

Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Couture Techniques: An Introduction

Unit code: F1PB 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to acquire couture techniques using a combination of machine sewing and hand sewing techniques. Industrial machinery and equipment will also be used in the acquisition of these techniques. This Unit is suitable for those studying fashion or currently working in the fashion industry

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Produce couture sewing samples to meet given specifications.
- 2 Produce couture garment components to meet given specifications.

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**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.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: While entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would benefit from having evidence of sewing skills to SCQF level 5/6 or have relevant industrial experience.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop Core Skills of Problem Solving, Working with Others and Communications at SCQF level 5 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Assessment: The candidate has to produce 12 samples of couture techniques and 2 garment components incorporating a minimum of six couture techniques using an appropriate combination of sewing skills, specialist techniques and machinery to meet the given specification.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Produce couture sewing samples to meet given specifications

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Industrial sewing machine techniques
- ◆ Finishing techniques
- ◆ Hand sewing skills
- ◆ Specialised industrial machines
- ◆ Specialist attachments
- ◆ Pressing techniques for delicate fabrics
- ◆ Fabric handling techniques of delicate fabrics

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and Skills by showing that they can produce a minimum of 12 couture samples incorporating two different hand sewing techniques, seven different machine sewing techniques and the use of three different specialist attachments.

Each sample should show the correct use and selection of thread, needle and stitch type. All stitches produced must show evidence of correct setting for stitch tension and density to suit the fabric being used for the sample

All samples must be produced to a size that can be presented in an A4 folio or A4 box file, each sample should be neatly trimmed and where appropriate over locked. The correct use of pressing equipment should be evident in relation to the fabrics being used for each of the samples

The evidence should be produced under open-book controlled conditions and candidate's performance should be recorded on an observation schedule.

Assessment Guidelines

The candidate could be given specifications to produce a range of 12 couture samples detailed in the Evidence Requirements. Each sample should be completed to given specifications in terms of quality and presentation. The samples could be presented in the form of a candidate folio.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Couture Techniques: An Introduction

Outcome 2

Produce couture garment components to meet given specifications

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Industrial sewing machine techniques
- ◆ Specialist industrial machines
- ◆ Specialist attachments
- ◆ Garment construction techniques
- ◆ Hand sewing skills
- ◆ Fabric handling techniques for delicate fabric
- ◆ Pressing and finishing techniques for delicate fabrics

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence of their Knowledge and Skills by showing that they can demonstrate couture garment making techniques by producing two couture garment components incorporating between them a minimum of one hand sewing technique, four machine sewing techniques and the use of one specialist attachment selected from the list detailed in guidance on content for this Unit.

Specification sheets for the couture garment components will be available as a reference, providing the candidate with clear details of the quality standards required for each component.

The couture components produced should show the correct use and selection of thread, needle and stitch types. All stitches produced must show evidence of the correct setting for stitch tension and density to suit the fabric being used in the completion of the couture components.

Presentation of the components must be to a standard that ensures that they are neatly trimmed and over locked where appropriate and the correct use of pressing equipment should be evident in relation to the type of fabrics being used

The evidence should be produced under open-book controlled conditions and candidate's performance should be recorded on an observation schedule.

Assessment Guidelines

The candidate could be provided with specification sheets detailing the requirements to produce two couture garment components. These components must include a combination of one hand sewing technique, four sewing techniques and the use of one specialist attachment. Each garment component should be completed to meet the given specifications in terms of quality and presentation.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F1PB 34
Unit title: Couture Techniques: An Introduction
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History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Couture Techniques: An Introduction

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 is part of the HNC/HND Fashion Technology and Manufacture with Design where it is a mandatory Unit.

In the construction of couture garments the use of a variety of specialist skills, techniques and machinery may be required due to the design of the garment and the delicate types of fabrics commonly used in their construction. The skills and techniques taught in this Unit could include:

- ◆ Piping — making and insertion
- ◆ Hand sewing, tacking stitches, whip stitches, hemming stitches
- ◆ Rouleau loop — making and attachment
- ◆ Ruffle — making and attachment
- ◆ Gathering
- ◆ Shirring
- ◆ Necklines, facings and interfacings
- ◆ Pleating
- ◆ Casings
- ◆ Hemming
- ◆ Binding
- ◆ Finishing corners, mitring
- ◆ Boning
- ◆ Godets
- ◆ Linings and backing fabrics

In the make-up or attachment process of these techniques, specialist machinery, equipment and attachments have been developed and refined to improve the quality of finish and ease of application which have been problem areas due in many cases to the delicate fabrics which are used and the intricate nature of some of the techniques and applications

Where appropriate examples of this specialist machinery, equipment and attachments should be demonstrated to the candidate and in this Unit it is likely to include:

- ◆ Presser feet, single sided, zipper, compensating, rucking, Teflon
- ◆ Folders straight and curved
- ◆ 3/4/5 thread over lockers
- ◆ Buttonhole machinery, straight and keyhole variations
- ◆ Twin needle
- ◆ Basting

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Couture Techniques: An Introduction

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

The candidate should have all the necessary skills, techniques, machinery and specialist attachments demonstrated to them and then have the opportunity to practice each until they have achieved the standard as set out in the specifications.

Specifications provided will include text and diagrams clearly detailing and showing each stage involved in making a sample. Exemplars of completed samples and stages of completion will also be available to candidate to use as a reference throughout this Unit. These examples will enable the candidate to compare standards in terms of accuracy and presentation.

Once the candidate is competent in the use of all the skills, techniques, machinery and specialist attachments they will then have the opportunity to complete the manufacture of couture component parts incorporating combinations of those detailed in learning Outcome 1 of this Unit.

The use of exemplar component parts will be available to candidates throughout this Unit to provide a reference facility enabling them to compare standards in terms of accuracy and presentation.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Candidates will develop the Core Skills of Problem Solving, Communications and Working with Others in this Unit by working from given specification sheets to identify the correct skills, techniques and machinery and equipment required to complete the samples and component parts.

Working with Others and Communications will be evidenced by the candidate negotiating, planning and sequencing the use of limited specialist machinery and equipment with fellow candidates in the completion of the samples and the final couture components.

Open learning

This Unit is not suitable for Open learning due to the machine requirements and associated health and safety requirements.

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Couture Techniques: An Introduction

In this Unit candidates you will be shown many of the specialist skills and techniques used in the manufacture of couture garments. At first you will observe demonstrations carried out by the lecturer; these demonstrations will be backed up with additional resources such as candidate handbooks and exemplars of work. After these demonstrations you will have the opportunity to try out each of the skills and techniques they have been shown under supervised conditions.

The kind of skills and techniques which will be covered within this Unit are: piping, hand sewing, tacking stitches, whip stitches, hemming stitches, rouleau loops, ruffles, gathering, shirring, necklines, facings and interfacings, pleating, casings, hemming, binding, finishing corners, mitring, Boning, godets, linings and backing fabrics.

You will be asked to complete the samples of some of these techniques and you will have the opportunity to use industrial machinery, equipment and attachments. You will learn how to use equipment such as presser feet — single sided, zipper, compensating, rucking, Teflon, folders — straight and curved, 3/4/5 thread overlockers, buttonhole machinery — straight and keyhole variations, twin needle equipment, lockstitch equipment. These items have been specially developed to help in the improvement of quality and application which in the area of couture type garments is mainly down to working with delicate types of fabrics. On completion of the individual samples you will be ready to produce component parts of garments using various combinations of skills, techniques and machinery to carry out the given tasks.

The Core Skills which you will develop at SCQF level 5 in this Unit will be Problem Solving, Communication and Working with Others.