

## National Unit Specification: general information

**UNIT** Construction Crafts: Plasterwork (Intermediate 1)

**CODE** DM7R 10

**COURSE** Construction Crafts (Intermediate 1)

### SUMMARY

This Unit is suitable for candidates who have no experience in or knowledge of craft practices in plasterwork. The Unit is based on practical activities such as applying plaster to walls and manufacturing a short length of plaster moulding. Candidates will be required to correctly select and care for a basic range of tools. They will work with an introductory range of plastering equipment and materials. They will develop safe working practices and general skills that will enhance employability.

The Unit is an optional Unit in the Intermediate 1 Construction Crafts Course but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit. Candidates who achieve this Unit should feel confident in progressing to further Units in plasterwork at Intermediate 1 or Intermediate 2.

### OUTCOMES

- 1 Select, use and manage the use of hand tools, materials and equipment.
- 2 Carry out tasks involving solid plasterwork skills.
- 3 Carry out tasks involving plasterwork bench skills.

### RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre.

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#### Administrative Information

**Superclass:** TG

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## **National Unit Specification: general information (cont)**

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### **CREDIT VALUE**

0.5 credit at Intermediate 1 (3 SCQF credit points SCQF level 4\*).

*\*SCQF 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 points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

### **CORE SKILLS**

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

Opportunities for developing aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in *Guidance on Learning and Teaching Approaches for this Unit*.

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards**

### **UNIT Construction Crafts: Plasterwork (Intermediate 1)**

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 the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

#### **OUTCOME 1**

Select, use and manage the use of hand tools, materials and equipment.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) The selection of tools is appropriate for the work to be carried out.
- (b) Tools, materials and equipment are handled and transported correctly and in accordance with good practice.
- (c) Tools and equipment are used, cleaned and maintained correctly and in accordance with good practice.
- (d) Tools, materials and equipment are stored correctly after use.
- (e) Health and safety requirements are complied with during all activities.

#### **OUTCOME 2**

Carry out tasks involving solid plasterwork skills.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) A given background area is prepared and treated in accordance with good practice.
- (b) Materials are correctly mixed according to the given specification.
- (c) The straightening coat is applied in accordance with the given specification.
- (d) The finishing coat is applied to the straightened area in accordance with the given specification.
- (e) A quality check is carried out on the finished work against the prescribed standards and tolerances.
- (f) Health and safety requirements are complied with during all activities.

#### **OUTCOME 3**

Carry out tasks involving plasterwork bench skills.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) The bench is prepared for running of the moulding in accordance with the given specification.
- (b) Materials are correctly mixed according to the given specification.
- (c) The run moulding is produced to given shape and size as in the specification.
- (d) The moulding is removed from bench without damage.
- (e) Mitres and cuts are formed in accordance with the specification and to given tolerances.
- (f) A quality check is carried out on the finished work against the prescribed standards and tolerances.
- (g) Health and safety requirements are complied with during all activities.

## National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

### UNIT Construction Crafts: Plasterwork (Intermediate 1)

#### EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

Performance evidence is required to show that all Outcomes and Performance Criteria have been achieved.

**Performance evidence** will be supported by an assessor checklist. This evidence will be generated from an integrated assignment consisting of practical activities carried out in supervised workshop conditions. The evidence may be gathered at different points throughout the Unit. The practical activities will cover:

- ◆ selecting the correct tools for particular tasks, transporting them and positioning them correctly between tasks; using the tools in a correct and safe manner, using them solely for the purpose for which they are designed, and cleaning and storing them correctly after use
- ◆ preparing backgrounds, benches and supplied running mould and work areas for subsequent work
- ◆ measuring out accurately, lengths of battens for grounds and lengths of moulding
- ◆ measuring out accurately plaster materials for mixing
- ◆ cutting, shaping and jointing of mouldings in accordance with good practice
- ◆ producing from given two-dimensional drawings:
  - two coats lightweight plaster to a flat walled background of minimum area 1m<sup>2</sup>, the plasterwork to be plumb, straight, flat face and with proper surface finish
  - one short length (minimum 1m) of plaster moulding forming one mitred intersection and two squared ends
  - all of the above to be carried out to given tolerances and specification
- ◆ candidates carrying out a quality check on their own work before submitting for final assessment
- ◆ candidates maintaining a clean and tidy workplace and adhering to health and safety requirements throughout all activities

The National Assessment Bank item (NAB) for this Unit provides an assessor checklist and details of the practical assignment which exemplify the national standard. Centres wishing to develop their own assessments should refer to the NAB to ensure a comparable standard.

## **National Unit Specification: support notes**

### **UNIT Construction Crafts: Plasterwork (Intermediate 1)**

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 20 hours.

#### **GUIDANCE ON THE CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT**

The content in this Unit covers practical plasterwork activities at an introductory level. The candidate is required to develop the ability to select and use tools and materials correctly and safely. It is therefore important that the learning takes place in a supervised workshop/site environment. Basic safe working practices will be included in the content as it is important that candidates learn to adhere to these at all times.

During the process of practical work the candidate will become accustomed to the use of plasterwork terms and will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of these terms in everyday practice. The main content of the Unit will be learning the skills required in mixing and applying plaster to walls and in mouldings. Candidates should be taught good working practices at each stage and should learn how to carry out a quality check on their own work throughout the tasks and on completion.

The Unit will focus on basic skills in applying plaster to a wall in the workshop. This will be to a specified standard and tolerance. Candidates will also learn skills associated with the production of lengths of plaster moulding in the workshop. It is envisaged that many candidates will have little or no experience of working with the range of tools and materials associated with this Unit. Underpinning the practical skills is the need to ensure that the candidate appreciates the reasons for carrying out the tasks in the manner directed. They will learn the reasons for using specific tools for specific materials. They will also learn and the importance of good health and safety and personal protective equipment.

Outcome 1 requires the candidate to select tools, and to handle, transport, position, and store tools and materials. Candidates should become aware of the importance of being considerate to others and of working in a safe and systematic manner. The maintenance of a clean and tidy work area includes the positioning of tools and materials before, during and after use. Materials used will include various plasters in dry and wet form. Candidates will learn to handle these materials correctly and will be given an appreciation of the hazards associated with skin contact and inhalation of plaster dust. Proper PPE (personal protective equipment) will be worn, whenever necessary, in the carrying out of practical tasks. Tools are likely to include mixing drums, plunger, board and stance, hawk, trowel, gauger, spirit level, straightedge, scribe/splash brush, small tool, saw, square and mitre box.

Outcome 2 entails tasks in solid plasterwork skills and is mainly related to the application of two-coat lightweight plasters to a flat walled (brick/block) background. The importance of preparing the background correctly and proper mixing of materials will be stressed. The use of dots and screeds or fully bedded timber rods together with a spirit level will help the candidate to become familiar with techniques common in this area of work.

Outcome 3 will enable the candidate to develop practical skills in using hand-tools during the bench work production of a short length of panel moulding. Again, both the correct preparation of the bench area and the mixing of materials will be stressed. Running techniques, including the importance of the running rule/rod, together with back-stripping and methods incorporating reinforcement into the run, should be demonstrated and explained. The cutting of mitre and squared ends of the panel mould may include measured cuts or the use of a mitre box.

## National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

### UNIT Construction Crafts: Plasterwork (Intermediate 1)

In addition to the vocational content, candidates should be encouraged to focus on the general skills and attitudes that are valued by employers. These should be taught as an integral part of the Unit. Opportunities will arise in various practical contexts to discuss the value of, for example: time-keeping, working co-operatively, taking advice, maintaining a clean, tidy and organised workplace, planning and thorough preparation. The context for learning should include the requirement to be clean, presentable and appropriately dressed for the workshop and wearing PPE (personal protective equipment), including protective clothing, when required.

Relevant aspects of current health and safety legislation and any systems of work relevant to the candidates' workshop/workplace should be explained and adhered to as part of the work of this Unit.

#### Employability Skills

On completion of this Unit the candidate will have had opportunities to develop the following employability skills:

- ◆ timekeeping
- ◆ attendance
- ◆ following instructions
- ◆ taking advice and dealing with constructive feedback
- ◆ maintaining a tidy work area
- ◆ working co-operatively with others
- ◆ planning and preparation\*
- ◆ checking quality of own work\*
- ◆ positive attitude to learning
- ◆ review and self-evaluation
- ◆ awareness of health and safety issues\*
- ◆ interpretation of graphic information

Achievement in a number of these employability skills (those marked with an asterisk) will be clearly identified as a result of the evidence generated through the assessment activities for this Unit. There are opportunities to develop the remaining skills.

#### GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Experiential learning is the main approach recommended for this Unit. This involves learning through practical experiences and activities. Candidates should experience workplace conditions and should be encouraged to perform tasks and conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to the workplace.

Experiential learning also involves reflecting on experiences/activities, identifying strengths and areas for improvement. It is important to encourage candidates throughout the Unit to evaluate their own work and progress. They should be encouraged to seek advice and set themselves goals to build competence and confidence in undertaking tasks.

In this Unit there are many opportunities to build up an understanding of the workplace ethos and the behaviours and practice required of employees and employers. Checking standards of work against prescribed tolerances is a very useful skill and habit that candidates can develop during their work. For example, learning how to use a spirit level or straightedge to check work against a required standard would be helpful for candidates. The construction industry is very keen on producing work

## National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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In this Unit there are many opportunities to build up an understanding of the workplace ethos and the behaviours and practice required of employees and employers. Checking standards of work against prescribed tolerances is a very useful skill and habit that candidates can develop during their work. For example, learning how to use a spirit level or straightedge to check work against a required standard would be helpful for candidates. The construction industry is very keen on producing work that is 'right first time' and quality checks are an inherent part of the work in the industry. Candidates can be encouraged to approach their work with care and build in a checking process as part of good practice.

Responsible, safe behaviour in the workplace can be demonstrated and practised as part of the routine essential work for example: candidates will learn that an accumulation of wet plaster on the floor of the workspace could constitute a slipping hazard; they will learn how to use hand-tools and equipment in a safe manner and how to clean and maintain them; daily routines in the workplace will include maintaining a clean and tidy workspace.

Opportunities for developing aspects of Core Skills should be incorporated where they arise naturally in the teaching and learning process. In this Unit, candidates will make simple calculations in translating dry plaster into wet mixed quantities for a given area; they will also check straightness and plumb, etc against prescribed tolerances. These are good opportunities for developing aspects of numeracy.

Candidates will read instructions for work activities, including the specifications of materials required for the practical activity. They will also take part in discussions with peers and tutors regarding work tasks, interpretation of drawings, materials, use of tools and workshop protocol; and at all times, clear and courteous communication with their peers, supervisors and technicians will be needed on use of workspace, tools and health and safety issues. All of these activities present opportunities for developing aspects of Communication Skills.

Where this Unit is taken alongside the Unit *Construction Crafts: Employability Skills*, candidates will have additional opportunities to develop an awareness of the general employability skills and attitudes that are valued by employers. Integrated activities will involve the candidate assessing his/her own performance on time-keeping, attendance, taking instructions, seeking advice, planning and preparation, working co-operatively with others and general attitude. Candidates will also seek the views of tutors/supervisors and will identify areas for improvement and take responsibility for action plans. These activities will add value to the candidate's experience and help to enhance employability.

Recognised working practices should be fully explained, demonstrated and practised. This includes correct manual handling techniques and posture when using tools.

Outcome 1 should be integrated with Outcomes 2 and 3. Where it is possible to do so, underpinning knowledge should be integrated with practical activities in the workshop or project area.

## **National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)**

### **UNIT Construction Crafts: Plasterwork (Intermediate 1)**

#### **Core Skills**

There are opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skills *Problem Solving* in this Unit. Candidates are required to check their own practical work against given standards and tolerances and are required to review and evaluate their work.

#### **GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT**

It is expected that candidates will be given as much practice as possible in plastering techniques, prior to being set the assessment tasks. The National Assessment Bank item for the Unit details the quality and quantity of solid and bench plasterwork to be produced for the Unit assessment. Tolerances required from the assessment task are significantly less stringent than those required by National Occupational Standards. Nevertheless, the use of tolerances in this way introduces candidates to the kind of quality regime they will experience if and when they pursue a career as a tradesperson in the construction industry.

An observation checklist should be used when gathering performance evidence. The NAB item for this Unit provides an observation checklist. Centres may develop their own instruments of assessment but these must be of a comparable standard to the NAB.

#### **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](http://www.sqa.org.uk)).