develop and build on traditional drawing skills relevant to their own art or design course. Candidates will have the opportunity to work on a series of thematic drawings and a series of drawings which explore and develop a particular style or technique. There is scope to incorporate experimental approaches where appropriate.

The Unit should be approached as two individual drawing projects. Candidates should already have skills in basic drawing and mark-making techniques using a variety of monochromatic, coloured and mixed media. They should have explored the basic drawing elements by producing drawings of natural or man-made subjects from first hand sources.

Experimentation with materials, techniques as well as a variety of substrates, grounds and supports is to be encouraged but the aim of this unit is that the candidate should demonstrate successful rendering of three-dimensional subjects in two-dimensional drawings by competent application of drawing skills, knowledge and understanding of the basic elements of drawing.

Examples of artists' work should be shown and discussed.

In Outcome 1 thematic subject matter should be chosen by candidates or tutors and can be taken from a range of both man-made and natural sources. It may be either studio based or sourced in the environment. There is opportunity in this unit to explore observational drawing from a choice of source material such as natural and man-made objects, buildings, landscape, figure and life, interiors, etc.

In Outcome 2 drawing medium, techniques and style can be chosen by the candidate or suggested by the tutor. This Outcome will allow the candidate to develop skills in expressive use of a chosen style, medium or technique which may be relevant to their own art or design discipline. There is scope to integrate these drawings as part of another unit.

This unit can be delivered as an integral part of any art and design course. Although it is expressed in generic terms the evidence should be related to a context which is relevant to the candidates. There is scope to experiment with a wide variety of monochromatic and coloured drawing materials and techniques and work on a theme which is relevant to each candidate's course of study.

Candidate's choice of medium, technique or style can be specifically relevant to their chosen discipline. Eg. marker pen rendering may be useful and relevant to Interior Designers, or pen and ink work for animators. Or they can choose to explore a particular style to produce 'illustrative' or 'fine art' type drawings.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Observational Drawing Portfolio

There is scope for versatility in scale and finish. Producing experimental sketches and preparatory studies and the use of sketchbooks should be encouraged throughout the unit. Sketchbooks and drawings can be produced as part of unsupervised or home study.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Candidates must produce a minimum of twelve drawings over two Outcomes from selected first-hand source material which demonstrate competent and creative drawing skills. A minimum of four of the drawings must be 'finished' drawings. It is expected that candidates will consistently produce drawings which are of a greater degree of 'finish' and demonstrate a higher level of skill in the use of drawing equipment and materials than work produced in HN Unit DV9A 34 Observational Drawing.

They should demonstrate a creative and analytical approach and sound observational skills and produce drawings which successfully meet all the requirements of the unit specification.

It is envisaged that each candidate will produce more than the minimum amount of drawings required and that the most successful and/or appropriate pieces will be selected for assessment. A 'portfolio' of drawings should be presented for assessment which may include 'finished' drawings and studies supported by preparatory drawings and sketchbook work which can be presented in any format specified by the tutor. Artwork may be mounted if required/appropriate but this is not specified by the unit.

As this Unit may be delivered as part of a several different art and design courses and many types of media and styles will be used. The number of 'completed' and 'highly finished' drawings presented for assessment will be at the discretion of the tutor but allowances must be made for the scale and complexity of the candidates' work. The evidence requirements are a minimum of four 'finished' drawings, however the tutor should encourage the candidate to produce a higher number of drawings if the work is on a very small scale or minimal in content.

Assessment may be linked with another unit if it is incorporated as part of an integrated project.

Drawings submitted for assessment should have been created in the studio or during unsupervised study.

Artwork should be assessed holistically, ensuring that the candidate has demonstrated creativity and has applied knowledge of the required skills to the work presented.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

As the Unit Outcomes are undertaken in sequence, candidates should be given support to analyse and seek solutions to theoretical and practical problems or issues relevant to their project work. Formative work in which they identify and consider all components, including available resources, and analyse the significance of each in order to identify an appropriate strategic approach will provide opportunities to develop problem solving skills to an advanced level.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Observational Drawing Portfolio

Candidates should have opportunities for formative work which develops skills in analysing and interpreting communications which have been presented in complex drawn format. Demonstration of techniques using visual exemplars will foster the ability to analyse and evaluate all aspects of drawings development and provide opportunities for discussing interpretation and communication of visual imagery. Candidates should be encouraged to experiment with drawing tools and media as they progress in the unit.

Open learning

Elements of this Unit could be undertaken through open learning. To ensure the reliability and authenticity of evidence, candidates may be required to produce examples of assessment evidence whilst working under tutor supervision. 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.

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Alternative Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs*, which is available on SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Observational Drawing Portfolio

This Unit is designed to enable you to develop and build on traditional drawing skills and to produce a 'portfolio' of observational drawings which are relevant to your particular course of study.

The aim of the unit is to provide you with the skills and knowledge to successfully represent three-dimensional subject matter in two-dimensional drawings. You will provide evidence of this knowledge and skill by presenting a selection of your drawings for assessment.

In Outcome 1 you will be asked to create a minimum of six drawings based on a chosen theme. This theme can be chosen from a wide range of relevant source material such as natural and man-made objects, buildings, landscape, figure and life, interiors, etc.

Through making drawings of the chosen thematic subject matter you will be encouraged to develop confidence and skill using the basic analytical elements of line, tone, structure, proportion, texture/pattern, shape, natural/local colour and perspective/depth. There is also scope to experiment with other mark-making techniques and mixed media.

You can experiment with drawings of different scale and try working with experimental techniques and on different types of surfaces. You may be asked to produce quick sketches, preparatory drawings or highly finished drawings. Some drawings and sketches may be purely self-initiated. You will be encouraged to create sketchbooks and artwork from this source may form part of your final assessment if appropriate.

In Outcome 2 you will be asked to create a minimum of six drawings chosen from a wide range of source material relevant to your discipline or perhaps integrated with another unit in your course of study.

This Outcome allows you to concentrate on developing skill in the handling of a chosen medium, or to develop a particular drawing style or technique and advance your abilities in expressive mark-making, and composition.

Assessment will take place either on the completion of each Outcome or at the end of the Unit. The tutor will specify the form in which the artwork is to be presented. You will be expected to have completed more than the minimum amount of drawings so that you can select the most appropriate ones for assessment.