



## Higher National Unit Specification

### General information

**Unit title:** Early Corsetry: An Introduction to the Production Process (SCQF level 7)

**Unit code:** HD7A 34

**Superclass:** LE

**Publication date:** April 2016

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

### Unit purpose

The aim of this Unit is to provide learners with practical skills and understanding of the changing trends in female body shapes. Learners will learn how to manipulate the body form to create a period silhouette (from around 1500-1800 approximately). Learners will become familiar with unusual pattern formations and will follow the processes through a fitting stage before final construction.

### Outcomes

On successful completion of the Unit the learner will be able to:

- 1 Produce a folio of production processes relating to early corsets.
- 2 Create and manipulate body blocks to create a period silhouette.
- 3 Complete an early corset to meet the needs of the brief.

### Credit points and level

1 HN Higher National Unit credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7)

### Recommended entry to the Unit

While access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, learners will benefit from having previously studied NQ/NC in Fashion/Production Arts or have evidence of sewing skills and use of sewing equipment at SCQF level 5 or 6 or have relevant industrial experience.

## **Higher National Unit Specification: General information (cont)**

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### **Core Skills**

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

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

### **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.

### **Equality and inclusion**

This Unit Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements).

## Higher National Unit Specification: Statement of standards

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(SCQF level 7)

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

Produce a folio of production processes relating to early corsets.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Historical patterns
- ◆ Sequence of processes
- ◆ Production processes
- ◆ Research skills
- ◆ Folio production

### Outcome 2

Create and manipulate body blocks to form a period silhouette.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Applying measurements to pattern
- ◆ Blocks: manipulation techniques
- ◆ Interpretation of period silhouette
- ◆ Panel adjustment
- ◆ Chest suppression
- ◆ Re-measuring pattern

### Outcome 3

Construct an early corset to meet the needs of the brief.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Materials and equipment
- ◆ Methods of construction
- ◆ Production process
- ◆ Industrial sewing machine techniques
- ◆ Binding techniques
- ◆ Garment presentation.
- ◆ Health and safety

## Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

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### Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills across all Outcomes by showing that they can:

- ◆ Construct an early corset in relation to a brief.  
The early corset should demonstrate appropriate interpretation and use of materials, methods, processes and equipment.
- ◆ The construction and production of the piece should reflect the findings of Outcome 1 and 2 displaying an organised approach and high quality of finish throughout.

For **Outcome 1** Learners will be required to produce a folio of research materials of historic corset patterns, with an explanation of how patterns have been created, manipulated and altered to fit the modern body. The folio will also include a log of construction techniques and processes used, listed in chronological order, detailing specialist materials and methods used for costume in performance. This information must comprise textual research, visuals, fitted and altered patterns.

For **Outcome 2** Learners will produce a corset pattern from a modern basic block to create a period shape and produce a flat pattern to industry standards. The pattern must include all appropriate pattern markings, grain lines and written information.

For **Outcome 3** Learners will be required to construct a corset.

The corset should demonstrate the correct use of:

- ◆ industrial sewing machine techniques.
- ◆ fabric layering techniques.
- ◆ boning techniques.
- ◆ binding techniques.

The corset should be presented with all threads trimmed and finished to professional standards.

The corset must meet the requirements of the given specifications.

The process must be carried out to meet any health and safety requirements.



## Higher National Unit Support Notes

**Unit title:** Early Corsetry: An Introduction to the Production Process (SCQF level 7)

Unit Support Notes are offered as guidance and 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 mandatory Unit of the HNC/HND in Costume for Stage and Screen and could be run in conjunction with *Costume Fitting Skills: An Introduction*.

As the techniques in this Unit are specific to corsetry, the learner should possess skills in the area of machine sewing.

This Unit will allow the learner to manipulate the body form to create a period silhouette and gather information to present in a folio.

Learners should have access to the internet and relevant pattern cutting and construction books.

Specialist techniques, which should be taught in this Unit, include eyelet insertion, use of a specialist machine attachment, boning techniques (attaching and finishing), hand sewing and seam binding.

Specialist materials could include various interlinings, boning (synthetic), busks and eyelets.

### Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

As this is a project-based Unit, and all Outcomes are dependent on the others, it is therefore recommended that the Outcomes be monitored at appropriate points to enable the learner to achieve each Outcome.

To monitor the learner's progress, the tutor could draw up checklists.

Packs could be issued to each learner, which could contain all relevant information, eg specifications required to complete each Outcome and the Unit as a whole.

Outcome 1 — the tutor should supply the learners with various sources of technical instructions for their patterns, introducing historical pattern cutting books to aid development. Learners should be monitored on a regular basis by the tutor whilst constructing the pattern.

## **Higher National Unit: Support Notes (cont)**

### **Unit title: Early Corsetry: An Introduction to the Production Process (SCQF level 7)**

Outcomes 2 and 3 should be carried out with practical demonstrations by the tutor followed by the learners practicing. Specialist materials for the corset could be supplied to the learner which could be specified in a brief.

It would be beneficial for the learner to perform a fitting; therefore a working toile should be produced to the specifications given. Photographs could be taken at the toile stage as evidence before finishing the final garment.

The final garment should be completed to meet the given specifications.

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

Evidence can be generated using different types of instruments of assessment. The following are suggestions only. There may be other methods that would be more suitable to learners.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of centre devised assessments would help to ensure that the national standard is being met. Where learners experience a range of assessment methods, this helps them to develop different skills that should be transferable to work or further and higher education.

This Unit should be assessed by the learners producing a folio of research materials and the production of working early corset patterns and a completed corset.

#### **Outcome 1**

It is envisaged that the learner will produce a folio of approximately 20 pages with a minimum of 10 visuals, a body block and the historical corset pattern fitted and altered where required. This information could be gathered into the form of a file. Sources of information should be noted and may include patterns from books or the internet but must be properly referenced.

#### **Outcome 2**

The learner will produce a body block and an early corset pattern to a given specification. All measurements and a record of manipulation and changes to the original plan must be kept and justified. It is envisaged the patterns would be altered from a fitting.

This Unit could then run in conjunction with Costume Fitting Skills: An Introduction.

## Higher National Unit: Support Notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Early Corsetry: An Introduction to the Production Process (SCQF level 7)

### Outcome 3

This Outcome could be assessed by the use of an observation schedule to monitor the learner's progress during the completion of the toile and corset and the assessment could be carried out under supervised conditions.

The learner will be asked to produce the early corset to a fitting stage, which will be based on a specific century design, using up to date materials, which would be specified. The learner should be given information on all materials, which will be required to complete a final corset based on the historical shape.

A centre-devised checklist could be used to ensure the production pattern is produced to industry standards. The pattern must include all appropriate pattern markings, grain lines and written information.

### Opportunities for 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 social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at [www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment](http://www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment).

### Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

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

## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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## General information for learners

### Unit title: Early Corsetry: An Introduction to the Production Process (SCQF level 7)

This section will help you decide whether this is the Unit for you by explaining what the Unit is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the Unit and opportunities for further learning and employment.

This Unit will provide you with practical skills and understanding of early corsetry. You will learn how to:

- ◆ choose a period stay shape from given specification and a suitable model.
- ◆ use size charts and measurements to create patterns in the form of a drafted body block pattern in full scale which is used as a basis for creation of the early corset pattern.
- ◆ cut a corset pattern from a modern basic block with reference to a period shape. This will entail interpreting the shape and plotting out the correct number and shape of panels creating a period silhouette.

The drafted period pattern should be in relation to a modern body block using a performer/ model's measurements. You should make a copy so that the original work can be stored for future use. This also will provide a good source of solutions in problem solving

You will learn industrial sewing machine techniques and use theatrical boning, layering and binding techniques at the top and bottom of corset to correctly finish the seams.

The finished corset should be presented with all threads trimmed. It should be pressed, laced and labelled. The finished corset should meet the requirements of the given specifications and the process should be carried out to meet any health and safety requirements

At the end of the Unit you will have gathered a portfolio of work containing:

- ◆ original patterns with a block and early corset pattern in full scale to a model's size.
- ◆ a compilation of notes supporting the production processes used to make the early corset.
- ◆ a list of specialist materials, tools and equipment.

You will be assessed in this Unit by continuous assessment with formative and summative assessment dates provided in a brief by your tutor.

In studying this Unit you will also develop your skills in *Communication, Problem Solving and Working with Others*.