



National Qualifications 2012 Internal Assessment Report Brickwork

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject.

National Qualifications (NQ) Awards

Titles/levels of NQ Awards verified:

Professional Development Award (PDA) Brickwork, SCQF level 6, all Units

General comments

The outcome of external verification activity for academic year 2011–2012, again confirms that all centres continue to have an accurate and defined understanding of the national standards for Brickwork and specifically the national Units which form the PDA qualification.

Course Arrangements, Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

All centres had a clear understanding of the Unit specifications and their assessment instrument requirements. These findings are consistent with findings at centres in previous years and support the view that this facet of NQ delivery is being consistently delivered in an effective manner.

Evidence Requirements

As in previous years, all centres continue to meet the Evidence Requirements for all Units within the qualification. Candidate practical brickwork evidence was once again noted as being of a good standard relative to the stage learners had reached in their Course. Candidate written evidence was also of a good standard.

Administration of assessments

Assessment records and materials, candidate documentation and portfolios were well organised and consistent, and confirmed that assessment was being pitched at an appropriate level. Dates and signatures were recorded for all candidates, ensuring an effective internal and external verification focus. The administration systems in place in the centre effectively support the delivery of the qualification.

Areas of good practice

- ◆ Excellent workshop facilities with a realistic working environment.
- ◆ Effective use of the workshop space which created an appropriate training and assessment environment for the learners.
- ◆ Good rapport between staff and learners, ensuring learner confidence in the assessment decisions.
- ◆ Excellent use of a variety of assessment procedures to allow learners to show competence.

- ◆ Feedback to candidates on their performance in the practical activities was detailed and easy to understand. Candidates found this feedback extremely helpful and it assisted them in identifying areas of work where they needed to improve.

National Qualifications (NQ) Units

Titles/levels of NQ Units verified:

F6JL 11 Construction Craft Employment Skills
F1JS 10 Half Brick Walling
F1JX 11 Fundamentals of Cavity Walling
F6M0 11 Contribute to the Provision of a Safe Work Environment
F1JN 10 Construction Occupation Practices
F1JR 10 Efficient Construction Practices
FIK5 11 Block Walling
F1K1 11 Simple Decorative Brickwork
F1K3 11 Simple Arch Construction.

General comments

The outcome of external verification activity for academic year 2011–2012 again confirms that all centres continue to have an accurate and defined understanding of the national standards for Brickwork and specifically the national qualification Units listed above.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

All centres had a clear understanding of the requirements of Unit specifications and their instruments of assessment requirements. These findings are consistent with findings at centres in previous years. The evidence supports the view that this part of NQ Unit delivery is being consistently delivered in an effective manner.

Evidence Requirements

As in previous years, all centres continue to meet the Evidence Requirements of all Units. Candidate practical brickwork evidence was once again noted as being of a good standard relative to the stage learners had reached in their Course. Candidate written evidence was also of a good standard.

Administration of assessments

Assessment records and materials, candidate documentation and portfolios were well organised and consistent. They demonstrated that assessment was being pitched at an appropriate level. All dates and signatures were recorded for all candidates, ensuring an effective internal and external verification focus. The administration systems in place in the centres effectively supported the delivery of the qualification.

Areas of good practice

At one centre, the candidate drawings sampled during the visit was of a high standard. The use of secondary photographic evidence of internal verification activity was an excellent way to authenticate this activity.

One centre received good practice comments in relation to the standard of practical work on display in the workshop. The standard was relatively high in relation to the stage candidates had reached in their Course. In most cases, candidates were exceeding the minimum standards and tolerances outlined in each Unit.

At the same centre, the focus on health and safety throughout the delivery and assessment of Units was very effective. Candidates were proactive in terms of the application of health and safety control measures for bricklaying practices in the workshop.

The recording of feedback to candidates from knowledge assessments to consolidate learning was excellent. Any questions with wrong answers received feedback, even when candidates had achieved the pass mark.

As part of the Course delivery, the centre organised a two-week work placement with the local authority for all candidates on the National Progression Award (NPA) programme. This gave candidates valuable work experience and all the learners interviewed expressed how much they appreciated this opportunity.

Specific areas for improvement

All centres had development points noted which included:

- ◆ Ensure that bricklaying industry practices are followed in the construction of brickwork models, with all work being built from the floor level.
- ◆ Effectively plan the internal verification procedures to allow the Internal Verifier the opportunity to sample product evidence from each base.
- ◆ Use examples of good quality feedback to candidates on their practical assessment performance to standardise the quality of feedback to candidates in all delivery sites within centres.
- ◆ Assist candidates with assessment which involves measuring component parts and room sizes. Centres should add a sketch to the assessment instrument to allow candidates to identify the length, width and height/thickness of the elements to be measured.
- ◆ Feedback on knowledge assessment responses would be beneficial to candidates.
- ◆ Action points identified by the Internal Verifier should be signed off by the assessor when they have been completed.
- ◆ Re-establish the verification group meeting to support assessors and Internal Verifiers in gaining continuous professional development (CPD).
- ◆ Ensure that photographic evidence presented shows candidates complying with the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) procedures. The centre should be encouraged to ensure that all candidates in workshop activities comply with the construction industry minimum standards for using PPE.

- ◆ Ensure that as part of the internal verification procedures, all assessors involved in the delivery have their work sampled by an Internal Verifier.
- ◆ Practical assessment models used in the F1JV 11 One Brick Walling Unit should be amended to remove the toothings without reducing the overall height of the model, to comply with the latest industry practices.