Higher Photography

Project

Assessment task

This document provides information for teachers and lecturers about the coursework component of this course in terms of the skills, knowledge and understanding that are assessed. It **must** be read in conjunction with the course specification.

Valid from session 2018–19 and until further notice.

Contents

Introduction

This document contains instructions for teachers and lecturers, marking instructions, and instructions for candidates for the Higher Photography project. You must read it in conjunction with the course specification.

This project is worth 100 marks. This is 77% of the overall marks for the course assessment.

This is one of two course assessment components. The other component is a question paper.

This project has three sections.

Section 1: planning, research and investigation	20 marks
Section 2: development and production	70 marks
Section 3: evaluation	10 marks

Instructions for teachers and lecturers

Setting, conducting and marking the project

The project assessment task allows candidates to demonstrate their ability to work independently to integrate and apply their technical and creative photographic skills. It is sufficiently open and flexible to allow personalisation and choice.

Before candidates undertake the project assessment task, teachers and lecturers must ensure that they have the necessary skills and are aware of the requirements of the assessment.

The project assessment task is:

♦ set by centres within SQA guidelines
♦ conducted under some supervision and control
♦ submitted to SQA for marking

All marking is quality assured by SQA.

Assessment conditions

Time

Candidates produce their project in response to a selected topic. They produce it over an extended period, allowing them to develop and refine their work before it is presented for assessment.

Supervision, control and authentication

Teachers and lecturers must ensure that evidence submitted by a candidate is the candidate's own work. Candidates do not need to be directly supervised at all times.

Resources

There are no restrictions on the resources that candidates may access while producing their project.

Reasonable assistance

Candidates can seek clarification regarding the project assessment task if they find it unclear. In this case, the clarification should normally be given to the whole class.

If a candidate is working on their project and is faced with more than one possible solution to a problem, then the teacher or lecturer may explore options with them. The teacher or lecturer and candidate can discuss the pros and cons of each option. The candidate can then decide on a solution based on the discussion.

Once candidates have submitted their evidence, it must not be changed by teachers or lecturers or candidates.

Teachers or lecturers must not provide model plans, evaluations or writing frames to help candidates complete their projects.

Evidence to be gathered

Volume

Candidates can present their project in a variety of ways. Final prints should be a minimum size of A5 and a maximum size of A4 (or equivalent area).

There is a 500 word limit for the evaluation. If the word count exceeds the maximum by more than 10%, a penalty will apply.

More information on project submission is available on the Higher Photography subject page.

Marking instructions

In line with SQA's normal practice, the following general marking principles are addressed to the marker. They will also be helpful for those preparing candidates for course assessment.

Candidates' evidence is submitted to SQA for external marking.

General marking principles

Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.

a   Always use positive marking. This means candidates accumulate marks for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding; marks are not deducted for errors or omissions.

b   If a specific candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed marking instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your team leader.

c   When marking the project, you must refer to specific descriptions of competence for different mark ranges and allocate marks for each section of the project using a 'best fit' approach.

d   The band descriptions define the expected level and the standard of evidence expected at the mid-point of the band range. You must select the band descriptor that most closely describes the evidence, before calibrating accordingly within the mark range. The examples below illustrate this.

Section 1 of the project includes a three-mark range. When you have decided on the 'best fit' mark range, use your professional judgement to allocate a mark as follows:

♦   If the candidate's evidence almost matches the level above, award the highest available mark from the range.

♦   If the evidence does not meet the standard described, award the lowest mark from the range.

♦   Otherwise, award the mark from the middle of the range.

Section 2 of the project includes a five-mark range. When you have decided on the 'best fit' mark range, use your professional judgement to allocate a mark as follows:

♦   If the evidence almost matches the level above, award one of the two highest marks in the range.

♦   If the evidence does not meet the standard described, award the lowest mark in the range.

♦   Otherwise, award one of the two middle marks in the range.

Detailed marking instructions

Section 1

Planning, research and investigation (20 marks)

Candidates provide evidence of their ability to respond to their project topic by:

♦ producing a plan explaining the selected approach and demonstrating their planning skills

♦ producing and compiling relevant investigative research

♦ explaining the impact of social, cultural, historical and scientific influences on relevant photographers' work and practice from their investigative research

Mark range description: producing a project plan explaining the selected approach and demonstrating evidence of planning skills (for example, consideration of information sources, time management, equipment, resource availability, risk assessment, location, site logistics, access, legality, copyright issues, permissions, model release and other relevant issues, as appropriate)

0-2	3-5	6-8	9-10
Simplistic plan demonstrating limited consideration of relevant planning issues and/or written retrospectively	Partially effective plan which explains the selected approach with some consideration of relevant planning issues	Effective plan which explains the selected approach with consideration of relevant planning issues	Highly effective plan which explains the selected approach with thorough consideration of relevant planning issues

Mark range description: producing and compiling investigative research relevant to their project topic and selected approach (for example, contextual images showing the intended genre(s) and style, relevant examples of photographers' work, appropriate technical research)				
0-1	2	3	4	5
Limited relevant investigative research	Partially relevant investigative research showing some links to the project topic	Relevant investigative research showing clear links to the project topic	Relevant investigative research showing clear links to the project topic and selected approach	Highly relevant investigative research showing clear and focused links to the project topic and selected approach
Mark range description: explaining the impact of social, cultural, historical and/or scientific influences on relevant photographers' work and practice from their investigative research				
0-1	2	3	4	5
Limited effective explanation of the impact of influences on relevant photographers' work and practice and/or irrelevant examples selected	Partially effective explanation of the impact of influences on relevant photographers' work and practice	Effective explanation of the impact of influences on relevant photographers' work and practice	Effective in-depth explanation of the impact of influences on relevant photographers' work and practice	Highly effective, in-depth explanation of the impact of influences on relevant photographers' work and practice

Section 2

Development and production (70 marks)

Candidates provide evidence of their ability to respond to their project topic and selected approach by:

♦ demonstrating applied technical and creative photography skills by maintaining a sustained and creative line of development showing technical and creative exploration and experimentation with image-making techniques

♦ demonstrating ongoing critical reflection, refinement and creative decision making

♦ selecting from their development work to print and present a series of 12 technically competent images

♦ demonstrating a creative response to their topic in their series of 12 images, showing visual continuity with their development work

Mark range description: demonstrating applied technical and creative photography skills, maintaining a sustained and creative line of development relevant to the project topic and selected approach showing purposeful exploration and experimentation with image-making techniques (for example, contact sheets, edits, test images)

0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20
Limited effective line of development showing insufficient technical and creative skill and/or limited relevance to the project topic	Partially effective line of development showing some technical and creative exploration and experimentation relevant to the project topic	Effective and sustained line of development showing technical and creative exploration and experimentation relevant to the project topic and selected approach	Highly effective and sustained line of development showing a high level of technical and creative exploration and experimentation relevant to the project topic and selected approach

Mark range description: demonstrating ongoing critical reflection, refinement and creative decision making (for example, shoot reviews, mid-point review, points for action, shortlisted images) with reference to their intended approach			
0-2	**3-5**	**6-8**	**9-10**
Limited effective ongoing critical reflection, refinement and creative decision making	Partially effective ongoing critical reflection, refinement and creative decision making	Effective ongoing critical reflection, refinement and creative decision making	Highly effective ongoing critical reflection, refinement and creative decision making

Mark range description: from their development work, selecting, printing and presenting a series of 12 technically competent images showing use of appropriate image-making techniques (for example, focus, exposure, shutter speed, aperture, ISO, white balance, composition, lighting techniques, lenses and filters, darkroom techniques, digital manipulation/enhancement/correction, print quality)			
0-5	**6-10**	**11-15**	**16-20**
Limited effective use of appropriate image-making techniques demonstrating insufficient technical competence and/or little or no evidence of the images in the development work	Partially effective use of appropriate image-making techniques demonstrating some technical competence	Effective use of appropriate image-making techniques demonstrating technical competence	Highly effective use of appropriate image-making techniques demonstrating a high level of technical competence

Mark range description: demonstrating a creative response to the project topic in their series of 12 images, showing visual continuity with their development work			
0-5	**6-10**	**11-15**	**16-20**
Limited effective creative response to the project topic and/or little or no evidence of the images in the development work	Partially effective creative response to the project topic, showing visual continuity with the development work	Effective creative response to the project topic, showing visual continuity with the development work	Highly effective creative response to the project topic, showing visual continuity with the development work

Section 3

Evaluation (10 marks)

Candidates provide evidence of their ability to critically evaluate:

♦ the effectiveness of their photographic practice

♦ strengths and areas for improvement in their final prints with reference to the project topic and selected approach

Mark range description: critically evaluate the effectiveness of their photographic practice

0-1	2	3	4	5
Limited effective critical evaluation with little or no justification	Partially effective critical evaluation with simple justification	Effective critical evaluation with justification showing some understanding of photographic practice	Effective critical evaluation with justification showing understanding of photographic practice	Highly effective critical evaluation with justification showing a thorough understanding of photographic practice

Mark range description: critically evaluate the strengths and areas for improvement in their final prints with reference to the project topic and selected approach

0-1	2	3	4	5
Limited effective critical evaluation of their final prints with little or no justification	Partially effective critical evaluation of their final prints with simple justification	Effective critical evaluation of their final prints showing some understanding of photographic issues	Effective critical evaluation of their final prints showing understanding of photographic issues	Highly effective critical evaluation of their final prints showing a thorough understanding of photographic issues

Instructions for candidates

This assessment applies to the project for Higher Photography. This project is worth 100 marks. This is 77% of the overall marks for the course assessment.

It assesses the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

♦ applying knowledge and understanding of the properties of light and image formation
♦ applying knowledge and understanding of camera controls and a range of photographic techniques and processes
♦ investigating and analysing the major historical, scientific, social, and cultural factors influencing photographers and their work
♦ producing investigative research for photography, and planning, shooting, printing and developing photographs
♦ exploring and experimenting with a range of photographic media, manipulation techniques and processes
♦ producing and presenting creative and technically proficient photographs
♦ effectively managing and storing photographic images
♦ critical self-reflecting and evaluating by candidates of their work and practice, and the photographic work of others

This project has three sections.

Section 1: planning, research and investigation	20 marks
Section 2: development and production	70 marks
Section 3: evaluation	10 marks

Your teacher or lecturer will let you know if there are any specific conditions for doing this assessment.

Project assessment task

In this assessment, you have to:

♦ Select a photography project topic along with your teacher or lecturer. You may choose from a variety of topics. For example, you might base your topic on a particular style or genre of photography that you have worked with previously, or on a theme or idea of personal interest. Your teacher or lecturer may advise you to ensure that your choice of topic is appropriate and realistic.

♦ Produce a plan for your project. Your plan should explain your:
  — topic
  — approach (for example, how you intend to interpret your topic, subject matter, genre(s), style, techniques)
  — time management
  — equipment and resources
  — consideration of relevant issues (for example, information sources, location, site logistics, accessibility, model release, risk assessment, health and safety, legal issues, copyright issues, permissions, travel, costs and other issues appropriate to your project)

♦ Produce and compile investigative research relevant to your project topic and selected approach. This investigative material may include relevant:
  — contextual images
  — examples of photographers' work
  — appropriate technical research

♦ Select relevant photographs from your investigative research and explain the impact of social, cultural, historical and/or scientific influences on the photographers' work and practice.

♦ Use your image-making skills to produce a body of photographic work showing a sustained line of development. This should demonstrate the development of your ideas in response to your topic and show your technical and creative exploration and experimentation, including, for example:
  — contact sheets showing the images from your shoots
  — edit experiments
  — test prints

♦ Demonstrate ongoing critical reflection, refinement and creative decision making with reference to your topic and selected approach (for example, shoot reviews, mid-point review, points for action, shortlist of potential final images).

♦ From your development work, select, print and present a final series of 12 technically competent photographic prints which show a creative response to your project topic and reflect your selected approach.

♦ Critically evaluate your project, expressing justified opinions on the:
  — effectiveness of your photographic practice
  — strengths and areas for improvement in your final photographic prints

♦ Present your work for assessment.

Presenting your work

You can present your work in a variety of ways. However, your final prints should be a minimum size of A5 and a maximum size of A4 (or equivalent area).

Your evaluation should not exceed 500 words. If the word count exceeds the maximum by more than 10%, a penalty will be applied.

Administrative information

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History of changes

Version	Description of change	Date

Note: you are advised to check SQA's website to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of this document.

Security and confidentiality

This document can be used by SQA approved centres for the assessment of National Courses and not for any other purpose.