



## **National Unit specification: general information**

**Unit title:** Jewellery: Polishing (SCQF level 6)

**Unit code:** H09W 12

**Superclass:** JH

**Publication date:** December 2011

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

### **Summary**

This Unit covers the skills and knowledge required to polish and finish jewellery using appropriate techniques and equipment. In polishing the items candidates will be required to work to instructions and to use a range of polishing and finishing techniques, appropriate to the type of material and surface finish required.

This Unit is an optional Unit in the National Certificate in Jewellery at SCQF level 6. It can also be delivered as a free standing Unit.

### **Outcomes**

- 1 Prepare a variety of surfaces prior to polishing using the appropriate materials and equipment.
- 2 Polish items to a commercially acceptable standard using the appropriate materials and equipment.
- 3 Clean and check polished items to a commercially acceptable standard.

### **Recommended entry**

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

### **Credit points and level**

1 credit at SCQF level 6: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6\*)

*\*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.*

## **General information (cont)**

**Unit title:** Jewellery: Polishing (SCQF level 6)

### **Core Skills**

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

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

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

**Unit title:** Jewellery: Polishing (SCQF level 6)

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**

Prepare a variety of surfaces prior to polishing using the appropriate materials and equipment.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Select and use appropriate equipment safely to prepare a variety of surfaces for polishing.
- (b) Select and use appropriate materials to prepare a variety of surfaces for polishing.
- (c) Remove surface scratches and blemishes.

### **Outcome 2**

Polish items to a commercially acceptable standard using the appropriate materials and equipment.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Select and use appropriate equipment safely to polish a variety of items.
- (b) Select and use appropriate abrasives to polish a variety of items.
- (c) Bring surfaces to commercially acceptable standard.

### **Outcome 3**

Clean and check polished items to a commercially acceptable standard.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Select and use appropriate equipment safely to remove excess polishing compounds.
- (b) Achieve a polished surface appropriate for commercially acceptable standards.

## **National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Jewellery: Polishing (SCQF level 6)

### **Evidence Requirements for this Unit**

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

Product and performance evidence will be produced, under supervised workshop conditions, to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Outcomes 1, 2 and 3.

Candidates will be required to polish and finish a range of items which cover a variety of shapes and forms. At least five examples should be polished; each should include at least one of the following elements.

- ◆ Flat surfaces
- ◆ Organic form
- ◆ Sharp edges
- ◆ Complex object
- ◆ Wire

Each example will demonstrate a completed polished object which accurately reflects the original intention and without excessive softening or destruction of surface detail.

During its execution candidates will demonstrate that they have correctly followed the processes as demonstrated.

Candidates should make safe and appropriate use of polishing equipment.

## National Unit specification: support notes

### Unit title: Jewellery: Polishing (SCQF level 6)

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 could be studied on its own as a freestanding Unit, as part of a group of related Units or, in conjunction with other Units, as part of the National Certificate in Jewellery at SCQF level 6.

In particular it would be useful to include as part of a related group of Units which take the candidates through the process, from initial concept, manufacture and polishing, to a completed item of jewellery.

The aim of this Unit is to cover the skills and knowledge required to polish and finish jewellery using the range of materials and equipment commonly used in the Jewellery industry. It would be hoped to give candidates an understanding of the processes involved in working through progressively finer abrasives in order to create a highly polished surface.

Skills and knowledge which will be developed are:

- ◆ The correct sequence in removing fire-stain (if appropriate), preliminary abrasive polishing, bright polishing and finishing
- ◆ How to identify and use common materials such as; polishing papers, Wet and Dry and Water of Ayr stones for the preparation of surfaces
- ◆ How to identify and use mops, brushes, composition wheels on a polishing lathe and pendant motor
- ◆ The correct and safe methods for presenting of objects to the polishing lathe
- ◆ How to recognise and achieve a commercially acceptable standard

Correct working practices must be emphasised in order to ensure safe and appropriate use of mechanical equipment such as polishing machines. Also information should be given on the use of protective clothing and equipment and the importance of wearing it.

This Unit broadly aligns to the National Operational Standards for Jewellery from Creative and Cultural Skills:

J2.9 Polish and finish jewellery or silverware components

J3.14 Polish and finish jewellery or silverwork to a commercial standard

## **National Unit specification: support notes**

**Unit title:** Jewellery: Polishing (SCQF level 6)

### **Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit**

Tutors should provide step by step demonstrations of the processes involved allowing candidates several attempts to gain confidence in completing the tasks. Candidates could polish a given set of objects, or items that they have made previously for other Units.

Candidates should be encouraged to explore the variety of surface finishes commonly used on jewellery, with a view to future more advanced techniques such as, matte, satin, texture mops etc. Exemplars could be provided for discussion.

Information could be provided to candidates on the variety of equipment available to the jewellery industry for the polishing and cleaning of objects, ie polishing lathe, pendant motor, barrel polishers, burnishers, ultrasonic, etc.

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

Each candidate should have several opportunities to develop practical skills required in this Unit and should be assessed at appropriate points throughout the Unit.

Outcomes 1,2 and 3 are likely to be assessed across a range of objects.

Evidence for performance assessment should be gathered by observation checklists and product evidence by the use of the objects which candidates create.

### **Opportunities for the use of 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 candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Jewellery: Polishing (SCQF level 6)

### Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will cover the skills and knowledge required to polish and finish jewellery using appropriate techniques and equipment. In polishing the items candidates will be required to work to instructions and to use a range of polishing and finishing techniques, appropriate to the type of material and surface finish required.

Candidates will:

- ◆ Prepare materials for polishing in a workshop environment
- ◆ Select appropriate tools and materials and justify their selections
- ◆ Polish jewellery using a variety of equipment following safety guidelines paying due attention to the safety of others in the workshop
- ◆ Clean and check polished items to their interpretation of an acceptable standard justifying their decisions.
- ◆ Carry out research and present their finished work using ICT

As candidates are doing this Unit they will be developing aspects of the Core Skills in *Communication; Information and Communication Technology (ICT); Problem Solving* and *Working with Others*.

### Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)

## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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