



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Photography: Basic Studio Techniques (SCQF level 6)

CODE F51V 12

SUMMARY

This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to acquire a broad based knowledge of basic studio equipment and skills and techniques used in the production of studio based still life photographic images. Candidates will apply this acquired knowledge of skills and techniques in the production of their own still life images which will be evaluated.

The Unit is suitable for candidates who wish to obtain a basic knowledge of studio based still life images.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Research studio based still life photography.
- 2 Produce still life photographic images to a given brief.
- 3 Evaluate the finished images.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would benefit from having had some experience in basic photography.

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Higher level (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6*).

**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.*

Administrative Information

Superclass: KE

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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

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CORE SKILLS

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

The Unit provides opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of the following Core Skills:

- ◆ Information and Communication Technology (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ Problem Solving (SCQF level 5)

These opportunities are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit Specification.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

UNIT Photography: Basic Studio Techniques (SCQF level 6)

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

Research studio based still life photography.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Select a range of studio based photographic images of still life.
- (b) Describe clearly the background and composition of the still life in each of the chosen images.
- (c) Describe accurately the lighting equipment used in each of the chosen still life images.
- (d) Describe clearly the technique used in each of the chosen still life images.
- (e) Explain the aesthetic qualities of the chosen still life images.

OUTCOME 2

Produce still life photographic images to a given brief.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Select the correct camera and lighting equipment for each still life image in response to the given brief.
- (b) Choose a suitable background and position the objects appropriately for each still life photographic image in response to the given brief.
- (c) Use the correct lighting equipment to create a range of still life photographic images in response to the given brief.
- (d) Select and present the finished still life images.

OUTCOME 3

Evaluate the finished images.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the finished still life photographic images.
- (b) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the presentation format chosen for each of the still life photographic images.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria for this Unit.

Written and/or oral recorded evidence and product evidence is required. The evidence will be produced under open-book conditions.

Candidates will produce a folio of work which will contain:

- ◆ an annotated workbook which contains a range of gathered studio based still life images
- ◆ five finished studio based still life photographic images
- ◆ an evaluation of three of the finished images submitted

The evidence required for each Outcome is as follows:

Outcome 1

Written and/or oral recorded evidence and product evidence to include five different studio based still life photographic images which candidates have personally selected is required.

The range of images selected must:

- ◆ reflect two different subject areas
- ◆ be studio based
- ◆ show the use of a range of techniques and equipment in studio based still life photography

It would be appropriate for this evidence to be in the format of a traditional or electronic annotated workbook.

Outcome 2

Product evidence in the form of five finished studio based still life images which the candidate has produced on their own at appropriate points throughout the Unit.

The candidate must work to a clear, given brief which details that the finished images must:

- ◆ be studio based and from a minimum of two subject areas
- ◆ demonstrate their ability to create technically accurate and aesthetically pleasing studio based still life images
- ◆ demonstrate their ability to effectively compose the objects

It would be appropriate for this evidence to be presented in the format of traditional prints or electronic display or digital print. The minimum print size should be 6 x 4" (10 x 15 cm).

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 3

Written and/or oral recorded evidence which candidates have produced under supervised, open-book conditions is required to demonstrate achievement of the Performance Criteria.

The candidate will select three finished still life images from Outcome 2 for evaluation. This evaluation should be approximately 400–500 words.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Photography: Basic Studio Techniques (SCQF level 6)

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 Unit is designed to enable the candidate with limited experience of photography to gain experience in basic studio practice. The Outcomes will allow the candidate to research still life photography in a studio and apply the acquired knowledge of skills, use of equipment and techniques in the production of their own creative, studio based still life photography. The Unit encourages the candidate to be reflective about their own work.

Health and safety guidance relating to studio practice and location work should be given. The candidate will be expected to adopt safe working practices at all times.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Many of the skills achieved in this Unit will be transferable to other photography Units. The candidate should be given the opportunity to gather relevant information on their own and should be encouraged to make use of relevant websites and other resources.

Outcome 1

The candidate should be provided with a comprehensive range of suitable examples of studio based photography of still life objects from which to select. The five selected examples could come from magazines, books or web based images. Guidance should be given as to the type of image that would be appropriate if the candidate is sourcing their own material and it could be useful to provide a series of questions to assist the candidate in having a direction and purpose to their research and annotations about the selected five images.

The intention is that the candidate will gain technical experience and knowledge of different approaches taken to studio based still life images by describing each still life image gathered in terms of lighting, photographic techniques and aesthetic quality.

Outcome 2

The teacher/lecturer should demonstrate the range of equipment in a studio and techniques and skills appropriate for still life photography. Use of limited depth of field to emphasise objects is an aspect of photography that should be introduced to the candidate.

Candidates should be provided with a brief which outlines all the requirements and they should have a clear idea of what they are trying to produce before they commence the assignment.

There is no requirement for ‘professional’ studio lighting and candidates can make use of existing window light and reflectors or angle poised lamps or any other source of artificial lighting.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Candidates should be encouraged to make use of a wide range of objects and materials to provide a background for the composition of the still lifes. For example an everyday object such as a cheese grater could be photographed in a number of different ways to illustrate its different qualities — each photograph producing an aesthetically pleasing image. At least two different objects should be chosen.

Candidates should be encouraged to examine their chosen objects from different viewpoints to determine the most appropriate composition to create a technically correct and aesthetically pleasing photographic image. It should be emphasised that the purpose of the Unit is not purely to acquire the skills just to record the image but also to consider the creative aspect of their work.

Opportunities for the candidate to discuss their work and their practical assignments as a group would be advantageous. Regular reviews of the candidate's work and ideas to apply the research to their own image making would be beneficial.

Outcome 3

This Outcome is designed to allow the candidate to reflect on their work and identify and evaluate strengths and weaknesses of the application of skills and techniques acquired throughout the process to their own studio based still life photography. There could be opportunities to identify strategies for future development of studio based photographic skills.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

In this Unit the candidate will be researching a variety of studio based still life photography, following a brief to produce their own studio based still life images and evaluating their own photographic skills. This offers ideal opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving*.

If using electronic formats for their still life images, candidates would have the opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Information and Communication Technology*.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

The Evidence Requirements provide specific requirements for this Unit assessment. They clearly set out what is to be addressed by candidates and what evidence teacher/lecturers should look for.

Outcome 1

An appropriate instrument of assessment is a practical assignment resulting in the production of an annotated workbook.

Outcome 2

An appropriate instrument of assessment is a practical assignment resulting in the production of five studio based still life photographs.

Much of the evidence should arise out of the photo shoots but may also include reflective statements made by the candidate on his/her experience related to the work produced and previous research.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Centres must ensure the folio is the candidate's own work.

The five studio based still life photographs produced should show technical skill, and aesthetic judgment.

Outcome 3

A suitable instrument of assessment could be a written and/or oral recorded report with a suggested word count of approximately 400–500 words.

Teachers/lecturers may wish to provide a pro forma for this assessment.

This Outcome is designed to encourage the candidate's critical analysis and self evaluation of their own work.

Opportunities for the use of 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 communications technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

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)*.