



## NQ Verification 2015–16 Key Messages Round 2

01

### Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Practical Metalworking and Practical Woodworking
Verification event/visiting information	Visiting
Date published:	June 2016

#### National Courses/Units verified:

H25Y 74 Making a Finished Product from Wood (National 4) added value unit  
H25T 74 Making a Finished Product from Metal (National 4) added value unit  
C761 75 Practical Metalworking (National 5) Course practical activity  
C762 75 Practical Woodworking (National 5) Course practical activity

02

### Section 2: Comments on assessment

#### Assessment approaches

The National 5 course practical activity and the National 4 added value unit assessment demonstrate that the Course is more than simply the sum of its constituent units, and centres must make use of the SQA-provided assessments (without alteration) for this purpose. These assessments are available from the secure area of SQA's website and will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

Whilst part of the course practical activity is for the candidate to determine which materials should be used, it should be noted that manufactured board (in the case of Practical Woodworking) is not appropriate for anything other than the drawer base, box lid and base, and the back of the mirror — elsewhere natural timber should be used so that the task remains suitably challenging.

Centres are reminded that the use of power and machine tools is limited to those detailed in SQA documentation (Practical Activity and Course Assessment Specification for National 5 and the added value unit specification at National 4).

Each National 5 Practical Activity presents opportunities for the candidates to personalise the item that they are making. For Practical Woodworking, some centres have provided the candidates with templates to use for the turnery, proving to be a successful approach with the candidates gaining more time for

practical work. Other centres have given the opportunity for candidates to produce their own template, which is also a good approach. Whichever approach is taken, a template must be used for assessment/verification purposes; if no template is present, then no marks can be awarded for this section.

All Practical Activities and added value unit assessments models require an appropriate finish. In both Practical Woodworking and Practical Metalworking, centres are applying a wide variety of finishes.

Detail of what should be considered when assessing this section is given in the assessment documentation, but centres must instruct candidates not to apply a finish that obscures the rest of their work.

The candidate diary is a very important assessment tool. In some centres, candidates are completing it with plenty of detail, and this supports both assessment and verification. However, where there is insufficient detail, it may be difficult to accurately award marks.

In general, centres have provided appropriate evidence for verification, and we have also found excellent examples of the application of internal verification processes.

## **Assessment judgments**

Across both courses (at National 4 and National 5), the majority of centres are making fair and accurate assessment judgements. Centres seem to have a firm grasp of the assessment materials and tend to be accurate in terms of the National 4 pass/fail judgement and the National 5 mark judgements. Centres are reminded that the mark for the National 5 Practical Activity awarded is out of 80, achieved from four sections each worth 20 marks. To be awarded a pass in the added value unit assessment, candidates must achieve all the assessment standards.

The verification process has highlighted some excellent marking with centres using the marking instruction correctly.

Where photographic evidence is provided to support the assessment judgement, it must be detailed showing all sizes, squareness and, if templates have been used, how it fits the design — essentially, with enough detail to support the assessment decision.

## **03 Section 3: General comments**

Whilst verification is a quality assurance process, it is also a supportive process and our visits allow us to discuss, face to face, any assessment issues that a centre may have. Our verification activity is undertaken by nominees who have a dual role; as well undertaking verification work for SQA they are a point of technical expertise within their local authorities. If you have any assessment-related queries, please make use of this resource where it is available.