



Higher National Graded Unit Specification

General information for centres

This Graded Unit has been validated as part of the Contemporary Art Practice HNC/D award. Centres are required to develop the assessment instrument in accordance with this validated specification. Centres wishing to use another type of Graded Unit or assessment instrument are required to submit proposals detailing the justification for change for validation.

Graded Unit title: Contemporary Art Practice: Graded Unit 2

Graded Unit code: FA6H 35

Type of Graded Unit: Project

Assessment Instrument: Practical Assignment

Publication date: August 2018

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 02

Unit purpose

This Graded Unit is designed to provide evidence that the candidate has achieved the following principal aims of the HNC/HND Contemporary Art Practice award:

- ◆ Demonstrate critical thinking, reflective, evaluative skills within contemporary art practice.
- ◆ Demonstrate advanced practical and transferable skills in contemporary art practice.
- ◆ Demonstrate sophisticated visual language through rigorous exploration of possibilities within drawing and visual thinking.
- ◆ Demonstrate an open-minded, critical and evaluative approach to study, investigation and research.
- ◆ Demonstrate a clear understanding of the influence and contribution made by art practice and practitioners within the 20th and 21st centuries.
- ◆ Demonstrate sound knowledge and understanding in selected disciplines within contemporary art practice.
- ◆ Prepare candidates from employment or articulation to HE institutions

General Information for Centres (cont)

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

It is recommended that the candidate should have completed or be in the process of completing the following Units relating to the above specific aims prior to undertaking this Graded Unit:

- ◆ *F1D5 35: Contemporary Art Practice: Project*
- ◆ *F1CM 35: Contemporary Art Practice*
- ◆ *F1CB 35: Exhibition of Contemporary Artform*

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 National 1 to Doctorates.*

Cluster Units

It is recommended that a minimum of one cluster is also completed prior to the commencement of the graded Unit.

Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Problem Solving, Communication and IT in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Assessment

This Graded Unit will be assessed by the use of a practical assignment. The practical assignment should provide the candidate with the opportunity to produce evidence that demonstrates she/he has met the aims of the Group Award that this Graded Unit covers.

The Graded Unit should be undertaken on an individual basis. Candidates should be given a set project which involves them developing a finished artwork and which demonstrates an understanding of contemporary art practice. The project must also demonstrate developmental processes and application of a variety of knowledge and skills within a determined time scale. The use of exemplar material is encouraged in order to aid assessment and achievement, and which indicates the national standard of achievement required for the Group Award.

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Conditions of Assessment

The candidate should be given a date for completion of the project. Key target points should be highlighted throughout the duration of the project, which will become deadlines. The instructions for the assessment task should be distributed to allow the candidates sufficient time to assimilate the details before carrying out the assessment task. During the time between the distribution of the assessment task instructions and the completion date, assessors may answer questions; provide clarification, guidance and reasonable assistance through a mentoring process. Candidates could take part in an interim critique leading to a final critique on completion. The assessment task should be marked as soon as possible after the completion date. The final grading given should reflect the quality of the candidate's evidence at the time of completion.

Reasonable assistance is the term used by SQA to describe the difference between providing candidates with some direction to generate the required evidence for assessment and providing too much support which would compromise the integrity of the assessment. Reasonable assistance is part of all learning and teaching processes.

In relation to the assessment of Higher National Project-based Graded Units, assessors may provide advice, clarification, and guidance during the time between the distribution of the project instructions and the completion date, ie at each stage of the project.

Remediation allows an assessor to clarify candidate responses, either by requiring a written amendment or by oral questioning, where there is a minor shortfall or omission in evidence requirements. In either case, such instances must be formally noted by the assessor, either in writing or recording, and be made available to the internal and external verifier.

In relation to Higher National Project-based Graded Units, candidates must be given the opportunity for remediation at each stage of the project.

The evidence for a Higher National Project-based Graded Unit is generated over time and involves three distinct stages, each of which has to be achieved before the next is undertaken. This means that any re-assessment of stages must be undertaken before proceeding to the next stage. The overall grade is derived from the total number of marks *across all* sections, and should reflect the ability of the candidate to work autonomously and the amount of support required. In relation to Higher National Project-based Graded Units, candidates who have failed any stage of the project and have been unable to provide the necessary evidence through remediation must be given the opportunity for re-assessment of that stage.

Any candidate who has failed their graded unit or wishes to upgrade their award must be given a re-assessment opportunity, or in exceptional circumstances, two re-assessment opportunities. In the case of project-based graded units, this must be done using a substantially different project.

The final grading given must reflect the quality of the candidate's evidence at the time of the completion of the graded unit. Candidates must be awarded the highest grade achieved — whether through first submission or through any re-assessment, remediation, and/or reasonable assistance provided.

Higher National Graded Unit Specification: Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

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Instructions for designing the assessment task

The assessment task is a project. The project undertaken by the candidate must be a complex task which involves:

- ◆ variables which are complex or unfamiliar
- ◆ relationships which need to be clarified
- ◆ a context which may be familiar or unfamiliar to the candidate

The assessment task must require the candidate to:

- ◆ analyse the task and decide on a course of action for undertaking the project
- ◆ plan and organise work and carry it through to completion
- ◆ reflect on what has been done and draw conclusions for the future
- ◆ produce evidence of meeting the aims which this Graded Unit has been designed to cover

The project must involve a practical assignment culminating in a finished artwork, and candidates must demonstrate the application of the skills and knowledge that fall within the context of contemporary art practice.

Higher National Graded Unit Specification: Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

This assessment instrument should not be concerned exclusively with practical activity – candidates are provided with a task that allows them to prepare, plan and demonstrate creative skills.

The candidate will be asked to:

- ◆ develop a brief
- ◆ produce a statement of intent in response to the brief
- ◆ demonstrate the ability to integrate research into creative solutions
- ◆ produce an artwork to an acceptable professional standard
- ◆ evaluate the artwork

The practical assignment and the way it is planned should ensure candidates undertake individual research and investigation in relation to the brief. The brief should create opportunities for the candidate to express and develop their own creativity.

The recommended approach to the project is one that requires candidates to integrate skills to produce a creative solution to a project brief. The candidate should be asked to research, consider and develop creative solutions to produce a finished artwork of a professional standard.

Each candidate must provide his or her individual responses to the brief and assessors must be satisfied that the work has been completed by the individual candidate. Evidence should be presented in a form that contains referenced, annotated visual material or as an oral presentation / commentary with accompanying visual material. The work may be produced using either traditional, contemporary digital media or combination thereof.

Guidance on grading candidates

Candidates who meet the minimum Evidence Requirements will have their achievement graded as C — competent, or A — highly competent or B somewhere between A and C. The grade related criteria to be used to judge candidate performance for this Graded Unit is specified in the following table.

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Grade A	Grade C
Is a seamless, coherent piece of work which:	Is a co-ordinated piece of work which:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Evidences thorough understanding and significant development within the three stages of the project ◆ Demonstrates comprehensive interpretation of the brief ◆ Shows insight and a high level of creativity ◆ Is highly relevant to the tasks associated with the brief ◆ Demonstrate a range of extended concepts ◆ Demonstrates sophisticated use and comprehension of language in terms of accuracy and technical content ◆ Demonstrates competency in the safe handling of materials, tools and equipment ◆ Demonstrates consolidates and integrates a breadth of technical skills in the use and application of materials ◆ Demonstrates an advanced application of evaluative, critical and reflective competencies ◆ Meets agreed deadline without supported time management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Evidences understanding and development within the three stages of the project ◆ Demonstrates satisfactory interpretation of the brief ◆ Is relevant to the tasks associated with the brief ◆ Demonstrate a range of concepts ◆ Uses language which is adequate in terms of accuracy and technical content ◆ Demonstrates competency in the safe handling of materials, tools and equipment ◆ Demonstrates technical skills in the use and application of materials ◆ Demonstrates the application of evaluative skills ◆ Meets agreed deadline with guided time management

The project will be marked out of 100. Assessors will mark each stage of the project, taking into account the criteria outlined. The marks will then be aggregated to arrive at an overall mark for the project. Assessors will then assign an overall grade to the candidate for this graded Unit based on the following grade boundaries.

- A = 70% — 100%
- B = 60% — 69%
- C = 50% — 59%

Note: the candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified below for each stage of the project in order to achieve the Graded Unit.

Higher National Graded Unit Specification: Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Evidence Requirements

The project consists of three stages: Planning; Developing; and Evaluating. The following table specifies the minimum evidence required to pass each stage.

Note: The candidate must achieve **all of the minimum evidence** specified below for each stage of the project in order to pass the Graded Unit.

Project Stage	Minimum Evidence Requirements
Stage 1 — Planning	<p>Candidates should produce a statement of intent in response to a self generated brief which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ any information gathered to clarify the brief ◆ research which demonstrates knowledge of current practice and developments in the area of contemporary art ◆ selection of materials, methods and resources required to undertake the practical assignment ◆ analysis of the stages involved and the timescales for completion of each stage <p><i>The planning stage is worth 15% of the marks.</i></p> <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Planning stage</i></p>
Stage 2 — Developing	<p>Candidates should develop, produce and present artwork which demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ability to refine and translate research into conceptual development ◆ investigation into a range of possible alternative outcomes ◆ use of a range of materials, methods and techniques appropriate to the brief ◆ ability to refine and translate research into developed artwork ◆ creative response to the brief ◆ presentation <p>An annotated visual record of the process, underpinning the activity should demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ research and development ◆ documentation of the process ◆ alternative creative solutions ◆ mentoring feedback <p><i>The development section is worth 65% of the marks.</i></p> <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Developing stage.</i></p>

Higher National Graded Unit Specification: Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Project Stage	Minimum Evidence Requirements
Stage 3 — Evaluating	<p>The evaluation stage should focus on the effectiveness of the approach taken by the candidate and include references to all stages of the activity from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ analysis of the brief ◆ planning and organisation of the project ◆ carrying the project through to completion ◆ the outcome of the project <p>Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:</p> <p>Evaluate the Project</p> <p>The evaluation process should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ review the development and production of artwork ◆ reflect on personal response ◆ identify strategies for development ◆ analyse use of materials ◆ reflect on presentation skills <p>Candidates should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ explain the relevance of the evidence and its effectiveness to the project ◆ include references to any modifications during the course of the project or alternative approaches considered ◆ justify recommendations <p><i>The evaluation section is worth 20% of the marks.</i></p> <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Evaluating stage.</i></p>

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Support Notes

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

As this Unit is candidate initiated and candidate driven, it requires only guidance and direction on the part of the lecturer. Primarily, the role of lecturer is that of mentor. The expectation is that the candidate works independently in a creative, expressive and professional manner, displaying time management skills in order to secure successful completion of the Unit.

Each of the three stages of the Unit should demonstrate a clear indication of thorough understanding on the part of the candidate, at each stage and in equal measure. Problem solving skills, analysis of requirements and evaluative abilities should be evident.

Equality and inclusion

This unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Update of Conditions of Assessment.	03/08/18

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General Information for Candidates

Graded Unit Title: Contemporary Art Practice: Graded Unit 2

This Graded Unit is designed as a project based culmination of all skills learnt, giving you an opportunity to demonstrate competencies in contemporary art practice. Completion of this Unit will result in the ability to:

- ◆ Utilise a range of vocational skills within the context of contemporary art practice
- ◆ Utilise specialist technical skills and knowledge
- ◆ Conduct independent project work involving the integration and application of a variety of skills within a determined time scale
- ◆ Develop an awareness of ethical and professional issues within contemporary art practice
- ◆ Develop understanding of interdisciplinary connections within contemporary art practice