



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Plastering: Applying Lightweight Plasters

Unit code: H0C5 12

Superclass: TG

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Summary

This Unit is suitable for candidates working towards a Modern Apprenticeship in Plastering and will develop the candidates understanding of lightweight plasters. This Unit is designed to provide candidates with competence in identifying and using lightweight plasters, preparing backgrounds, mixing lightweight plasters, applying plasters to backgrounds, cutting and fixing metal trims and show the ability to apply this in the workplace. It is also designed to enable candidates to develop their understanding and use of plastering terminology, techniques and practices.

Outcomes

- 1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of plasters, backgrounds and preparation techniques.
- 2 Measure, cut and fix metal trims.
- 3 Apply straightening coats to wall areas incorporating attached pier and opening.
- 4 Apply finishing plaster.
- 5 Carry out absorption test.

Recommended entry

While entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, candidates undertaking the Professional Development Award in Plastering at SCQF level 6 must meet the requirements of the Modern Apprentices which include being employed in the relevant craft industry.

General information (cont)

Credit points and level

2 National Unit credits at SCQF level 6: (12 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.*

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: Plastering: Applying Lightweight Plasters

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

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of plasters, backgrounds and preparation techniques.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify and select the use of different types of lightweight plasters.
- (b) Demonstrate an understanding of the different types of backgrounds and their absorption rates.
- (c) Identify plasters suited to a range of backgrounds.
- (d) Demonstrate an understanding of the correct use of lightweight plasters.
- (e) Calculate areas, perimeters, cost.
- (f) Identify health and safety issues when using lightweight plasters.

Outcome 2

Measure, cut and fix metal trims.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Prepare backgrounds to receive metal trims.
- (b) Measure and cut metal trims.
- (c) Fix metal trims correctly.
- (d) Comply with current health and safety requirements during all work methods and activities.

Outcome 3

Apply straightening coats to wall areas incorporating attached pier and opening.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify and select the correct tools and materials for the given task.
- (b) Use and maintain portable hand tools and ancillary equipment
- (c) Prepare background.
- (d) Mix lightweight plaster according to given instructions.
- (e) Straighten wall area in lightweight plasters using box screed and dot and screed system.
- (f) Straighten ingo, soffit, and pier to given specifications.
- (g) Comply with current health and safety requirements during all work methods and activities.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 4

Apply finishing plaster.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Prepare background.
- (b) Mix lightweight plaster according to given instructions.
- (c) Apply finishing plaster to a range of backgrounds.
- (d) Comply with current health and safety requirements during all work methods and activities.

Outcome 5

Carry out absorption test.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Set up apparatus to carry out absorption test.
- (b) Carry out absorption test.
- (c) Report findings and conclusions from absorption test.
- (d) Comply with current health and safety requirements during all work methods and activities.

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

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

These Evidence Requirements will met by the completion of the Plastering Training and Assessment Programme (TAP).

Evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved this Unit to the standard specified in all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Written and/or oral recorded evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved Outcomes 1 and 5 to the standard specified in the Performance Criteria. Candidates will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of plasters, backgrounds, absorption rates, preparation techniques and calculations. The instrument of assessment will be a building craft science absorption test report and a multiple-choice questions paper conducted in supervised, closed-book conditions.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Plastering: Applying Lightweight Plasters

Product and performance evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved Outcomes 2, 3, 4, and 5 to the standards specified in the Performance Criteria. Candidates will be required to prepare backgrounds, cut and fix metal trims and apply a range of lightweight plasters to a range of backgrounds, to the correct thickness, flatness and plumb. Candidates will be required to complete an absorption test. Candidates must demonstrate safe handling of tools and materials, an awareness of standards and tolerances and comply with workshop cleaning and maintenance and health and safety/Personal Protective Equipment regulations.

Summary of standard	
Item	Measurement of standard
Plumb	±7 mm
Flatness	±7 mm
Screed Thickness	10 mm ±5 mm
Screed level (Vertically)	± mm
Screed level (Horizontally)	±7 mm
Floated Evenly (scratch nail)	4 mm or no greater than half coating thickness
Material Consistency	Free from lumps and dry materials and workable/spreadable
Finish applied	Smooth, even thickness ± 5 mm free from trowel marks and blemishes
Working Area	Clean at all times
Wastage	Kept to a minimum
Health & Safety	Complies at all times

Summary of standard	
Item	Measurement of standard
Plumb	±7 mm
Flatness	±7 mm
Screed Thickness	10 mm ±4 mm
Screed level (Vertically)	±7 mm
Screed level (Horizontally)	±7 mm
Floated Evenly (scratch nail)	Evenly devil floated and scratched
Angle Bead	Plumb, level and straight throughout the length ±7 mm
Ingo/soffit square	±5 mm
Material Consistency	Free from lumps and dry materials and workable/spreadable
Finish Applied	Smooth, even thickness ±5 mm free from trowel marks and blemishes
Working Area	Clean at all times
Wastage	Kept to a minimum
Health & Safety	Complies at all times

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Plastering: Applying Lightweight Plasters

Summary of standard	
Item	Measurement of standard
Plumb	±7 mm
Flatness	±7 mm
Scrim Flat	In line ±10 mm
Finish Coat	Smooth, even thickness ±4 mm free from trowel marks and blemishes
Material Consistency	Free from lumps and dry materials and workable/spreadable
Working Area	Clean at all times
Wastage	Kept to a minimum
Health & Safety	Complies at all times

Summary of standard	
Item	Measurement of standard
Suction	Provide adequate key
Preparation	±5 mm
Plumb	±5 mm
Flatness	10 mm ±4 mm
Two Coat Thickness	±5 mm
Straightening Coat Screeds	7 mm ±3 mm
One-Coat Work (ceiling)	14 mm ±3mm
Three-Coat Work (beam)	10 mm ±4 mm
Angle Beads	Plumb, level and straight throughout its length for ±4 mm
Finishing Coats	Smooth even thickness, ±4 mm, free from trowel marks and blemishes
Material Consistency	Free from lumps and dry materials and workable/spreadable

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Plastering: Applying Lightweight Plasters

Summary of standard	
Item	Measurement of standard
Working Area	Clean at all times
Wastage	Kept to a minimum
Health & Safety	Complies at all times
Risk Assessment	Safety boots worn at all times Respiratory mask and goggles to be worn when dismantling models COSHH regulations to be adhered to throughout all activities
Method Statement	Work area kept clean at all times Materials stacked safely at all times Tools and equipment handled safely at all times Tools and equipment stacked/stored safely at the end of each working day Waste disposal to conform with organisational requirements

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Plastering: Applying Lightweight Plasters

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 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit has been developed as a mandatory Unit in the Professional Development Award in Plastering at SCQF level 6.

The successful completion of this Unit will provide candidates with the required underpinning knowledge and skills relating to plastering tools and materials, preparation of backgrounds and the mixing and application of plaster.

The knowledge elements of this Unit should cover the following:

- ◆ Plastering tools (general plastering tools)
- ◆ The use and maintenance of portable hand tools and ancillary equipment
- ◆ Screeds (box screed, dot and screed)
- ◆ Plastering materials (lightweight plasters, and metal trims)
- ◆ Backgrounds and absorption (a range of backgrounds from low to high suction)
- ◆ Safe handling of tools and materials
- ◆ Calculations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, area, perimeter)
- ◆ Workshop health and safety (general health and safety and PPE)
- ◆ Absorption Test

The practical section of this Unit should cover the following:

- ◆ Preparing backgrounds (absorption/suction control)
- ◆ Cutting and fixing metal trims
- ◆ Use and maintain portable hand tools and ancillary equipment
- ◆ Applying lightweight plasters (thickness/flatness/plumb)
- ◆ Forming a mechanical key (devil float)
- ◆ Safe handling of tools and materials (handling and lifting techniques)
- ◆ Complying with workshop cleaning and maintenance
- ◆ Complying with health and safety/PPE regulations
- ◆ Absorption Test

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 should be looked at in accordance with current safety codes of practice and regulations. Sustainability should include reference to criteria affecting sustainability, impact of not implementing sustainability on the environment and the legislation promoting sustainability.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Plastering: Applying Lightweight Plasters

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

The candidate should be provided with plastering materials and photographs/visual aids in a workshop environment followed by lecturer led demonstrations on how these plastering materials should be used safely and correctly.

The candidate should be introduced to a workshop environment where lecturer led demonstrations on preparing a range of backgrounds, cutting and fixing metal trims, mixing and applying lightweight plaster to prepared backgrounds to the correct thickness, flatness and plumb. The candidate should follow demonstrations which should be supported by classroom notes and group discussions. Candidates may work in pairs to carry out the practical elements of this Unit.

Where appropriate, opportunities should be taken throughout delivery of this Unit to meet the requirements of the generic Units of the Training and Assessment Programme including:

- ◆ *Conform to Productive Working Practices*
- ◆ *Conform to General Workplace Health, Safety and Welfare*
- ◆ *Move, Handle and Store Resources*
- ◆ *Confirm Work Activities and Resources for the Work*
- ◆ *Develop and Maintain Good Working Relationships*
- ◆ *Confirm the Occupational Method of Work*

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Detailed assessment material for this Unit will be found in the Plastering 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 Plastering TAP which has been developed centrally by SQA. Any other instruments of assessment used must be comparable to the TAP and have been through prior verification.

The candidate's knowledge and understanding of terminology, techniques and construction practices and components related to the application of lightweight plaster will be assessed through a question paper.

Candidates should be given as much practise as possible prior to being set the assessment. Evidence will be gathered for Outcomes 2, 3, 4 and 5 through observation of work processes and assessment of the completed workpieces to ensure that the candidates have met the given standards and tolerances during the practical assessment. An assessor observation checklist should be used to record this evidence.

Candidates will be required to perform an absorption test to meet the requirements of Outcome 5.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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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)*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

The Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 4 could be developed as candidates undertake this Unit. Candidates 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. Individual discussions with assessors will enhance the evaluation of efficient working practices.

There are opportunities for candidates to develop the Core Skill of *Working with Others* at SCQF level 4, as this practical assessment may be carried out working in pairs. Candidates can agree responsibilities and provide support and information to each other during the assessments. After assessment, they should be encouraged to consider how effectively they supported each other.

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

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

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

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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