



## National Unit specification: general information

**Unit title:** Working with Photographs (SCQF level 4)

**Unit code:** H28T 10

**Superclass:** KE

**Publication date:** August 2012

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

### Summary

This Unit provides candidates with an understanding of what makes a good image. Candidates will initially gather and select images to critique in a group discussion. They will then decide on what may be done to enhance an image, and will name, file and store it for easy retrieval. This is a mandatory Unit within the National Progression Award in Photography at SCQF level 4 but may also be delivered as a free-standing Unit. No previous experience of photography is required, and it may facilitate progression to further photographic studies.

### Outcomes

- 1 Provide a simple evaluation of a range of chosen images.
- 2 Make simple enhancements to an image.
- 3 Store and handle images safely.

### 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:** Photography: Working with Photographs (SCQF level 4)

### **Core Skills**

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

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

## **National Unit specification: Statement of Standards**

**Unit title:** Photography: Working with Photographs (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**

Provide a simple evaluation of a range of chosen images.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify strengths and weaknesses of chosen images.
- (b) Choose one image from your selection and identify its key components.
- (c) Suggest improvements to the image.

### **Outcome 2**

Make simple enhancements to an image.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Choose an area of the selected image to enhance.
- (b) Make a simple enhancement to the image.
- (c) Explain how the enhancements were made.

### **Outcome 3**

Store and handle images safely.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Select an appropriate format to store the image.
- (b) Store the image in a secure and accessible manner.
- (c) Explain the importance of appropriate storage and handling.

## **National Unit specification: Statement of Standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Photography: Working with Photographs (SCQF level 4)

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

Evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria for this Unit. Product and performance evidence are both required. Product evidence can be in electronic or traditional formats.

#### **Outcome 1**

Candidates must select three existing images and identify three strengths and three weaknesses in each image. Candidates must then choose one of the images and describe in simple terms how it could be enhanced in terms of content composition and lighting for a desired effect.

#### **Outcome 2**

Using the image selected in Outcome 1, candidates must make a minimum of one appropriate enhancement. Candidates must also resize the image for presentation according to the presentation format they have chosen.

#### **Outcome 3**

Using an appropriate method, candidates must store the final image created in Outcome 2. They must label the image in a manner which makes it easy to retrieve. They must also give two reasons for their choice of storage and a simple explanation of the importance of handling and storing images safely.

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

**Unit title:** Photography: Working with Photographs (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 Unit broadly aligns to the following National Occupational Standards for Photo Imaging from Skillset:

- P1-1 Apply copyright and other laws relating to usage and licensing of images
- P1-23 Research and access images
- P1-24 Source and acquire images
- P1-25 Carry out the process of image cataloguing
- P1-26 Store, conserve and preserve images

This is a mandatory Unit in the National Progression Award in Photography at SCQF level 4, but may be as a free-standing Unit.

The Unit is designed to make candidates aware of what is required to gain a basic understanding of photographs, their components and handling images securely and safely. The candidate will gain experience on how to evaluate existing images with regard to content, composition and lighting and desired effects such as mood.

Candidates will show that they can enhance an image and present the final result. Various methods can be used to enhance an image. This could take the form of digital or traditional methods. The images could be presented to a peer group for critique to develop the candidates' analytical skills and ability to accept feedback.

Candidates will demonstrate that they can select a format in which to store their images. This could cover topics such as: the choice of storage device, ie USB, CD, DVD, file size, and backing up the material. A brief introduction to copyright may be advantageous. If using traditional methods the candidate should demonstrate a clear understanding of the risks associated with this eg potential damage to the only available copy of an image and how to label files for ease of retrieval.

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

Many of the skills achieved in this Unit will be transferrable to other photography Units. Candidates will be given the opportunity to show that they can discuss and critique images, choose an image to enhance and then store it using an appropriate format.

Candidates must gather a minimum of three existing images from an appropriate source such as the internet, photography books and magazines or their own collection of photographs. They should discuss the strengths and weaknesses of their choice, possibly with their peers. The images could be presented to a peer group for critique to develop candidates' analytical skills and ability to accept feedback.

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

### **Unit title:     Photography: Working with Photographs (SCQF level 4)**

The intention is that the candidate will gain experience of what to look for when viewing an image. They will then understand what is required when composing and taking their own images. From the images gathered, candidates must choose one to enhance in Outcome 2.

The tutor may wish to supply the candidate with information on what to look for with regards to, composition and use of colour, lighting or any other key features that are appropriate eg the mood, feel or effect of the photograph. Candidates could be given an observation checklist to help identify any issues arising from their choice of image.

For Outcome 2 the tutor could provide a clear brief which outlines what could be used to enhance an image. Candidates should be introduced to various methods of image enhancement. This could take the form of using software to crop, adjust levels, and change the colour balance or any mixture of applications. It is expected that most changes will be done within a digital environment but traditional methods including use of darkrooms could be applied. Traditional images may be mounted or scanned and retouched to achieve the desired effect. Images should then be resized to be printed at an appropriate size and resolution. There is no obligation at this point for the centre to have images printed but if they elect to do so then the recommended print size should be no smaller than 6" x 4" (15.24 cm x 10.16 cm) and no bigger than 8" x 6" (20.32 cm x 10.16 cm). Mounts with an aperture cut to size can be used for traditional prints.

Candidates should be asked to write up an evaluation incorporating an explanation of the different file formats to save an image: For example: Jpeg, TIFF, PSD. Use of these formats will be dictated by the end product and candidates should be aware of the advantages and disadvantages of each format. They should be able to provide a simple explanation of the importance of choosing a name for an image which makes it easy to retrieve and demonstrate ease of access to stored images. Candidates should be taught the importance of storing and managing images safely including brief reference to copyright and the need to make copies or backups of images. Candidates should be made aware of the risks involved in using their images on social networking sites.

### **Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit**

Holistic assessment of Outcomes 1 and 2 is recommended.

#### **Outcome 1**

An appropriate instrument of assessment would be an observation checklist where candidates can check for various components in the images they choose. A detailed checklist will cover issues such as composition, colour, lighting and any other key features such as mood and feel of the photograph. The end product will be the submitted checklist. Where possible this can be an electronic checklist.

## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Photography: Working with Photographs (SCQF level 4)

### Outcome 2

This is a practical exercise. The Outcome can be combined with Outcome 1 with a second checklist being used to allow candidates to demonstrate that they understand how to enhance their image. Much of this could have been generated from the critique at the beginning of the Unit. This Outcome may be completed done using digital or traditional methods, including black and white printing. Traditional images may be electronically scanned, mounted, or retouched.

### Outcome 3

A suitable instrument of assessment would be the enhanced finished image saved appropriately. The image should be properly named in a manner which makes it easy to retrieve. The image should be properly sized for reproduction. Centres may have prints reproduced if they wish. The reasons for the choice of format and safe storage method could be explained in a 150 word document or verbally by the candidate and recorded by the tutor. Storage may use digital or traditional methods.

## 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 gain a basic understanding of photographs, their components and the need to handle images securely and safely. The candidate will also gain experience on how to evaluate images and improve them.

Candidates will:

- ◆ select photographs and describe their strengths and weaknesses using industry recognised terminology.
- ◆ make suggestions for improvements to photographs.
- ◆ carry out improvements and explain how and why they did this.
- ◆ present images to peer groups for critique.
- ◆ participate in critiquing the work of others in their peer group.
- ◆ select methods to store photographs and justify their selection.
- ◆ use technology to gather, enhance and store images.

As they are doing this Unit, candidates may develop aspects of the Core Skills in *Problem Solving, Working with Others, Communication and Information and Communication Technology (ICT)*.

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

**Unit title:** Photography: Working with Photographs (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

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