

Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Ceramics: Hand Built

Unit code: F1TR 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to give candidates an understanding of the techniques involved in hand building ceramics and to use these to design and produce a finished piece that has been glazed and fired.

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

- 1 Investigate hand building techniques
- 2 Design and produce a hand built ceramic piece
- 3 Demonstrate the application of a glaze and show understanding of the firing process

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**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 may be beneficial if the candidate has some prior knowledge of the design process. This may be evidenced by the possession of relevant National Units, Higher Art and Design or prior vocational experience.

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: The assessment for this Unit will be via product evidence for Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 and candidate checklist in appropriate form for understanding of firing techniques.

It is recommended that all Outcomes are assessed at one assessment event. However, each Outcome may be assessed separately if this is considered to be more suitable to the candidate's learning programme.

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

Investigate hand building techniques

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Slab techniques
- ◆ Coil techniques
- ◆ Pinch techniques
- ◆ Modelling techniques
- ◆ Joining techniques
- ◆ Decorative techniques
- ◆ Safe working practices

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ Produce experimental samples which show understanding of techniques
- ◆ Produce samples that show competence in working with techniques
- ◆ Use safe working practices at all times

Evidence should be presented as a minimum of four samples that show the successful application of a minimum of four techniques.

The tutor should record evidence of compliance with safe working practices on a checklist.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment for this Outcome could take the form of experimental ceramic samples that combine any of the techniques.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Ceramics: Hand Built

Outcome 2

Design and produce a hand built ceramic piece

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Collect and collate reference/source material
- ◆ Develop design concepts to finished solution
- ◆ Produce hand built ceramic work
- ◆ Visual elements: form, proportion, rhythm, shape, balance, colour, texture

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ Build up a collection of appropriate source material
- ◆ Collate the collected reference material
- ◆ Develop design concepts that show an understanding of the use of visual elements
- ◆ Produce a hand built ceramic article which shows understanding and application of basic hand building techniques

Evidence should be presented as: a single hand built article that is should be solid and well constructed, with supporting evidence in the form of a sketchbook, folder, CD Rom (or other appropriate format) containing collected source material and evidence of concept development.

The tutor should record evidence of compliance with safe working practices on a checklist.

Assessment guidelines

The chosen method of presenting source material should be one that the candidate is comfortable with and could include sketchbook, computer generated, three-dimensional, or a combination of formats.

Although all the visual elements listed in knowledge and/or skills should be taught, it is not expected that all will be evident in the design concepts that are produced.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Ceramics: Hand Built

Outcome 3

Demonstrate the application of a glaze and show understanding of the firing process

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Applying an even glaze
- ◆ Applying a glaze free of defects
- ◆ Applying a glaze of appropriate thickness
- ◆ Cleaning surplus glaze from base of article
- ◆ Firing process
- ◆ Health and Safety regulations

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ Successfully glaze a hand built ceramic article
- ◆ Carry out processes in accordance with current health and safety requirements
- ◆ Demonstrate understanding of the basic firing process

Evidence should be presented as a single hand built article that is glazed evenly and to an appropriate thickness, with no blemishes.

Supporting evidence that demonstrates an understanding of the firing process should be presented in written, oral or digital format.

The tutor should record compliance with current health and safety requirements on a checklist.

Assessment guidelines

A checklist could be used to evidence oral responses demonstrating the understanding of the firing process. Candidates could also provide responses to a series of questions about the firing process.

Outcomes 1 and 2 could be assessed holistically.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F1TR 34
Unit title: Ceramics: Hand Built
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Ceramics: Hand Built

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 part of a Group Award and can be delivered as a stand alone Unit. The Unit is designed to give candidates an introduction to hand built ceramics. It is intended that the Unit be a 'taster', giving candidates the opportunity to experience a variety of hand building techniques, design and produce their own hand built article and glaze and fire their piece of work. The finished glazed piece produced may be in any form and on any scale.

Outcome 1

Candidates should be encouraged to experiment with as many hand building techniques as time allows, and could use one or more techniques in each of their experimental samples. A variety of clays may be used if these are available. Candidates should be made aware of and then observed using safe working practices and the tutor should record this on a checklist.

Outcome 2

Emphasis should be placed on the creative process, with which most of the candidates should be familiar. Ideas and concepts should be researched and source material retained for assessment. Concepts for functional, decorative and/or sculptural ceramic pieces would be suitable for development. An interest in a specific area of art or design may influence the nature and structure of developmental and final pieces.

Outcome 3

For this Outcome candidates should successfully apply a glaze to their piece of work. However, the firing process may be carried out by the tutor. Candidates need to have an understanding of the principles of firing ceramics and be able to demonstrate this understanding. Relevant current Health and Safety legislation should be explained to the candidates and the tutor should record candidates' adherence to these, using a checklist.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit has been developed as part of the HNC/HND Art and Design Group Awards. It is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes. Opportunities may be taken to link or integrate with other aspects of the course and a thematic approach adopted for both delivery and assessment.

Outcome 1

Basic hand building techniques should be introduced to the candidate by tutor demonstration and time should be allowed for thorough experimentation. Videos, visits to ceramics studios and galleries should be encouraged.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Ceramics: Hand Built

Outcome 2

Candidates should be guided by the tutor towards suitable sources for a project of this type and exemplars may be useful at this stage. Research material should be gathered from a variety of sources. Developments and concepts should show clear links to source material.

Outcome 3

Finished design solution should show clear links to developments produced for Outcome 2. Glazing should be demonstrated to the candidate by the tutor, supported by a discussion of the problems that can arise during glazing. Evidence of successful glazing will be the glazed and fired item. Evidence for the assessment of understanding of the firing process may take the form of a suitable checklist or written/oral responses to questions.

Learning and teaching materials should be accessible and inclusive and where applicable positively promote equality and cultural diversity.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

All elements of the Core Skill of Problem Solving may be naturally developed and enhanced as candidates experiment in the design and production of functional, decorative or sculptural ceramic pieces. In order to develop concepts they have to investigate basic hand building techniques, researching and evaluating a range of factors which may affect the practical tasks. Source materials need to be analysed and decisions are made on personal design choices. Planning for efficient working practice will involve critical evaluation of appropriate resources, and timescales as well as consideration of health and safety issues.

Having developed their chosen concept, candidates must take a range of complex factors into account to successfully build and glaze their pieces to their design. At all stages of the design and production process they should be encouraged to review and refine creative solutions, possibly in discussion with the tutor and the class group. Identifying and justifying the use of forms and materials and sharing ideas with others would provide opportunities to enhance problem solving skills in a working environment. Reflective practice is not assessed, but evaluating the strengths and any weaknesses in the complete process could provide sources of ideas for future project work with ceramics.

Open learning

The practical nature of parts of this Unit would make it difficult to deliver on an open/distance learning basis.

For further information and advice please refer to the SQA document *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open 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. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

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In this Unit you will explore the process involved in the making of hand built ceramics. Following some initial experimentation you will go on to design, produce, glaze and finally, with the help of the tutor, fire a piece of hand built ceramics, which may be functional, decorative or both.

Throughout the Unit you will pay due care and attention to any health and safety requirements relevant to the chosen process.

For Outcome 1 you will investigate a variety of hand building techniques through the production of sample pieces.

For Outcome 2 you will collect and collate suitable source material and produce initial ideas for ceramic work. This may be functional, decorative or sculptural, which you will go on to develop. From these developments you will produce a piece of hand built ceramics.

For Outcome 3 you will glaze your piece of ceramics and then ensure that your work is fired and that you understand the firing process.

The Unit may also provide you with opportunities to develop a number of Core Skills, which could include Problem Solving (planning and organising, critical thinking), oral/written Communication, and IT skills.