

## Higher National Unit Specification

### General information for centres

**Unit title:** Furniture: Application of Finishes

**Unit code:** F0XD 34

**Unit purpose:** This Unit is designed to give candidates the skills to research and demonstrate finishing techniques applied within the furniture industry. It is aimed at candidates who are working in the specialist area of furniture and designed to be used by those dealing with new or restoration work.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Research finishing techniques.
- 2 Compare and contrast methods of finishing.
- 3 Specify and produce schedules.
- 4 Apply finishes.

**Credit points and level:** 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7\*)

*\*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.*

**Recommended prior knowledge and skills:** While access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the candidate would benefit from having studied the HN Unit Furniture: Finishing Techniques at SCQF level 6.

**Core Skills:** There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication, IT and Problem Solving at SCQF level 5 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

**Context for delivery:** If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

**Assessment:** Candidates will be asked to prepare schedules for applying finishes to furniture. They will have to prepare surfaces, to select and apply a range of finishing techniques and to compare and contrast available suitable finishing materials to meet specific requirements. Candidates will also research related health and safety requirements.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards**

**Unit title:** Furniture: Application of Finishes

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

### **Outcome 1**

Research finishing techniques

#### **Knowledge and/or skills**

- ◆ Finishing techniques
- ◆ Substrate requirements
- ◆ Materials and equipment
- ◆ Health and safety requirements

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and skills by showing that they can demonstrate their research activities by providing information on three alternative techniques which meet a given brief.

Each alternative should contain:

- ◆ accurate information on the materials
- ◆ substrate requirements
- ◆ information on the process involved in applying the finishing materials
- ◆ identification of equipment requirements for the application process
- ◆ health and safety requirements of dealing with the materials and equipment
- ◆ suitability of the materials to meet the given task.

All information researched should be referenced to source.

#### **Assessment guidelines**

This Outcome could be assessed by the candidate being asked to provide three alternative finishes for an item of timber-based furniture. The candidate could produce technical notes which could be recorded on a pro forma or could write a short report on the suitability of each finish recommended.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Furniture: Application of Finishes

### **Outcome 2**

Compare and contrast methods of finishing

- ◆ Application methods — mechanical and hand
- ◆ Properties of materials
- ◆ Substrate requirement
- ◆ Health and safety requirements

### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and skills by showing that they can:

Select a range of three different furniture finishes and materials used and providing a comparison of uses and properties. The comparisons should include the following:

- ◆ Application
- ◆ Durability
- ◆ Resilience
- ◆ Cost
- ◆ Compatibility
- ◆ Maintenance

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge by providing a comparison on three alternative materials and applications which meet a given brief.

### **Assessment guidelines**

The candidates could gather samples into a portfolio or sample box which could be added to during the course of their studies. Each item of material should be laid out and indexed in an easily accessible way to encourage the candidate to use it throughout their course.

This Outcome could be assessed by candidates responding to a given scenario which requires them to outline alternative methods of finishing.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Furniture: Application of Finishes

### **Outcome 3**

Specify and produce schedules

#### **Knowledge and/or skills**

- ◆ Manufacturer's instructions
- ◆ Preparation and finishing techniques
- ◆ Finishing materials
- ◆ Health and Safety requirements

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ produce schedules for three given items of furniture

Evidence should include finishing schedules for three items of furniture each of which should have technical notes including techniques to be used and timescales and visuals.

#### **Assessment guidelines**

This Outcome could be assessed by the candidate providing evidence in response to a given scenario about specific finishes and techniques which are included in a client brief.

### **Outcome 4**

Apply finishes

#### **Knowledge and/or skills**

- ◆ Current legislation
- ◆ Safe working practices
- ◆ Manufacturer's instructions
- ◆ Application techniques

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ apply a range of three different finishes to agreed substrates to a commercially acceptable standard

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

### **Unit title:** Furniture: Application of Finishes

Each process will include:

- ◆ Flattening
- ◆ Colouring
- ◆ Sealing
- ◆ Finishing

The application of the finishing techniques should be applied to a minimum of three surfaces, demonstrating the use of both hand and mechanical finishing techniques. The finishing techniques applied should demonstrate:

- ◆ an even quality of finish
- ◆ accurate identification of faults
- ◆ unobtrusive correction of any faults and blemishes
- ◆ safe working practices
- ◆ following of specific manufacturer's instructions

### **Assessment guidelines**

Candidates could be given three different types of surface to demonstrate their finishing techniques. Centres could devise a checklist for each finish to record candidate performance and ensure that each aspect of the finish is properly applied.

## Administrative Information

**Unit code:** F0XD 34  
**Unit title:** Furniture: Application of Finishes  
**Superclass category:** WK  
**Original date of publication:** November 2006  
**Version:** 01

### History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

**Source:** SQA

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## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes**

### **Unit title:** Furniture: Application of Finishes

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 40 hours.

### **Guidance on the content and context for this Unit**

As this is a SCQF level 7 Unit it is anticipated that only timber-based materials would be covered in the content. This Unit is an Optional Unit in the HND Furniture. It is a practical workshop and classroom based Unit. It is intended for those students wishing to study Furniture and is part of a series of finishing Units.

#### **Outcomes 1&2**

When teaching this Unit candidates should be made aware of:

- ◆ Finishing techniques
- ◆ Substrate requirements
- ◆ Materials and equipment
- ◆ Health and safety requirements

For a range of finishes commonly used in the furniture industry such as acid catalyst, pre-catalysed, polyurethane, French polish, oil, wax, water based finishes etc.

**and**

Methods of application such as conventional spray, air assisted airless spray, rubber, brush, rag etc.

The candidate should also research methods and materials employed for flatting and preparing substrates.

#### **Outcome 3**

Candidates will learn how to produce schedules which will develop their planning skills and ensure that they are aware of all the processes involved and the timelines involved in application of specific finishes. In addition to materials candidates will have to consider application methods and any machinery or equipment required for all stages of the finishing process — flatting, colouring and finishing.

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Furniture: Application of Finishes

### Outcome 4

Surface preparation techniques would usually be demonstrated in the class and candidates should get the opportunity to produce test pieces using various materials. Assessment should not be undertaken until candidates are reasonably competent in handling materials and equipment.

## Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

### Outcomes 1 and 2

In Outcomes 1 and 2 the candidates could be given specifications/case studies which asks for recommended materials, justification for use, material requirements and costs as well as methods of application.

### Outcome 3

Schedules for finishing a range of materials to the identified range of substrates should be produced using a centre devised pro forma which highlights the suitability of surface finishes with relation to end use. Access to internet research would be advantageous.

### Outcome 4

This Outcome would normally be assessed holistically with the candidates preparing surfaces for subsequent finishing. A centre-devised checklist should be devised for each finish chosen. For example the checklist for lacquer might have the following criteria:

#### Checklist

<b>Finish – (to be inserted)</b>	<b>Candidate/Assessor comments</b>
<b>Preparation</b>	
Candidate attempts to correct faults in surface	
Grain filling correctly done	
Flatting technique correctly applied	
Colouring correctly applied	
Evenness of surface achieved	
Candidate ability to deal with imperfections	
Selection and use of hand tools appropriate to task	
Selection and use of equipment appropriate to the task	
Adherence to health and safety guidelines	
<b>Assessor Comments</b>	



## Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Furniture: Application of Finishes

<b>Finishing</b>	
Even distribution of finish	
Edges treated correctly	
Corners treated correctly	
Runs dealt with correctly	
Faults corrected where possible	
Candidate attempts to correct faults	
Uniformity of finish	
Following manufacturer's instructions correctly	
Appropriate choice and use of application techniques	
Appropriate selection and use of hand tools	
Appropriate selection and use of equipment	
Adherence to health and safety guidelines	
<b>Assessor Comments</b>	

This suggested checklist should be amended to suit the particular finishing techniques used and it is anticipated that the candidate will make notes at each stage. It is anticipated that the assessor's comments on the candidate's activity will also be recorded on the checklist at the completion of each stage. Candidates could complete this electronically or manually.

### *Opportunities for developing Core Skills*

The opportunities for development of Core Skills in IT are in Outcomes 1 and 2 where candidates would be encouraged to access the Internet for research purposes and word process their answers.

Problem solving skills are developed throughout the Unit and in particular in Outcome 3 and 4 where candidates will demonstrate their ability to plan, develop and evaluate their work in terms of fault finding and finding appropriate ways to improve quality. Candidates are expected to identify appropriate techniques, tools and applications also.

Communication skills are in evidence in all Outcomes.

### **Open learning**

This Unit is not suitable for distance learning as a large proportion of the content is practical work that involves the use of volatile materials. This has health and safety implications which cannot be monitored from distance.

For further information and advice, please refer to the SQA guide *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning* [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk).

## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)**

**Unit title:** Furniture: Application of Finishes

### **Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs**

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Alternative Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs*, which is available on SQA's website: **[www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)**.

## **General information for candidates**

### **Unit title:** Furniture: Application of Finishes

In this Unit you will develop skills in how to select, prepare and apply finishing techniques to surfaces. These techniques will all be applied to timber or timber-based products. The kind of finishes you will use will be oil, wax, French polish, lacquer and varnish. You will be assessed on at least 3 of these finishes.

You will learn how to research and compare the properties of finishes commonly used within the furniture industry. You will also be required to research the methods of applying these materials to identified substrates and to suggest which finish is most suitable for given scenario.

You will learn how to produce schedules for applying finishing techniques to a given range of furniture items.

In addition you will be asked to follow health and safety requirements for the products you are using as well as the health and safety requirements of working in a workshop environment.