



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Understanding Photography (SCQF level 5)

Unit code: H28S 11

Superclass: KE

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Summary

This Unit provides candidates with the knowledge and skills to develop their understanding of different aspects of photography. The Unit includes photographic terminology, simple evaluation of technical and creative aspects and prepares candidates for further study. This is a mandatory Unit in the National Progression Award in Photography at SCQF level 5 but is also suitable for use as a free-standing Unit.

Outcomes

- 1 Explain photographic terms and their meanings.
- 2 Select iconic photographic images and describe their impact.
- 3 Evaluate images in terms of their technical and creative aspects.

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 5: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5*)

**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)

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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 5

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 5)

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

Explain photographic terms and their meanings.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify various photographic terms.
- (b) Research the meaning of various photographic terms.
- (c) Present photographic terms and their meaning.

Outcome 2

Select iconic photographic images and describe their impact.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify appropriate images.
- (b) Describe the impact of the chosen photographic images.

Outcome 3

Evaluate images in terms of their technical and creative aspects.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify photographic images.
- (b) Evaluate images relating to technical and creative photographic aspects.
- (c) Present images with their evaluation.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Understanding Photography (SCQF level 5)

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. Evidence will comprise of:

For Outcome 1, evidence will include:

- ◆ collated material identifying six photographic terms, which must include depth of field, framing, rule of thirds and three others.
- ◆ research on the meaning of the identified six photographic terms.
- ◆ presentation of the photographic terms and their meaning using an appropriate method.

For Outcome 2, evidence will include:

- ◆ identification of two iconic photographic images.
- ◆ description of the impact of the chosen images in terms of composition, framing, colour, and mood.

For Outcome 3, evidence will include:

- ◆ identification of six photographic images.
- ◆ evaluation of technical and creative photographic aspects of all six chosen images.
- ◆ presentation of all six images with their evaluation using an appropriate method.

Product evidence may be presented electronically or in print. Outcomes 1–3 can be assessed holistically.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Understanding Photography (SCQF level 5)

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 5. It can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

The Unit will enable the candidate to develop an understanding of different types of photography including photographic terminology and the simple evaluation of technical and creative aspects of images. This will be particularly helpful for all candidates progressing further within the creative industries.

The Outcomes will allow the candidate to develop research skills utilising various resource areas ie books, magazines, internet, journals and current media. The photographic terminology suggested should be depth of field, framing, rule of thirds, leading lines, viewpoint and symmetry. 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 developing critical thinking.

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

This Unit 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 terminologies, technical and creative aspects of the visual image. Practical demonstration of the use of resources and compilation of workbooks, along with individual support and encouragement should be offered by the tutor. Candidates should be presented with practical exercises to gather information and images. The candidates should be encouraged on the reflection of selected photographic images. This could be tutor led in the first instance with candidates then constructing final evaluations of images.

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

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

The Evidence Requirements provide specific requirements for this Unit assessment. They set out what is to be addressed by candidates and what evidence teachers/lecturers should look for. The presentation could be in the form of a workbook compiled on an on-going basis throughout the Unit

Outcome 1

An appropriate instrument of assessment would be a practical assignment resulting in the production of a workbook of research identifying the meaning of photographic terminology.

Outcome 2

Candidates should be encouraged to critically analyse and reflect on chosen images with regards to technical and creative aspects. An appropriate instrument of assessment would be a written and/or oral evaluation of approximately 300 words.

Outcome3

Candidates should be encouraged to critically analyse and reflect on the impact of the chosen images with regards to composition, framing, colour and mood. An appropriate instrument of assessment would be a written and/or oral evaluation of approximately 300 words.

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 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

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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

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 5.

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
02	Core Skills Component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5 embedded.	09/10/2012

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