



NQ Verification 2021–22 Round 2

Qualification Verification Summary Report

01 Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name: Practical Cake Craft
Verification event/visiting information: Visit
Date published: June 2022

National Courses/Units verified:

C838 75 National 5 Practical Cake Craft

02 Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Most centres used the updated SQA detailed marking instructions for the assignment and practical activity to assess candidates.

All centres used the practical activity recording sheet to record candidate marks for the practical activity.

Many centres included very detailed comments from the assessor as to how marks were awarded to each candidate on the practical activity recording sheet, which allowed the visiting verifier and internal verifier a clear understanding of why marks were awarded.

Some centres also provided photographic evidence to support the judgments made for the first section of the recording sheet, which includes preparing tins, depositing, cake baking and finishing application techniques. This again provided evidence that the assessor had a clear understanding of how to apply the marking instructions.

Assessment judgements

The assessment judgements made by most centres were in line with national standards, reliable and accepted.

Most assessors had made effective use of the marking instructions to support the marks awarded to each candidate.

Some centres were lenient in marking, particularly with the nine-mark finishing techniques, crimping, piping and modelling. Centres were reminded that while a candidate can produce techniques that relate to certain mark bands, the actual mark is determined by the quality of the technique.

Some centres were awarding marks for modelling and embossing on the same model. If a candidate is modelling and includes another technique to provide detail, this is included in the marking of the model. The additional technique cannot be awarded further marks as a separate technique.

Some centres were awarding marks for all three nine-mark techniques. Verifiers reminded centres that candidates should demonstrate up to five finishing decoration techniques. Candidates may choose to incorporate more than five finishing decoration techniques in their cake, but techniques carried out in addition to the five techniques they have selected for assessment will not be awarded marks.

Candidates must select two of their five techniques from crimping, modelling and piping, and these techniques can be awarded up to 9 marks each. A further three techniques, which can be awarded up to 4 marks each, should be selected from embossing, stencilling, texturing and use of commercial aids/cutters.

It was also noted during verification visits that some centres were awarding marks for crimping when embossing had been carried out.

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Section 3: General comments

Centres are providing the opportunity for personalisation and choice for every candidate, resulting in a wide variety of celebratory cakes, many of which were executed to a very high standard.

Centre reports suggest that most candidates have taken the opportunity to demonstrate five finishing decoration techniques. This allows candidates to maximise the marks that can be awarded.

It is acceptable for a candidate to carry out a finishing application technique more than once. If a candidate demonstrates the same finishing technique more than once, for example if the candidate demonstrates two different examples of embossing, they should be marked together according to the criteria in the marking instructions.

In most centres candidates are producing single tier cakes, which are on one or two cake boards to allow the candidate to demonstrate their finishing techniques.

It should be noted that all finishing techniques should be visible to be marked. In some instances, candidates' embossing cannot be seen as they emboss their cake board too close to the centre and their cake then covers the technique.

Most centres supplied thorough and detailed evidence of internal verification, specifically cross marking. Details of internal verification can be found at:
<https://www.sqa.org.uk/IVtoolkit>