



National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Applying Lightweight Plaster: An Introduction
(SCQF level 4)

Unit code: DH27 11

Superclass: TG

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Version: 02

Unit purpose

This Unit will be suitable for learners who have completed progression Unit *Introduction to Solid and Bench Plasterwork Skills*. The Outcomes require the learner to use and care for a basic range of tools, materials and equipment whilst undertaking skilled tasks associated with application of two-coat lightweight plasterwork. The attainment of these skills is an essential requirement for progressing to higher level skills within this area. Learners who achieve this Unit should feel confident in progressing to Units based solely on plasterwork when the range and level of work will be wider and more advanced.

Outcomes

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

- 1 Manage the use of hand tools, materials and equipment.
- 2 Prepare backgrounds and set out metal trims for the application of lightweight plasters.
- 3 Apply lightweight plasters in two coat work.

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 4: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4)

Recommended entry to the Unit

Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. It would be preferable if the learner had completed progression Unit *Introduction to Solid and Bench Plasterwork Skills*.

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.

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 SQA.

Outcome 1

Manage the use of hand tools, materials and equipment.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Select appropriate tools/equipment for the work being undertaken.
- (b) Handle and transport tools, materials and equipment correctly.
- (c) The use and maintenance of tools and equipment is correct.
- (d) Store tools, materials and equipment correctly after use.

Outcome 2

Prepare backgrounds and set out metal trims for the application of lightweight plasters.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Prepare and treat backgrounds to specification.
- (b) Metal trims are fixed in accordance with the specification.

Outcome 3

Apply lightweight plasters in two coat work.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Materials are correctly mixed.
- (b) The application of the straightening coat is in accordance with the specification.
- (c) The application of the finishing coat is in accordance with the specification.

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Learners must adhere to relevant Health and Safety regulations and legislation relating both to working practices within the construction environment, as well as those specific to any practical task they are requested to carry out (such as emphasising the importance of selecting and using the correct PPE at all times).

Evidence is required to demonstrate that learners have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

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Outcome 1

Note on Range for the Outcome

Tools, materials and equipment for this Outcome will be those required to carry out the tasks in Outcomes 2 and 3.

Evidence of actual performance is needed to show the learner can, follow instructions, select tools and handle, transport, maintain, use and store tools, materials and equipment in the work area together with consistently complying with current safety regulations.

Evidence of the use and care of tools, materials and equipment and a basic awareness of their structure is needed to test underpinning knowledge and understanding and will be gained in a holistic assessment covering the Unit.

Outcome 2

Note on Range for the Outcome

Background preparation area brick or blockwork construction.
Metal trims: one standard angle bead; one stop-end bead

Evidence of actual performance is needed to show the learner can, following instructions, prepare one flat wall and one flat wall background areas with attached pier, together with measuring, cutting, setting out and fixing metal trims involving plumbing, straightening, key, suction, face flatness and squaring. The learner is required to work within stated tolerances and consistently behave in a safe manner throughout all activities.

Evidence of basic practicable methodology on background preparations together the application of setting out and fixing metal trims is needed to test underpinning knowledge and understanding and will be gained in a holistic assessment covering the Unit.

Outcome 2 — Specification

Flat wall area (Exercise 1)

Checks made for:

- ◆ Plumb
- ◆ Flatness Key Suction
- ◆ Appropriate action taken to ensure sufficient key and control of suction

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Flat wall area with attached pier

Checks made for:

- ◆ Plumb
- ◆ Flatness
- ◆ Key
- ◆ Suction
- ◆ Appropriate action taken to ensure sufficient key and control of suction
- ◆ Angle bead and stop-end bead cut to lengths of 1 m ± 6 mm
- ◆ Angle bead and stop-end bead securely bedded
- ◆ Angle bead and stop-end bead vertical ± 6 mm
- ◆ Beads straight throughout their length ± 6 mm

Outcome 3

Note on Range for the Outcome

Materials: lightweight undercoat and finishing plasters.

Backgrounds: brickwork or blockwork.

Surfaces: two flat wall surfaces; one attached pier.

Evidence of actual performance is needed to show the learner can, following instructions mix plastering materials by hand and apply two coat lightweight plasters on two separate occasions to brick or blockwork backgrounds within the stated tolerances while consistently behaving in a safe manner throughout all activities.

Evidence of basic practicable methodology on the selection, mixing and application of two coat lightweight plasterwork is needed to test underpinning knowledge and understanding and will be gained in a holistic assessment covering the Unit.

Outcome 3 — Specification

Flat wall area

- ◆ Plaster gauged/mixed generally free from lumps and dry materials
- ◆ Dots/timber rods bedded correctly to a thickness of 8 mm ± 6 mm
- ◆ Screeds/timber rods straight and flat ± 6 mm
- ◆ Bays between screeds/timber rods evenly filled in;
- ◆ Surface flat, straight and plumb ± 6 mm
- ◆ Straightening coat evenly keyed
- ◆ Finishing coat applied to an even thickness ± 3 mm
- ◆ Surface trowelled smooth and generally free from trowel marks and blemishes

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Flat wall area with attached pier

- ◆ Plaster gauged/mixed generally free from lumps and dry materials
- ◆ Dots/timber rods bedded correctly to a thickness of 8 mm ± 6 mm
- ◆ Screeds/timber rods straight and flat ± 6 mm
- ◆ Bays between screeds/timber rods evenly filled in;
- ◆ Surface flat, straight and plumb ± 6 mm
- ◆ Pier — return square and face plumb ± 6 mm
- ◆ Straightening coat evenly keyed
- ◆ Finishing coat applied to an even thickness ± 3 mm
- ◆ Surface trowelled smooth and generally free from trowel marks and blemishes

Satisfactory performance in the practical content of this Outcome will be based on the learner gaining all the above tasks to the tolerances stated together with complying with current health and safety regulations during practical activities.



National Unit Support Notes

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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 Unit is designed to introduce the learner to skills required by craft persons working in the construction industry as plasterers. The Unit will focus on basic skills and associated tasks involved in the application of two coat lightweight plaster to a plumb, straight, flat and uniform smooth finish together with the basic skills involved with setting out and fixing metal trims. It is envisaged that many learners will have little or no experience of working with the range of tools, materials and equipment. Underpinning the practical skills is the need to ensure the learner appreciates the reasons for carrying out the tasks in the manner directed and the reasons for using specific tools, materials, equipment and personal protective equipment. Whilst it is imperative that all activities are carried out in compliance with relevant health and safety regulations it is intended that only a basic understanding is summatively assessed.

Outcome 1

This Outcome requires the learner to select tools, and to handle, transport, use, maintain and store tools, materials and equipment. It should inform the learner on the importance of working in an organised and systematic manner while giving due consideration to others. The maintenance of a clean and tidy work area including the positioning of tools, materials and equipment before, during and after use is paramount in complying with relevant health and safety regulations. Tools are likely to include hawk, trowel, gauger, spirit level, float, scrub/splash brush, plasterers hammer, tape measure, tin snips, angle trowel. Materials are likely to be lightweight undercoat and finishing plasters, standard angle bead and stop-end bead. Equipment to include, board and stance, straightedge, darby, mixing paddle, bucket or bath.

Outcome 2

This Outcome entails tasks in background preparation, setting out and fixing metal trims on one occasion for the application of lightweight plasters to a brick or blockwork background with an attached pier. Prior preparations of background areas in terms of learners assessment of key and suction together with the positioning, plumbing and straightness of the metal beads are of vital importance to the success of the operation. The use of plaster dabs (spaced at 600 mm max) together with spirit level, straightedge and plumbing/straightening methods will increase the learner's awareness of techniques common in this area of work.

National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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Outcome 3

This Outcome should enable the learner to develop practical skills in using hand tools during the application of two coat work on two separate occasions with undercoat and finishing plasters. Mixing and consistency of materials together with setting out, plumbing and positioning of dots and screeds are of vital importance to the success of the operation.

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

Recognised working practices should be fully explained, demonstrated and practiced including manual handling techniques, posture when using tools and methods of working in a clean and tidy manner. Outcome 1 should be integrated with Outcome 2 and 3. Where it is possible to do so, underpinning knowledge should be integrated with practical activities in the workshop or project area.

Formative assessment should inform the learner of his/her progress when emphasis should be placed on working accurately.

Guidance on approaches to assessment of this Unit

Centres may use the method of assessment which they consider to be most appropriate but are encouraged to use the Training Assessment Programme (TAP) developed centrally by SQA. It is expected that learners will have to demonstrate current knowledge and understanding of safe working practice and risk assessment methods, etc prior to being set the assessment tasks.

Knowledge and Understanding of the processes involved in *Applying Lightweight Plaster: An Introduction (SCQF level 4)* should be assessed before any practical assignments are carried out by learners. This will include assessment of a learner's ability to prepare the work area for laying modular pavement.

Practical assignments should be carried out under supervised conditions and recorded in an assessor observation/operational checklist. Assessments should confirm that a learner has the ability to safely lay modular pavement using designated machinery or equipment correctly and safely, whilst adhering to current statutory Health and Safety regulations and legislation.

Adherence to current statutory working regulations and Health and Safety procedures will be observed during the practical exercise carried out by the learner towards all Outcomes.

Detailed assessment material for this Unit will be found in the relevant Training and Assessment Programme (TAP). Centres may use the instruments of assessment which they consider to be most appropriate but are advised to use the TAP which has been developed centrally by SQA. Any other instruments of assessment used must be comparable to the TAP and have been prior verified.

National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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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.

Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

The Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 4 could be developed as learners undertake this Unit. Learners will need to take account of a range of factors in order to work efficiently and safely, such as the choice of tools, appropriate materials, safety issues, safety equipment and sustainability.

Numeracy at SCQF level 4 could be developed through measuring and costing exercises.

There will be opportunities for learners to develop the Core Skill of *Communication* at SCQF level 4. Learners will have the opportunity to develop Written and/or Oral Communication skills for the knowledge part of the assessment for Outcome 1. As learners complete practical tasks, they should be expected to communicate with others using the correct terminology, tone and style suited to the workplace.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Clarification of Standards and updated to new Unit Specification Standard.	29/04/16

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General information for learners

Unit title: Applying Lightweight Plaster: An Introduction (SCQF level 4)

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 is designed to introduce you to skills required by craft persons working in the construction industry as plasterers. The Unit will focus on basic skills and associated tasks involved in the application of two coat lightweight plaster to a plumb, straight, flat and uniform smooth finish together with the basic skills involved with setting out and fixing metal trims. Little or no experience is required of working with the range of tools, materials and equipment.

Health and Safety and Sustainability are integral and key to the Construction Industry therefore throughout the Unit emphasis will be placed where appropriate on the application of Health and Safety and Sustainability. Safety working practices will be looked at in accordance with current safety codes of practice and regulations.

There will be a series of training exercises followed by some practical task based assessment and multi choice knowledge assessment. Completion of the Unit will provide you with the basic skills necessary to enable you to progress to more complex aspects of Plasterwork which in turn will further develop your skills and knowledge.

The Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 4 could be developed as you undertake this Unit. You will need to take account of a range of factors in order to work efficiently and safely, such as the choice of tools, appropriate materials, safety issues, safety equipment and sustainability.

Numeracy at SCQF level 4 could be developed through measuring and costing exercises.

There will be opportunities for you to develop the Core Skill of *Communication* at SCQF level 4 as you will have the opportunity to develop Written and/or Oral Communication skills.