



## National Unit Specification: general information.

**Unit title:** Art and Design: Ceramics: Hand-built Forms (SCQF level 6)

**Unit Code:** F9W8 12

**Superclass:** JR

**Publication date:** September 2010

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

### Summary

This Unit is designed to develop skills and techniques which will enable candidates to develop their knowledge of hand-built studio ceramics.

Candidates will produce research and investigative work before developing ceramic work which meets the demands of a brief.

This Unit is suitable for candidates who:

- ◆ wish to extend their knowledge of studio ceramics
- ◆ are undertaking a general programme of Art and Design Units

### Outcomes

- 1 Research a given brief for hand-built ceramic forms.
- 2 Develop ideas for hand-built forms to a given brief.
- 3 Apply decoration and glazing to hand-built ceramic forms.
- 4 Load kiln for firing.

### Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre it would be beneficial if candidates had some prior experience of three dimensional (3D) ceramic skills.

## **National Unit Specification: general information (cont)**

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### **Credit points and level**

2 National Unit credits at SCQF level 6 (12 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.*

### **Core Skills**

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

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

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards**

**Unit title:** Art and Design: Ceramics: Hand-built Forms (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 a given brief for hand-built ceramic forms.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify the main requirements of the brief.
- (b) Select relevant research sources, techniques and processes.
- (c) Collate visual research material with development potential.
- (d) Produce initial development ideas in two dimensions (2D) for hand-built ceramic forms.

### **Outcome 2**

Develop ideas for hand-built forms to the given brief.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Select a variety of research material with identified development potential.
- (b) Develop a range of initial ideas in 3D in response to the brief.
- (c) Use selected media, materials and techniques effectively.
- (d) Refine selected ideas for the production of hand-built forms.
- (e) Produce final hand-built forms in response to the brief.

### **Outcome 3**

Apply decoration and glazing technique to hand-built ceramic forms.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Select appropriate decorative and glazing techniques.
- (b) Prepare, glaze and decorate ceramic forms for firing.
- (c) Apply selected glazing and decorative materials and techniques effectively and safely.

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)**

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### **Outcome 4**

Load kiln for firing.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Prepare the kiln for firing.
- (b) Load kiln taking due account of positioning, spacing, stacking, and boxing.
- (c) Adhere to current health and safety requirements.

#### **Evidence requirements for this Unit**

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

Written and/or oral evidence and product evidence must be produced to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved all of the Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Candidates will produce a folio that includes:

- ◆ collated annotated and visual research material in response to the brief
- ◆ collated visual research material that identifies and develops design elements and decorative/glazing techniques (2D)
- ◆ development studies in 3D demonstrating the investigation and applied use of selected media, materials and techniques
- ◆ decorated and glazed hand-built ceramic forms prepared for firing

The evidence for this Unit will be produced under open-book conditions throughout delivery of the Unit, with progress monitored by the teacher/lecturer on an ongoing basis.

The folio of work may be presented in a sketchbook, workbook or display board format and all assessment evidence retained along with a copy of the brief and an assessor observation checklist for Outcome 4. A copy of the brief and assignment must be retained for assessment.

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## **National Unit Specification: support notes**

**Unit title:** Art and Design: Ceramics: Hand-built Forms (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 80 hours.

### **Guidance on the content and context for this Unit**

This Unit is an optional Unit of the National Certificate in Art and Design at SCQF level 6. It can also be taken as a free standing Unit.

The purpose of the Unit is to introduce candidates to the creative art process of designing, creating, decorating, glazing and preparing hand-built ceramic form(s) for firing. The candidates will work from a brief which will allow for individual creativity and development. Health and safety must be adhered to at all times.

### **Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit**

This Unit introduces candidates to the methods and processes used by ceramicists in the production and decoration of hand-built forms.

The following information gives further clarification regarding the context in which the Outcomes and Performance Criteria are to be achieved.

#### **Outcome 1**

Candidates will be given a brief to develop designs suitable for hand-built ceramic form(s). The candidates are required to collect and select source materials based on a chosen theme and to develop designs for decorated hand-built forms. Research into different techniques for decoration and experiments on clay should be encouraged so that ideas develop into functional pottery or sculptural forms. Demonstrations should be given to support candidates in the development of skills and techniques.

#### **Outcome 2**

Candidates will continue to work from the brief on a practical assignment which will help develop skills, techniques and ideas through constructing hand-made forms. The candidate will be required to use various construction and forming techniques to construct a range of pots or ceramic pieces. The pots may be unrelated developments that explore the potential of hand-built pottery or may be related pots based on one thematic development. The pots may be functional or non-functional. Candidates should be supported by demonstrations to help them understand the processes involved.

The development process can include drawings on paper, and clay samples and maquettes. Experimental use of slabs, coils and pinch pottery should be developed — draped slabs, coils for sculpture, coils in press moulds, impressions from found objects etc.

## National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Art and Design: Ceramics: Hand-built Forms (SCQF level 6)

### Outcome 3

Candidates should demonstrate awareness of the range of decorative techniques and glazing available through the production of experimental preliminary designs. The designs may be prepared on paper, bisque tiles or raw clay with drawing materials appropriate to the medium used. Demonstrations may be used to illustrate the range and techniques used to decorate ceramic forms. Candidates must select appropriate design and techniques to decorate and glaze their ceramics using a range of techniques.

The finished 3D forms should be presented and photographed and included in the portfolio.

### Outcome 4

Candidates should demonstrate their understanding of the firing process through preparing the ceramic forms for firing, handling the art work and stacking the kilns effectively. Appropriate props and bats, slits, saddles, and kiln placing powder should be used. Knowledge of bat wash and glaze firing cycle should be demonstrated. Candidate understanding relating to the technical processes used when firing glazed work should be evident. Glaze defects such as crazing, crawling, pinholing, running, and shivering should be discussed.

## Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Candidates may have opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Communication* through teacher/lecturer led group discussions and through commentary when researching ceramic processes, techniques and materials.

Candidates may have opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* during the investigation and production of the ceramic forms.

## Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

A suitable instrument of assessment for this Unit would be a practical exercise. The Outcomes may be assessed on an individual basis or a combined staged assessment can be used to cover all four Outcomes.

The brief should clearly indicate the scope of the activity, give guidelines to candidates on working to realistic timescales for completion of the key activities and should be constructed to provide candidates with some flexibility of choice and personalisation of the topic.

The teacher/lecturer must be satisfied that the evidence submitted is the work of the individual candidates. Although group work may be used as a learning and teaching approach, any work that contributes to a candidate's assessment evidence must be carried out on an individual basis to ensure authenticity. An assessor observation checklist should be used to record candidate performance in Outcome 4.

## **National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)**

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### **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 Communication 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)*.

### **Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs**

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)

## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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