

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Information Graphics Project

Unit code: F01H 35

Unit purpose: This project based unit is designed to provide candidates with the knowledge and skills necessary to create sequenced illustrative diagrammatic imagery. The candidate will acquire the skills to produce a cohesive, well-managed project.

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

- 1 Write a brief for an information graphics project with sequential imagery.
- 2 Create a solution appropriate to the written brief.
- 3 Create final imagery appropriate to the written brief.
- 4 Evaluate the result of the project against the brief and personal work plan.

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 Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. It would be beneficial if the candidate had completed the HN units DV61 34 Drawing Systems; DV5Y 34 Design of Charts and Diagrams 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.

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

Unit title: Information Graphics Project

Unit code: F01H 35

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

Create a brief for an information graphics project with sequential imagery

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Brief objectives
- ◆ Audience
- ◆ Timescale
- ◆ Content

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can create a structured brief which:

- ◆ identifies objectives
- ◆ identifies the audience/client group
- ◆ relates timescale to stated objectives
- ◆ ensures the content meets the clients needs

Assessment guidelines

The assessment for this Outcome should take the form of a written brief. The brief should be written for a sequence of a minimum of 10 still images or for an animation lasting four to five minutes. 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 Project

Outcome 2

Create a solution appropriate to the written brief

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Assimilation of information
- ◆ Analytical visuals
- ◆ Synthesised solution visuals
- ◆ Work schedule

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can, with reference to the brief:

- ◆ assimilate information relevant to the subject matter
- ◆ create appropriate analytical visuals
- ◆ create appropriate synthesised solution visuals
- ◆ produce a work schedule and set timescale

Assessment guidelines

The assessment for this Outcome should take the form of a practical project. 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 final imagery appropriate to the written brief

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Format delineation
- ◆ Creation of final imagery
- ◆ Viewing/reproduction process

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can, with reference to the brief:

- ◆ use a format delineation that is appropriate
- ◆ create final imagery appropriate for the viewing /reproduction process that relates to the synthesised solution

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Information Graphics Project

Assessment guidelines

The assessment for this Outcome should take the form of a practical project. It is recommended that the centres develop checklists to support the assessment requirements for each of the knowledge and/or skills items.

Outcome 4

Evaluate the result of the project against the brief and personal work plan

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Evaluation of design solution
- ◆ Evaluation of viewing/reproduction process

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ the target audience
- ◆ the integration of graphic elements
- ◆ the design process involved
- ◆ the viewing/reproduction process

This evaluation should be presented either in a written or oral format.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment for this Outcome should take the form of a written or oral assignment. It is recommended that the centre/s develop checklists to support the assessment requirements for each of the knowledge and/or skills items. The oral presentation should be 10 minutes or equivalent.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F01H 35

Unit title: Information Graphics Project

Superclass category: JB

Original date of publication: August 2006

Version: 01

History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2006

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of Higher National qualifications.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Customer Contact Centre for further details, telephone 0845 279 1000.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Information Graphics Project

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

The Unit is intended to enable candidates to develop the knowledge and skills required to create their own project brief. The aim of the Unit is to build confidence and professionalism in writing a project brief, undertaking and evaluating a project. It should also develop the candidate's judgement, visual language and analytical skills.

On completion of this Unit it is expected that all candidates will be able to create a brief for an information graphics project with sequential imagery. Candidates will also create a solution and final imagery appropriate to the brief and evaluate the finished project work against the brief and their original work plan.

The Unit should be approached as one main project brief. The candidates may write the project in response to directions given by the tutor, or to a live client project. Tutors may offer notes and lectures that provide appropriate course-specific information and support to candidates.

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 information graphics project would take the form of a series of illustrative/diagrammatic visuals that explain a given topic. These visuals may be animated (continuous or interactive) or a series of sequential still images.

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

The imagery could be created using traditional media or computer generated or a mixture of both, where appropriate.

Outcome 1, the writing of the project brief should be assessed by the tutor prior to the candidate embarking on the rest of the Unit.

Outcomes 2 and 3, the creation of the imagery assessment. The time 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 candidate work load. These presentations may be for monitor presentation to a single viewer or projected presentation to a larger audience. 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.

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

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Information Graphics Project

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 Project

This Unit is intended to allow you to develop and apply your creative skills in the use of information graphics. Throughout the design process you will develop and apply your skills of critical evaluation and reflection.

For **Outcome 1** you will create a brief for an information graphics project with sequential imagery. 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 and that show 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 producing the final product.

For **Outcome 3** you will produce high quality final imagery for presentation. The final imagery will 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 solution against the project brief and your work schedule.