



Higher National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Using a Single Camera in a Television Production Team

Unit code: H4AB 35

Superclass: KF

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Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to develop learners' skills in relation to the role of camera operator within a production team. The learner will have to communicate effectively with a crew during the production. It will also allow the learner to develop advanced camera techniques within the context of a production. This should further develop learners' technical problem solving skills and creative skills.

Outcomes

On successful completion of the Unit the learner will be able to:

- 1 Contribute to the planning of a production.
- 2 Liaise with crew on a single camera shoot.
- 3 Operate a camera on one full programme to an advanced standard.

Credit points and level

2 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 8: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8)

Recommended entry to the Unit

Access to this Unit will be at the discretion of the Centre. However, it is recommended that learners should have some prior knowledge and skills in camera operation. This may be evidenced by possession of the HN Unit *Camera: An Introduction*.

Higher National Unit specification: General information (cont)

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Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the Support Notes for this Unit specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

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.

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

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards

Unit title: Using a Single Camera in a Television Production Team

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

Outcome 1

Contribute to the planning of a production.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Role and responsibilities of a camera operator during pre-production
- ◆ Selection of appropriate equipment to meet production requirements
- ◆ Liaise with crew during pre-production

Outcome 2

Liaise with crew on a single camera shoot.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Obtain, prepare and return equipment
- ◆ Role and responsibilities of a camera operator during production
- ◆ Standard production terminology

Outcome 3

Operate a camera on one full programme to an advanced standard.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Advanced camera techniques
- ◆ Advanced camera principles
- ◆ Analysis and resolution of shot problems
- ◆ Current Health and Safety regulations

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Learners will need evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can contribute to the planning and production of a programme while undertaking the role of camera operator. Learners will need to provide recorded footage which demonstrates advanced camera techniques and which meets the requirements of a given brief. The footage should demonstrate a consistently acceptable aesthetic and technical standard. The footage will demonstrate the learner's ability to:

- ◆ Select and set up appropriate camera equipment.
- ◆ Communicate effectively with crew during the production process.
- ◆ Use standard production terminology.
- ◆ Follow current health and safety guidelines.
- ◆ Analyse shots and correct as appropriate.

Evidenced by:

- ◆ Footage
- ◆ Storyboards and/or shot list
- ◆ Location recce.forms
- ◆ Camera logs



Higher National Unit Support Notes

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Unit Support Notes are offered as guidance and 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 purpose of this Unit is to enable learners to acquire the skills necessary to undertake the role of a camera operator within a production team. Learners will be expected to produce material to meet the requirements of a production brief.

The emphasis of the Unit should be on achieving the best possible quality of camera footage under direction and within the context of a production team.

Emphasis is on the skills, roles and behaviours expected within a Production Team.

During the delivery of the Unit, it is expected that learners should learn about advanced concepts of camera operation: This would include terminology, key principles of camera operation and dynamic relationships. The following list is offered as guidance only. Centres and learners are encouraged to add to this list.

Terminology

Exposure, iris, f-stop, aperture, gain, shutter, shutter speed, strobing, dots-per-inch, white balance, 3.2K, 5.6K, eye-line, headspace, looking space, walking space, continuity, similarity, dis-similarity, composition, framing, mis-en-scene, jump cut, axial cut, pull focus, throw focus, follow focus, soft focus, back focus, tilt, crab, track, elevate, pan, whip-pan, focal length, mid-shot (MS), long shot (LS), medium-close-up (MCU), wide shot (WS), close-up (CU) big close-up (BCU), general view (GV), point of view (POV), presenter to camera (PTC), focal length, depth of field, aspect ratio.

Key principles

The illusion of motion, especially at 1/50 second, the rule of thirds; crossing the line/the 180 degree rule; the 30 degree rule; general compositional principles, eg symmetry, depth, etc.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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Dynamics relationships

The relationship between depth-of-field and focal-length; the relationship between focal length and angle-of-view; the relationship between F-stop and Iris; the relationship between shutter speed and exposure; the relationship between shutter speed and the effects of strobing; the relationship between image quality and dpi; the relationship between image quality and file size/storage space.

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

This Unit is designed to be practical in nature and, as such, the keeping of an accurate production file containing all relevant paperwork will be an important part of assessment evidence. The learner's recorded footage must also be retained as evidence. It is important that learners are given a realistic production brief which would be relevant in the real world of television.

Guidance on approaches to assessment of this Unit

Evidence can be generated using different types of instruments of assessment. The following are suggestions only. There may be other methods that would be more suitable to learners.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of centre devised assessments would help to ensure that the national standard is being met. Where learners experience a range of assessment methods, this helps them to develop different skills that should be transferable to work or further and higher education.

It is suggested that this assessment can be carried out as part of complete productions. The footage acquired will be assessed along with pre/production documentation. This Unit is intended to follow on from the Unit *Camera: An Introduction*. As such the footage and paperwork for this Unit should clearly demonstrate that the learner has acquired advanced camera knowledge and skill as outlined in the the knowledge and skills section.

Opportunities for e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

Depending on the learning and teaching approaches adopted, the Unit provides opportunities for developing two components of the Core Skill of *Communication*, two components of *Problem Solving*, one component of *Numeracy* and one component of *Working with Others*.

Communication: Oral Communication at SCQF level 6

Learners will work as part of a production team developing a broad range of skills while communicating with other members of the team. They will need to convey information and ideas to ensure they achieve the shot (s) intended. Learners may also contribute to classroom debates and discussions all of which will require them to use vocabulary, register and sentence structure appropriate to the TV industry.

Communication: Written Communication (Reading) at SCQF level 6

In order to complete the Unit, learners will have to become familiar with the technical and theoretical aspects of camera work. This will involve research into a range of cameras, related equipment (eg lenses, filters, mounts etc) and camera techniques. This will require them to read written text much of which may involve technical and complex language.

Problem Solving: Critical Thinking at SCQF level 6

In order to complete the Unit, learners will be expected to use advanced camera techniques in order to overcome routine problems (eg how to achieve optimum exposure, how to achieve reduced depth of field, etc), and will have the chance to put some of the theories (of camera work, cinematography and videography) into practice while expanding both skill set and knowledge. The learner will have to compare and consider the choices available while operating the camera. The learner will gain an understanding and appreciation of the relationship between camera controls and end result (eg the selection of focal length and resulting depth of field) while seeking to obtain a visually creative image. The learner will evaluate recorded material and decide on the effectiveness of making adjustments to camera/equipment settings.

Problem Solving: Planning and Organising at SCQF level 6

In order to complete the Unit, learners will have to plan their activities. This could be (i) logistical planning (ii) technical planning or (iii) creative planning. So for example, before starting the task, learners will need to schedule their availability. Likewise, they may need to choose a specific camera to achieve a desired affect. Also, learners may need to plan a series of camera shots that display an understanding of continuity with the production process, etc.

Numeracy: Using Number at SCQF level 5

The learner will develop analytical/technical skills regarding issues such as F-stop setting, shutter speed, gain settings, resolution (eg dots per inch), aspect ratios etc. The learner should discuss these issues in pre-production and record camera settings during production.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Using a Single Camera in a Television Production Team

Working with Others: Working Co-operatively with Others at SCQF level 6

The learner will be working as part of a production team and is likely to be integrating other associated Units such as sound, lighting and editing. During this phase the learner will collaborate with others while considering individual preferences, working methods and shared goals within a task. Opportunities will arise for the learner to review and discuss their own performance with the aim of becoming more efficient and competent in the technical area.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for learners

Unit title: Using a Single Camera in a Television Production Team

This section will help you decide whether this is the Unit for you by explaining what the Unit is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the Unit and opportunities for further learning and employment.

This Unit is intended to allow you to develop key skills in relation to the role of camera operator as part of a production team. You will have to communicate with a crew during pre-production and production tasks.

The Unit is designed to develop your camera techniques and, as such, it is expected that you will already have developed skills and knowledge of camera techniques through, for example, achievement of the HN Unit *Camera: an Introduction*. You will develop your camera techniques within the context of a full programme production. This should further develop technical problem solving skills and creative skills.

On completion of the Unit you should be able to:

- ◆ Contribute to the planning of a production.
- ◆ Liaise with a crew on a single camera shoot.
- ◆ Operate a camera to an advanced standard on one full programme.

The Unit provides opportunities to develop Core Skills in *Communication, Working With Others* and *Problem Solving*.

This Unit is an optional Unit in the HNC/HND *Creative Industries: Television*. If you are undertaking the Unit as part of these awards, there may be opportunities for progression to a relevant degree programme such as the BA TV on successful achievement of the HNC/HND.