

National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT	Practical Experiences in Construction (Access 3)
CODE	DX15 09
COURSE	Practical Experiences: Construction and Engineering (Access 3)

SUMMARY

This Unit is a mandatory Unit of the *Access 3 Practical Experiences: Construction and Engineering Course*, and is designed to be taken as part of that Course. The Unit is suitable for candidates with no previous construction or employment experience. Candidates will select and use the basic tools and materials associated with construction at an introductory level, leading to various practical activities and the manufacture of an artefact. The candidate will learn basic construction terminology and skills during the process of the practical work.

Candidates who achieve this Course will build confidence in their ability to operate in a working environment and could progress to further Units at Access or Intermediate 1.

The primary target group for this Unit is school candidates in S3 and above. This Unit may also be suitable for adult returners.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Select and use basic construction tools and materials in specified tasks.
- 2 Manufacture an artefact, to a given specification, using construction materials.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

Administrative Information

Superclass:	TE
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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at SQA level 3 (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 3*).

**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.*

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 Practical Experiences in Construction (Access 3)

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 and use basic construction tools and materials in specified tasks.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Select and use construction materials appropriate to specified tasks.
- (b) Select and use tools appropriate for specified tasks.
- (c) Use tools correctly and solely for intended purpose.
- (d) Use basic construction drawings and specifications for given tasks.
- (e) Comply with health and safety requirements during all specified tasks.

OUTCOME 2

Manufacture an artefact, to a given specification, using construction materials.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Carry out all manufacturing steps from instructions given.
- (b) Carry out steps in an appropriate sequence according to the instructions given.
- (c) Complete the manufacture of the artefact to specified standards.
- (d) Comply with health and safety requirements during all specified tasks.

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

Performance evidence is required to show that all Outcomes and Performance Criteria have been achieved, and will be supported by assessor checklists. This evidence will be generated from practical activities carried out in supervised workshop conditions and will be gathered from the preparation and completion of practical activities and the manufacture of the artefact.

The practical activities will provide evidence that the candidate has performed **each** of the following tasks on **one** occasion:

- ◆ affix an object to a wall or partition
- ◆ create a concrete base (minimum of 300 mm x 300 mm x 50 mm)
- ◆ measure, cut and join timber
- ◆ apply a protective coating
- ◆ manufacture an artefact:
 - in accordance with given specifications and instructions
 - in an appropriate sequence
 - to given standards

The completed artefact should be strong, stable and functional.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

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Throughout the completion of these tasks, candidates must provide evidence that they are able to:

- ◆ select and use appropriate materials
- ◆ select and use tools correctly and safely, and only for the purposes intended
- ◆ use construction drawings and specifications appropriate to the task

Candidates will be required to maintain a clean and tidy workplace, adhering to health and safety requirements throughout all activities.

The NAB item for this Unit provides assessor observation checklists and details of the practical assignments 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 Practical Experiences in Construction (Access 3)

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 covers practical construction assignments at a basic level. The candidate is required to develop the ability to select and use tools correctly and safely. It is therefore important that the learning takes place in a supervised workshop 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.

Candidates will work on a range of practical tasks, which will enable them to become familiar with a variety of tools and materials in the workshop. Lecturers/teachers may include a wide range of short practical activities to equip candidates with the skills necessary to complete an artefact. During the process of practical work the candidate will become accustomed to simple construction terminology and will be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of the terminology in everyday practice. Candidates should learn good working practices at each stage and how to carry out a quality check.

This Unit provides opportunities to develop generic employability skills such as time-keeping; working co-operatively; taking advice; maintaining a clean, tidy and organised workplace and thorough preparation. The context for learning should include the requirement to be clean, presentable and appropriately dressed for the workshop, wearing PPE including protective clothing when required.

Relevant aspects of current health and safety legislation, current COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) Regulations 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.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

This Unit involves learning through the various practical experiences and activities. Candidates should experience workshop conditions and should be encouraged to perform tasks and conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to the workplace. Visits to local industry could help to raise candidates' awareness of the realities of the workplace. Equally, visiting speakers from local construction firms should be encouraged. Useful material can be resourced from the Internet.

It is expected that, at this level, candidates will require some degree of teacher/lecturer support depending on their abilities. It is expected that candidates will work at a pace which suits their individual needs. Teachers/lecturers should consider the physical ability of individuals and groups when devising/adapting practical tasks.

Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will be involved in a range of practical tasks that may involve working as part of a small team. They will also be involved in tasks that require some measuring. These are good opportunities for developing aspects of the Core Skills of Working with Others and Numeracy.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

The assessment activities in this Unit make an important contribution to the learning process.

If candidates are working as a team on practical assignments, assessors must satisfy themselves that candidates are competent in each aspect of the given task.

The physical dimensions of the concrete base which forms part of the assessment should be decided by the tutor but will normally be no less than 300 mm by 300 mm by 50 mm deep.

A NAB pack is available to support assessment of this Unit. It provides assessor observation checklists and details of the practical assignments which exemplify the national standard. If centres wish to develop their own assessment instruments these should be of a comparable standard.

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).