

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Mixed Media Portfolio

Unit code: DX5J 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to apply an in-depth knowledge and practical skills in a range of mixed media styles and techniques. This is an appropriate unit for a candidate undertaking a course in an art & design discipline.

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

- 1 Analyse mixed media artwork.
- 2 Research and develop potential solutions for a mixed media brief.
- 3 Produce and present a solution to a mixed media brief.

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: It is recommended that candidates should have achieved the HN Unit DV67 34 Mixed Media or equivalent.

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 lends itself to holistic assessment, however, all three Outcomes could be assessed on an individual basis.

Outcome 1 should be assessed by a minimum of 6 mixed media case studies.

Outcome 2 should be assessed by research and development for a given brief. Evidence should be presented in a sketchbook/sourcebook.

Outcome 3 should be assessed by the production of a final solution for a mixed media brief.

General information for centres (cont)

An exemplar instrument of assessment and marking guidelines has been produced to show the national standard of achievement at HN SCQF level 8.

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

Analyse mixed media artwork

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Function
- ◆ Media and techniques
- ◆ Styles
- ◆ Analysis

Evidence Requirements

Candidates need to produce evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ describe the function of the artwork
- ◆ identify the range of media and techniques used
- ◆ describe the range of styles used
- ◆ analyse the effectiveness of the artwork

Candidates should submit evidence of in-depth analysis of a minimum of six case studies. This should be presented as an annotated portfolio of exemplars.

Assessment guidelines

The tutor should provide a minimum of six case studies for candidate analysis appropriate to the Group Award. The selected exemplars should be suitably advanced in nature and demonstrate complex use of media and techniques, sophisticated styles and advanced functionality. The case studies should be relevant to the given brief in Outcomes 2 and 3. Marking schemes should be produced for all case studies.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Mixed Media Portfolio

Outcome 2

Research and develop potential solutions for a mixed media brief

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Research skills
- ◆ Media experimentation
- ◆ Analytical skills

Evidence Requirements

Candidates need to produce evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ use research skills to fully explore the potential of the given brief
- ◆ gather suitable reference material for the given brief
- ◆ develop potential solutions in sketchbook/workbook
- ◆ experiment with a range of mixed media techniques and styles
- ◆ analyse possible solutions

Evidence for research and development should be in the form of sketchbooks/worksheets (a minimum of 6 x A3 sheets or equivalent). Evidence for mixed media experimentation should be in the form of a portfolio (consisting of a minimum of 6 x A3 or equivalent).

Candidates should analyse possible solutions/concepts for a given brief through annotation in their sketchbooks/worksheets.

Assessment guidelines

Candidates must demonstrate an in-depth understanding and application of mixed media styles and techniques and a complex analytical thinking in the research and development of possible solutions to a challenging mixed media brief.

Candidates should gather suitable reference material from which to develop original ideas and demonstrate sophistication in their experimentation with mixed media styles and techniques.

Outcome 3

Produce and present a solution to a mixed media brief

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Selection and application of media
- ◆ Production of a finished mixed media artwork
- ◆ Presentation skills
- ◆ Evaluation skills

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Mixed Media Portfolio

Evidence Requirements

Candidates need to produce evidence to demonstrate advanced knowledge and skills by showing that they can with reference to a given brief:

- ◆ select an appropriate solution
- ◆ select and apply appropriate media
- ◆ produce a finished solution
- ◆ present finished artwork
- ◆ evaluate finished artwork

Evidence of the practical artwork should be presented in a formal context.

Evaluation of the finished artwork should be presented within a written report or an oral presentation.

Assessment guidelines

Candidates should demonstrate in-depth analysis of the brief and sophisticated use of media appropriate to a given brief. The final piece should be presented in a formal context for example: an exhibition, group critique or presentation to tutor. It is recommended that the report should be approximately 500 words and/or an oral presentation five minutes.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DX5J 35

Unit title: Mixed Media Portfolio

Superclass category: JA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

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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

The Unit is intended to provide the candidate with the ability to develop in-depth knowledge and practical skills in a range of mixed media styles and techniques.

In **Outcome 1** should Candidates produce in-depth analysis of a minimum of six mixed media case studies supplied by the class tutor. This should be presented as an annotated portfolio of exemplars. The selected examples should enable the candidate to analyse a diverse range of mixed media styles and techniques. The case studies should be relevant to the given brief in Outcomes 2 and 3. Marking schemes should be produced for all case studies. The subject of Mixed Media could be interpreted in a broad context and could include both two and three dimensional pieces of artwork.

Outcome 2 will allow the candidate to apply knowledge acquired in Outcome 1 in a practical situation through the research, development and experimentation. Candidates should analyse possible solutions/concepts for a given brief through annotation in their sketchbooks/worksheets.

Potential sources of research/references might include:

- ◆ Library
- ◆ Internet
- ◆ Photo libraries
- ◆ Mixed media samples
- ◆ Photography

Outcome 3 will allow the candidate to apply knowledge acquired in Outcomes 1 and 2 in a practical situation through production and presentation of a solution to a mixed media brief. Candidates should demonstrate in-depth analysis of the brief and sophisticated use of media appropriate to a given brief. The final piece should be finished to a professional standard and presented in a formal context for example: an exhibition, group critique or presentation to tutor.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Outcome 1: Candidates should be introduced to an area of mixed media which illustrates sophisticated and complex function, media, techniques and styles. It is envisaged that appropriate exemplars are supplied by the tutor. The selected exemplars should be referenced from creative practitioners and enable the candidates to analyse a diverse range of complex and sophisticated approaches in the use of mixed media.

Outcome 2: Candidates should gather and analyse reference material and undertake explorative mixed media studies. This should be used to produce a portfolio of development, concepts and techniques.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Mixed Media Portfolio

Outcome 3: Candidates will select and apply the most appropriate method/s in order to produce a final piece of work. Presentation of the final artwork must be undertaken in a formal context. Candidates will be asked to evaluate the final artwork in a manner appropriate to their subject specialism.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

All elements of the Core Skill of Problem Solving, namely Planning and Organising, Critical Thinking, and Reviewing and Evaluating, should be fully developed and further enhanced as candidates undertake the Unit, applying theoretical knowledge to a complex practical task and meet the requirements of a given brief. Candidates could be supported in the use of recognised research techniques by checklists and/or software to encourage detailed analysis of potential solutions to the design brief/s.

Designing and producing potential solutions, identifying and maximising all available resources and recognising and overcoming any potential difficulties will involve a high level of critical thinking. Group discussion of issues may be useful although candidates should be independently able to justify and apply effective media techniques allowing on-going opportunities for review and potential adjustment. Candidates would benefit from individual discussions with the assessor to reinforce analytical evaluation of achievement as a guide to future activities and further development. Candidates should be encouraged to identify appropriate evaluative methods to measure achievement. Evaluation in which all aspects of the application of mixed media and their potential impact are analysed will be a critical underpinning aspect of presentation.

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: Mixed Media Portfolio

This Unit is designed to provide you with an opportunity to research current applications of a wide variety of techniques within mixed media. By analysing a collection of case studies and experimenting with a variety of mixed media techniques you will be made aware to the possibilities of mixed media applications. You will produce and present a finished piece of mixed media artwork to a given brief and evaluate your execution of the project.

Outcome 1

You will begin by analysing an area of mixed media in terms of the complex function of the mixed media pieces and the range of techniques and styles used. You will then complete a minimum of six case studies in the form of an annotated and illustrated portfolio.

Outcome 2

You will research and source appropriate reference material for a mixed media brief.

Through critical analysis and personal reflection you will select appropriate solutions for development. You will also experiment with a sophisticated range of media, techniques and styles that you identified in Outcome 1.

This will produce a research and development book/worksheets that will include research and reference material, thumbnail sketches, development drawings and media/technique/style experimentation.

Outcome 3

Critical analysis and personal reflection will lead you to the selection of a format for a final piece. You will select an appropriate proposal, and produce and present a finished mixed media piece which demonstrates a broad level of knowledge and practical skill in your area of study. It should also demonstrate an in-depth analysis of the brief and sophisticated use of mixed media. You will then undertake an evaluation of the finished mixed media piece.