National Unit Specification: General Information

UNIT Multimedia Computing: Introduction to Video Production (Intermediate 2)

NUMBER 8110168

COURSE

SUMMARY
Using a video camera and related computer software within the context of multimedia computing.

OUTCOMES
1 Describe the principles of video image formation for multimedia computer applications.
2 Demonstrate the basic techniques for video recording for multimedia applications.
3 Plan, prepare, record and capture a short video sequence for a multimedia application.
4 Comply with safety legislation and practice appropriate to video production.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY
No prior knowledge or skills are required for this unit but basic computer skills may be seen as appropriate and may be evidenced by the candidate having successfully completed units in computing.

CREDIT VALUE
1 credit at Intermediate 2.

CORE SKILLS
Information on the automatic certification of any core skills in this unit is published in *Automatic Certification of Core Skills in National Qualifications* (SQA, 1999).

Administrative Information

Superclass: CE

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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 the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

OUTCOME 1
Describe the principles of video image formation for multimedia computer applications.

Performance Criteria
a) The hardware requirements for video work on a microprocessor based platform are correctly described.
b) The software requirements for video work on a microprocessor based platform are correctly described.
c) Video file formats and the reason for compression are correctly described.
d) The controls on a typical video camera/camcorder are correctly described.

Note on range for the outcome
Hardware: video cameras/camcorders; video card; video capture card; sound card.

Software: operating system; hardware drivers; capture software; editing software.

File formats: typical industry standards.

Evidence Requirements
The test will be a set of short answer questions requiring a combination of annotated sketches and written responses as appropriate to the question topic. The test must require a description of a minimum of 4 file formats, as specified in PC (c).

National unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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OUTCOME 2
Demonstrate the basic techniques for video recording for multimedia applications.

Performance Criteria
a) The recognised attributes which govern the quality of video sequences are correctly described.
b) Short video clips from a range of different photographic situations are produced.
c) Video clips to backing storage in a suitable file format are correctly captured for use in multimedia applications.

Note on range for the outcome
Recognised attributes: lighting; focussing; framing; colour and tone; balance; sound.

Capturing skills: hardware connection; use of capture software and file storage.

Photographic situations: indoor; outdoor; casual and formal recording; captions.

Evidence Requirements
a) A set of correct responses to short answer questions on each of the recognised attributes in the range.
b) Submission from a practical exercise brief to demonstrate production of video clips.
c) Checklists to record performance of key video capturing skills within the range components.

OUTCOME 3
Plan, prepare, record and capture a short video sequence for a multimedia application.

Performance Criteria
a) The stages involved in planning effective video recording for a given brief are correctly described.
b) A video recording plan and support materials for a given brief are correctly designed and produced.
c) A short video clip for a given brief is accurately produced.

Note on range for the outcome
Planning stages: brief; design; location(s) survey; storyboarding; support production/procurement; shooting; editing.

Evidence Requirements
A set of correct short answer questions on the 8 planning stages. A formally presented portfolio containing and introducing the stages, the shooting plan, captured video clips appropriate to the given brief.

National unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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OUTCOME 4
Comply with safety legislation and practice appropriate to video production.

Performance Criteria
a) Behaviour is in a manner appropriate to the safety of self and others.
b) Equipment is used in a manner appropriate to the safety of self and others.
c) Copyright procedures are appropriately complied with.

Note on range for the outcome
Legislation: health and safety; copyright.

Evidence Requirements
Observation checklist indicating consistency of performance throughout the unit delivery.

National unit specification: support notes

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This part of the unit specification is offered as guidance. None of the sections of the support notes is mandatory.

GUIDANCE ON CONTENT AND CONTEXT

This unit is designed to introduce the candidate to the theory and practices involved in video production for multimedia computing. The intention is to provide an opportunity for candidates to participate in this area of study at a reasonable level for a person with little or no experience of video work and to provide a foundation for further study at higher level. It is recommended that exercises undertaken in the study of this unit gives adequate opportunity for the candidate to explore the subject and to be creative. The use of either analogue or digital cameras is envisaged as the capture medium.

The following information gives further clarification regarding the context in which outcomes and performance criteria are to be achieved.

Outcome 1

A basic description of the principles necessary for video imaging and capture in a PC system is envisaged for this outcome rather than an in-depth study. The concept of backing storage space necessary for digital images should be stressed in connection with file size and portability. Typical industry standard formats could include: MPEG, MJPEG, AVI, Quick Time. Typical camera/camcorder controls could include: white balance, focusing, zoom.

Outcome 2

The candidate should be led through the attributes by investigation of real objects and their aesthetic effect. Practical exercises should be carefully thought out in order to give the candidate the opportunity to become involved with thoughts and feelings extending from the physical attributes. The review of work by peer group members in a constructive way should be encouraged as should the acceptance of criticism of his/her work by candidates. The emphasis in this outcome should be on practical work.

Outcome 3

Once again the emphasis should be on practical experience with candidates gaining the maximum time available in actual work. The necessity for effective planning to minimum time and resource wastage should be emphasised. Again, group criticism and support should be encouraged as a reinforcement tool.

National unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcome 4

The subject matter in this outcome should be emphasised throughout the study of the unit with an attempt to ensure that both health and safety and copyright acknowledgement become a part of the candidate's behaviour and not merely as assessable part of the unit.

The candidate should at all times comply with procedures and regulations designed for safety in the field and use safe working practices specified for equipment and work areas.

The candidate should be aware of, and comply with laws, agreements, understandings and good practice with regard to copyright, intellectual copyright and the acknowledgement of the contribution of others to his/her work.

GUIDANCE ON TEACHING AND LEARNING APPROACHES
Teaching and learning should be a combination of tutor centred investigation and candidate centred learning. Candidates should be encouraged to take a positive attitude towards the quality of their own work throughout this unit. The emphasis throughout the unit should be on practical application, creativity and innovation.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT
The following are guidelines on the content of the assessment instruments:

Outcome 1

A sufficient number of restricted response questions should be set to cover the range.

MPEG; MJPEG; AVI; QuickTime.
Outcome 2

For the assessment of this outcome, it is envisaged that 3 video clips could cover the range.

Outcome 3

For the assessment of this outcome, it is envisaged that a suitable sequence could be constructed from a minimum of 3 video clips. Editing software may not necessarily be used. In-camera editing is acceptable for producing the sequence.

Outcome 4

It is envisaged that a series of 8 images would be appropriate for the brief.

National unit specification: support notes (cont)

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SPECIAL NEEDS

This unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative outcomes for units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment and Certification Arrangements* (SQA, 1998).