



National Unit Specification: general information

Unit title: Art and Design: Ceramics: Combined Techniques (SCQF level 6)

Unit code: F9W9 12

Superclass: JR

Publication date: September 2010

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Summary

This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop skills and techniques in order to investigate a combination of thrown and hand-built techniques in the production of ceramic forms.

Candidates will produce research and investigative work before developing ceramic work which meet the demands of a given 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 ceramics.
- 2 Develop ideas for ceramics to a given brief.
- 3 Use ceramic decoration and glazing techniques.
- 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 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

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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 ceramics.

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 design concepts for the brief.

Outcome 2

Develop ideas for ceramics to a given brief.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Select a variety of research material with identified development potential.
- (b) Produce and modify a range of forms combining thrown, modelled and hand-built techniques.
- (c) Use selected media, materials and techniques effectively.
- (d) Produce final ceramic forms.

Outcome 3

Use ceramic decoration and glazing techniques.

Performance Criteria

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

Outcome 4

Load kiln for firing.

Performance Criteria

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

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.

Written and/or oral evidence and product evidence should 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 relating to the brief that uses and develops design elements and the use of decorative combined techniques.
- ◆ Development studies in 3D demonstrating the investigation and applied use of selected media, materials, and construction techniques.
- ◆ Decorated and glazed ceramic forms prepared for firing using a minimum of three techniques.

The evidence for this Unit must 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.

National Unit Specifications: support notes

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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 and glazing modified thrown and hand-built ceramic forms for firing. Candidates will work from a brief which will allow for individual creativity and development as well as informing through research and practical activity the technical aspects of working with ceramic materials.

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 modified thrown and 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 a range of modified wheel thrown and hand-built forms. Candidates will be required to collect and select source materials based on a chosen theme and to develop designs considering form, aesthetics, method and decoration. The development should consist of drawings appropriate to the design ideas and include annotation of the process suggested. The following aspects should be considered during the design process: joining rim to rim; making an oval form; pressed and squeezed shapes made at plastic stage; thrown pots cut when leather hard and sections reassembled. Combining thrown, modelled and hand-built forms such as combinations of slab, coil, pinched, or modelled forms.

Outcome 2

Candidates will be given a brief which will allow them to experiment and create modified thrown forms and combined forms. Each candidate should be encouraged to use a variety of methods to construct forms which illustrate the techniques learned. Demonstrations of the various techniques involved would be appropriate. Emphasis should be placed on the skills and sound construction techniques required to create functional or non functional ceramic forms. Candidates will be encouraged to be imaginative and varied in their use of the techniques available.

National Unit Specifications: support notes (cont)

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Outcome 3

Candidates should demonstrate awareness of the range of decorative techniques 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 should be used to illustrate the range and techniques used to decorate and glaze ceramic forms. Candidates should select appropriate design and techniques to decorate their ceramics using a minimum of three techniques. Examples might include sgraffito, wax resist, slip trail, oxides and glaze stains, stencils, agate ware, impressed, incised, coloured glass, ceramic transfers, and on glaze enamel. All glaze work should be recorded and annotated to highlight the process and effect.

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 process 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* through investigation of the brief, the development process and ongoing reflective evaluation during the production of the ceramic artwork.

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.

Teachers/lecturers 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 observation checklist will be used to record candidate performance in Outcome 4.

National Unit Specifications: 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

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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