



Internal Assessment Report (2009): Painting and Decorating

Sector Panel or SSC:

ConstructionSkills

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

Higher National Units

General comments

Advanced Certificate in Painting and Decorating

Two reports were available when compiling this report for 2009. The full suite of Units were sampled during visits, with no holds being placed. Feedback from centres to External Verifiers (EVs) confirms that activity in this area has remained, as in previous years, very positive. Numbers remain steady and employers provide good support towards the award.

Reports from the verifiers referenced the centres' continuing aim to improve the delivery of the award and to encourage the skills being applied by participating candidates. As in the previous year's report, centres were asking questions about the forthcoming changes to the award. Advice was given to staff at centres about the current progress of the review being carried out, with further advice being provided when available.

Verifiers found:

- ◆ Innovation being applied to support materials used by candidates
- ◆ High standards of practical work
- ◆ Good use of appropriate and challenging models
- ◆ Consistency of assessment decisions

Advice on good practice

The following points of good practice were noted by EVs during external verification:

- ◆ Extremely high standards of practical work being completed
- ◆ Good use of innovative approaches to support materials being used by candidates
- ◆ Consistency of assessment decisions across Assessors

Areas for further development

As previously mentioned, the whole suite of Advanced Certificate Awards are currently undergoing review, with consultation taking place between SQA and representatives from a proportion of centres.

SVQ Awards

Titles/levels of SVQ Awards verified

Painting and Decorating (169) – SVQ levels 2 and 3

General comments

This has been a demanding year for EVs, with the review of the Training and Assessment Programme (TAP) and the need to keep centres informed of its progress. It has also been a successful year for centres, with 19 visits taking place across the sector area and no holds being placed on any of the centres.

As in previous years, there is a consistent flow of feedback to EVs that the Painting and Decorating TAP is working well and continues to challenge and prepare candidates in meeting industry needs. As stated earlier, the first year element of the TAP has been under review by EVs in consultation with SQA and centres. Its purpose was to address issues like core skills and ensure their continued delivery, producing a more logical sequence of capturing practical and knowledge evidence within the TAP and ensuring that generic evidence can be captured. This new reviewed TAP should be available to centres for the start of the academic session.

The implementation of the TAPs programme for centres has ensured that a standardised approach to assessment across centres is being adhered to, and that clear evidence is provided of quality assurance processes and of centres' confidence in the delivery and assessment criteria. Candidates' work, both practical and written, continues to demonstrate a high standard of quality, with candidates now taking a more active role in some instances of critiquing their own work.

Verifiers found clear evidence of:

- ◆ Increased use of IT within the delivery mechanism
- ◆ Effective internal verification systems used to plan and report
- ◆ Consistency of assessment decisions
- ◆ Candidates being more aware of the standards and performance levels required
- ◆ Good evidence of staff development in supporting the award

Advice on good practice

The continuing trend of good practices is encouraging and looks to be well established throughout centres' delivery of the Painting and Decorating TAP. Centres have provided evidence of:

- ◆ Regular Course team meetings to ensure quality and standardisation
- ◆ Effective use of IT to store candidates' tasks and tests evidence (e-folios)

- ◆ Networking of internal departments to provide support mechanisms in delivering elements of TAP
- ◆ Centre-developed checklists used to carry out risk assessment
- ◆ High level of commitment towards PPE and Health and Safety

Areas for further development

Areas requiring further development include:

- ◆ Photographic evidence or video evidence, as part of candidates' portfolios, has to be of sufficient quality to be viewed as part of evidence requirements. Centres must ensure that any secondary evidence submitted is clear and concise.
- ◆ The approach to capturing evidence for the generic Units varies across centres. Within the revised TAP for first year an exemplar checklist has been provided, showing a method of capturing this evidence.
- ◆ Centres should continue to keep all tasks and tests signatures, both by staff and candidates, up to date.

Authentication of candidates' written work should be internally verified, with signatures and dates.

National Units

Titles/levels of National Units verified

Painting and Decorating (169) National Qualification

F1JP 10: Safety Practice

F1J7 10: Preparing and Painting Surfaces

F1K9 11: Decorative Painting

General comments

As in previous years, this area of the Painting and Decorating award continues to show a rise in the numbers of candidates being enrolled at centres. Feedback from the Verifiers' reports highlights the fact that candidates are enjoying all aspects of the qualification, and find it challenging and rewarding. Evidence from the reports shows that staff within the centres delivering the award are using centrally developed assessment materials and providing a positive learning experience for candidates.

Candidates are very aware of the progression of the award and the stepping stone it provides them in hopefully securing employment when ready. The quality of completed practical work viewed during visits was very high. Internal verification was very effective and well planned, with robust systems in place.

Verifiers found:

- ◆ Internal verification across centres was shown to be effective and consistent.
- ◆ CPD records for staff were kept up to date.
- ◆ Current standards are being used and applied.
- ◆ Standards of practical work viewed during visits were exceptionally high.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development

Verifiers commented that staff within centres are continuously looking to improve the learning process delivered to candidates and the provision of informative support notes and checklists. Evidence of good practice includes:

- ◆ Well documented and structured master folders
- ◆ Good use of the comments column within candidates' observation checklists
- ◆ A consistent approach being adopted by Assessors to marking assessments
- ◆ Staff are enthusiastic about the award and keen to receive feedback on their own performance