

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Information Graphics: Advanced

Unit code: DX5C 36

Unit purpose: This project based unit is designed to provide candidates with the advanced knowledge and skills necessary to create sequenced illustrative diagrammatic imagery.

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

- 1 Produce an information graphics project brief for print and/or electronic presentation.
- 2 Create a solution to the brief.
- 3 Create advanced and complex imagery.
- 4 Evaluate the final imagery against the brief and work schedule.

Credit points and level: 2 HN Credits at SCQF level 9: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 9*).

**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 center. It would be beneficial if the candidate had completed the HN Units F01H 35 Information Graphics Project; DX5G 35 Drawing: Aids to Construction and DX5V 35 Drawing: Developing Diagrammatic Imagery prior to embarking upon the Unit.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Numeracy and 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: Outcomes 1 to 4 could be assessed individually, but it is recommended that all outcomes be assessed together as a single holistic assignment. The graphics assignment should be designed so that the candidate creates images which should include illustrative/diagrammatic material.

It is essential that the Centres ensure that evidence generated is the candidate's own work.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Information Graphics: Advanced

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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 an information graphics project brief for print and/or electronic presentation

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Brief objectives
- ◆ Audience
- ◆ Timescale
- ◆ Brief content

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can, in writing an advanced project brief:

- ◆ identify objectives
- ◆ identify the target audience
- ◆ relate timescale to stated objectives
- ◆ include appropriate detail within the content

The assessment for this Outcome should take the form of a written assignment.

Assessment guidelines

It is recommended that centres develop checklists to support the assessment requirements for each of the knowledge and/or skills items-

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Information Graphics: Advanced

Outcome 2

Create a solution to the brief

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Assimilation of information
- ◆ Advanced visuals
- ◆ Production of work schedule

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can, in terms of the brief requirements:

- ◆ assimilate appropriate subject matter information
- ◆ create appropriate advanced analytical visuals
- ◆ create appropriate advanced synthesised solution visuals
- ◆ produce an appropriate work schedule and set timescale

The assessment for this Outcome should take the form of a practical project.

Assessment guidelines

It is recommended that the centres develop checklists to support the assessment requirements for each of the knowledge and/or skills items.

Outcome 3

Create advanced and complex imagery

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Format delineation.
- ◆ Complex imagery
- ◆ Viewing processes
- ◆ Reproduction processes

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can, in relation to the requirements of the brief:

- ◆ use appropriate format delineation
- ◆ create imagery at a suitable resolution for the viewing
- ◆ create imagery for a reproduction process that relates to the synthesised solution

Evidence must be generated through practical assignments and should include imagery suitable for both electronic and printed presentation.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Information Graphics: Advanced

Assessment guidelines

It is recommended that the centres develop checklists to support the assessment requirements for each of the knowledge and/or skills items.

The series of still images may be for a printed publication, monitor, or projected presentation again to a single viewer or a larger audience, as appropriate. A minimum of ten images should be created for presentation.

If candidates choose to present their imagery as a continuous animation this might last approximately four to five minutes, with an interactive animation containing the equivalent work load.

Outcome 4

Evaluate the final imagery against the brief and professional work schedule

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Evaluation of design solution
- ◆ Work schedule
- ◆ Deadlines

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can evaluate the design solution against the brief in terms of:

- ◆ the target audience
- ◆ the integration of graphic elements
- ◆ the design process involved
- ◆ meeting the requirements and deadlines of a work schedule
- ◆ the viewing/reproduction processes

The assessment for this Outcome should take the form of a written assignment or equivalent.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment should be carried out after the topic has been taught and the design solution has been completed. It is recommended that the centre/s develop checklists to support the assessment requirements for each of the knowledge and/or skills items.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DX5C 36
Unit title: Information Graphics: Advanced
Superclass category: JB
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Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Information Graphics: Advanced

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

On completion of this unit it is expected that candidates will have created a brief for an advanced information graphics project with sequential imagery which is suitable for both print and electronic presentation. They will also create a solution, complex imagery and have evaluated the finished project work against the brief and their work schedule.

The unit is intended to enable candidates to develop the knowledge and skills required to create their own advanced project brief. The aim of the unit is to build confidence and professionalism in writing a project while giving candidates confidence to create advanced complex imagery in response to a brief. It should also develop the candidates' judgement, accuracy of visual language and professional skills.

The unit should be approached as one main project brief. The candidates may write the project in response to a live client project or a competition. Tutors should offer guidance and support but candidates should be fully encouraged to adopt an independent approach to their work for this advanced level of study.

Producing preparatory designs and concepts and the use of sketchbooks should be encouraged throughout the unit. Design development work can be produced as part of unsupervised or home study.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

It is expected that the imagery produced for an advanced information graphics project would take the form of a series of illustrative/diagrammatic visuals that explain a given topic. These visuals must be a combination of animated (continuous or interactive) and sequential still images.

The brief content should reflect the time allocated, unless part of an integrated presentation.

The imagery could be created partly using traditional media and drawing boards as well as mandatory computer generated imagery, all where appropriate.

Outcome 1, the writing of the brief for an advanced Information Graphics project.

Outcomes 2 and 3 are assessed by the creation of the imagery. The time taken should relate to the choice of project presentation method. A continuous animation might last a minimum of approximately four to five minutes, with an interactive animation containing the equivalent work load. These presentations may be for monitor presentation to a single viewer or projected presentation to a larger audience.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Information Graphics: Advanced

A series of still images may be for a printed publication, monitor, or projected presentation again to a single viewer or a larger audience, as appropriate. A minimum of ten images should be created for this presentation method. The complete package however, should include imagery suitable for both electronic and printed presentation.

Outcome 4, the evaluation should be in the form of a written or oral presentation.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Candidates will analyse requirements and seek solutions involving a range of practical issues as they apply theoretical knowledge and understanding to create a solution to a complex design project and work towards specific objectives within the context of Information Graphics. Identifying and considering all variables, including scale and media, and analysing the relative significance of each before identifying and selecting a design approach will provide opportunities to develop elements of planning, critical thinking and general problem solving skills to an advanced level. Accurate calculation and the ability to measure, construct and manipulate complex graphic information underpins the competencies developed in the Unit. The development of initial designs will involve on-going evaluation and modification. Candidates will need to produce and present materials to a standard which would be acceptable in industry.

Analysing and evaluating the potential impact of the practical design solution selected will be critical, and candidates are likely to benefit from the availability of current examples of materials as models for evaluation of effectiveness.

Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by open learning. However it would require planning by the centre to ensure sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence.

If this Unit is delivered by open or distance learning methods, additional planning and resources may be required for candidate support, assessment and quality assurance.

New authentication tools may have to be devised for assessment and re-assessment purposes. 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: Information Graphics: Advanced

This Unit will allow you to develop and apply your creative skills in the use of advanced information graphics. Throughout the design process you will develop and apply your skills of critical analysis and reflection in order to create complex imagery for presentation.

For **Outcome 1** you will create a brief for an information graphics project with sequential imagery for print and/or electronic presentation. You will explore the requirements and purpose of the brief, identifying content, context, constraints and style. The research should be targeted and valid to the content and context of the given brief.

For **Outcome 2** you will prepare a selection of solutions appropriate to the brief that shows a clear understanding of the requirements of the project. You will need to demonstrate time management by preparing a realistic work schedule. In consultation with your class tutor you will select appropriate ideas for development, and demonstrate a professional approach to producing full size visuals prior to the final production.

For **Outcome 3** you will produce complex and advanced imagery for either print or electronic presentation. The final imagery must be produced to a professional standard and demonstrate full understanding of the requirements of the project brief.

For **Outcome 4** you will evaluate your final imagery against the project brief and your work schedule.

Your evaluation will be based on your interpretation of the requirement of the brief/s, your skills in using the chosen method of production and the level of creativity and professionalism evident in the final solution. It will also include a personal critical analysis of the suitability of purpose of the final solution.