



## **National Unit specification: general information**

**Unit title:** Understanding Photography (SCQF level 4)

**Unit code:** H28S 10

**Superclass:** KE

**Publication date:** October 2012

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 02

## **Summary**

This Unit provides candidates with the knowledge and skills to gain a basic understanding of photography in everyday use. The Unit is designed to enable the candidate to develop and gain initial research skills and critical thinking about basic photography. This will be particularly helpful for all candidates progressing further within the creative industries. This is a mandatory Unit within the National Progression Award in Photography at SCQF level 4 but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

## **Outcomes**

- 1 Evaluate different types of photography.
- 2 Evaluate simple photographic approaches and styles.

## **Recommended entry**

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, an interest in photography/creative digital media would be beneficial.

## **Credit points and level**

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 4: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4\*)

*\*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.*

## **General information (cont)**

**Unit title:** Understanding Photography (SCQF level 4)

### **Core Skills**

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills component:

Complete Core Skill            None

Core Skill component        Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

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

**Unit title:** Understanding Photography (SCQF level 4)

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**

Evaluate different types of photography.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify a range of photographic categories.
- (b) Select a range of images relating to the photographic categories.
- (c) Compile and present the images.
- (d) Evaluate chosen images.

### **Outcome 2**

Evaluate simple photographic approaches and styles.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify a range of simple photographic styles.
- (b) Select images relating to the photographic styles.
- (c) Compile and the present images.
- (d) Evaluate chosen images.

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

**Unit title:** Understanding Photography (SCQF level 4)

### **Evidence Requirements for this Unit**

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

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

For Outcome 1, evidence will include:

- ◆ identification of six photographic categories, (to include still life, portraiture, landscape, and three others).
- ◆ presentation of six images illustrating each category selected.
- ◆ a selection of two of these images with a simple evaluation of their composition, colour and impact.

For Outcome 2, evidence will include:

- ◆ identification of six photographic styles (to include close-up, movement and head and shoulders, plus three others).
- ◆ presentation of six images, illustrating each style selected and the related research from which the images were taken.
- ◆ a selection of two of the images with a simple evaluation of their composition, colour and impact.

Product evidence may be presented electronically or in print. Outcomes 1 and 2 can be assessed holistically.

## **National Unit specification: support notes**

### **Unit title: Understanding Photography (SCQF level 4)**

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**

This is a mandatory Unit in the National Progression Award in Photography at SCQF level 4. It can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

The Unit is designed to enable the candidate to develop and gain initial research skills and critical thinking about basic photography. This will be particularly helpful for all candidates progressing further within the creative industries.

The Outcomes will allow the candidate to be introduced to basic research skills utilising various resource areas, eg books, magazines, the internet, journals and other current media.

The photographic categories suggested should include still life, portraiture, landscape, photojournalism, nature and fashion. The photographic styles suggested should include close-up, movement, head and shoulders, abstract, wide angle and creative use of focus. The Outcomes will encourage the candidate to work methodically, supporting organisational skills. Candidate knowledge and skills will be used to compile and evaluate photographic images introducing critical thinking.

This Unit broadly aligns to the following National Occupational Standards for Photo Imaging from Skillset:

- P1–23 Research and access images
- P1–24 Source and acquire images

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

The opportunity for candidates to discuss and share ideas should be explored during delivery and feedback given on all Outcomes in this Unit.

Candidates will explore various photographic categories and styles and be introduced to research resources. Tutor exposition and practical demonstration of the use of resources and compilation of materials along with individual support and encouragement should be provided throughout at all stages to introduce candidates at this level to basic research and presentation skills. Candidates should be presented with practical exercises to gather information and images. Candidates should be encouraged to reflect on selected photographic images. This could be tutor led discussion in the first instance, after which the candidate presents and evaluates final images.

## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Understanding Photography (SCQF level 4)

### Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Presentation of evidence could be in the form of a workbook compiled on an on-going basis throughout the Unit.

A holistic approach to assessment is possible. An appropriate instrument of assessment would be a practical assignment resulting in a production of a folio of research identifying types of photographic areas.

The photographic categories suggested should include still life, portraiture, landscape, photojournalism, nature and fashion. The photographic styles suggested should include close-up, movement, head and shoulders, abstract, wide angle and creative use of focus. A minimum of six images for Outcome 1 must be presented. A minimum of six images for Outcome 2 must be presented. Presentation could be in the form of a workbook or folio, where possible submitted in the style of portfolios used in the photographic industry.

An appropriate instrument of assessment is a written and/or oral recorded evaluation.

### 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)*.

### Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will develop and gain initial research skills and critical thinking about basic photography.

Candidates will:

- ◆ select suitable photographs to study.
- ◆ categorise the photographs and evaluate them.
- ◆ communicate their evaluation.
- ◆ work methodically using recognised cataloguing methods.
- ◆ carry out research possibly using ICT.

In undertaking these activities, candidates may be developing aspects of *Problem Solving*, particularly the component of Critical Thinking, and *Communication*.

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

**Unit title:** Understanding Photography (SCQF level 4)

This Unit has the Critical Thinking component of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when candidates achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4.

### **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
02	Core Skills Component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4 embedded.	09/10/2012

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