

National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT **Art and Design: Visual Arts Study (Advanced Higher)**

CODE DV3G 13

COURSE Art and Design: Expressive (Advanced Higher)

SUMMARY

In this Unit, candidates will develop the ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of selected areas of the Visual Arts in historical and contemporary contexts, and develop, explain and communicate personal opinions and judgements. Candidates may study the Unit as part of a general education, for vocational reasons or for personal interest.

This Unit has been designed as an optional Unit of the Advanced Higher Art and Design Enquiry: Expressive Course, but may also be used as a freestanding Unit.

OUTCOMES

1. Plan a study of an area of the Visual Arts which is of personal interest and relevance.
2. Research, investigate and analyse the selected area of the Visual Arts.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would normally be expected to have attained one of the following:

- ◆ Higher Art and Design or its Units.

Administrative Information

Superclass: JA

Publication date: March 2006

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

UNIT Art and Design: Visual Arts Study (Advanced Higher)

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Advanced Higher (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.*

CORE SKILLS

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

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

UNIT Art and Design: Visual Arts Study (Advanced Higher)

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 the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

OUTCOME 1

Plan a study of an area of the Visual Arts which is of personal interest and relevance.

Performance Criteria

- (a) a) Select and explain the personal relevance of a specific area of the Visual Arts.
- (b) Describe the perceived potential of the specific area of the Visual Arts.

OUTCOME 2

Research, investigate and analyse the selected area of the Visual Arts.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Show personal investigation and research by presenting clear, relevant, accurate and extensive factual information about the selected area of study.
- (b) Analyse and critically evaluate the work from the area of study using appropriate vocabulary and coherent argument to communicate personal judgments.
- (c) Demonstrate clear understanding of art practice within the chosen area of study.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

UNIT Art and Design: Visual Arts Study (Advanced Higher)

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved both the Outcomes and all of the Performance Criteria have been met. The candidate will produce work which is collated, organised and presented in a logical way under supervised conditions. Assessment will be carried out at a formal review of the work which must include:

- ◆ a plan explaining the content, context and possible approaches to the study of the chosen area of the Visual Arts
- ◆ work in the form of notes, cuttings, sketches or recorded information which identifies the chosen area of study within a Visual Arts context
- ◆ extensive factual information on the selected area of study
- ◆ work demonstrating the analysis and evaluation of the chosen area of study; this must include reasoned, coherent arguments and appropriate vocabulary; the analysis and evaluation can be supported by cuttings, sketches and diagrams
- ◆ integrated illustrated and annotated studies which demonstrate an understanding of art practice.

A completed assessor checklist is required which records the candidate's progress. The assessor must be satisfied that the evidence submitted is the work of individual candidates. Although group work may be used a learning and teaching approach, any work which contributes to a candidate's assessment evidence must be carried out on an individual basis to ensure authenticity.

The National Assessment Bank item (NAB) for this Unit illustrates the standard and provides exemplification of the type of work suitable for this level. An assessor checklist is included in the NAB. Centres wishing to develop their own assessments should refer to the NAB to ensure a comparable standard.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Art and Design: Visual Arts Study (Advanced Higher)

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 specific content of this Unit should be based on the areas of personal interest selected by the candidate, researching and investigating movements and/or specific artists in relation to the Visual Arts. Movements and/or artists which may be selected by candidates for investigation are wide-ranging but examples of movements such as the Renaissance, Neoclassicism, Romanticism, Impressionism, Expressionism, Fauvism, Modernism, Cubism, Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, Contemporary Art or any significant artists either historical or contemporary may be considered for study.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

The candidate should have the opportunity to explore and consider appropriate areas of personal interest allowing them to engage in active research and investigation. This may promote awareness, knowledge and understanding which will allow them to formulate, present and justify personal views and judgements. This could include visiting outside agencies, galleries or exploring the Internet and communicating directly with artists.

Candidates can use a range of approaches in the production of evidence for this Unit such as an integrated, annotated and illustrated study, purely written or word processed study, PowerPoint or audio visual presentation, which may be developed using a software package. The study may be presented in a variety of formats such as sketchbook, notebook, presentation sheets, CD or disc.

They could, as appropriate, consider relationships to:

- ◆ art practice through, for example, the study of the figure, landscape, still life and so forth.
- ◆ social, political or religious influences
- ◆ movements in historical and contemporary categories such as the Renaissance, Expressionism, Cubism, Realism, Post Modernism and Contemporary Art
- ◆ the work of significant visual artists.

When undertaken as part of the Advanced Higher *Art and Design: Expressive Course*, *Art and Design: Visual Arts Study* should be linked directly to the Expressive Enquiry Unit. Thus, the Course will comprise the single integrated area of study:

- ◆ Expressive Enquiry with *Art and Design: Visual Arts Study*.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Art and Design: Visual Arts Study (Advanced Higher)

Art and Design: Visual Arts Study undertaken in conjunction with the Expressive Enquiry Unit should reflect:

- ◆ the context, area and/or theme selected
- ◆ the nature and purposes of the Enquiry
- ◆ the integration of Visual Arts Study with the Enquiry.

Integration of the Design Study with the Design Enquiry will allow each to inform and support the other. Research undertaken in connection with one Unit may provide a starting point for, or inform, the other.

Whether this Unit is delivered alone or as part of the Course it is important that candidates engage with investigation and interpretation of a personal response to a particular area, aspect or chosen subject.

The extent and depth of a candidate's interest and involvement in the chosen area or theme should lead to work beyond the centre. It should be particularly valuable for the candidate to develop and maintain a personal research file. Information should be collected in visual and other forms. A file of roughs, notes, jottings, etc. should reflect the candidate's interests, ideas and developing thinking.

Personal research files or similar will be accepted for assessment.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Candidates should be aware of assessment requirements and arrangements. Formative assessment in the form of candidate/tutor reviews may be used to assist candidates in their work. Teachers/lecturers may find it most useful to use the checklist to record candidates' progress throughout the Unit rather than leaving this until the end of the Unit.

Teachers/lecturers should assist candidates to prepare for assessment by advising and guiding them in the selection of work and how to present it logically and coherently. Candidates must however be given autonomy in making the final selection and presenting their work for assessment, and should feel confident in doing so.

The selection of material for assessment and review between the candidate and assessor should be conducted at an appropriate time, which is likely to be towards the end of the Unit.

CANDIDATES WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

This Unit Specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. 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 Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs (SQA, September 2004)*.