

## Higher National Unit Specification

### General information for centres

**Unit title:** Furniture: Construction

**Unit code:** F0XF 35

**Unit purpose:** This Unit is designed to enable candidates to evaluate methods of creating furniture structures. The Unit will give them an understanding of where certain joints are used and how rigidity is achieved. Candidates will develop a knowledge of the constructional requirements of different types of furniture.

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

- 1 Identify and describe the component parts of furniture.
- 2 Describe and compare timber frame constructions.
- 3 Analyse the requirements of furniture structures.

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

*\*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:** Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. It would be beneficial if candidates possessed of HN Furniture Units at SCQF level 6 or 7, equivalent qualifications or relevant work experience.

**Core Skills:** There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of IT and Communications 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 identify, name and evaluate cabinet furniture and frame furniture components and to select and apply this knowledge to furniture artefacts.

## Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

**Unit title:** Furniture: Construction

**Unit code:** F0XF 35

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

Identify and describe the component parts of furniture

#### Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Cabinet carcase
- ◆ Cabinet fitments
- ◆ Table
- ◆ Framework
- ◆ Articulated furniture
- ◆ Construction techniques and materials
- ◆ Fixing and fittings
- ◆ Jointing

#### Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by accurately identifying and describing the component parts of 3 pieces of furniture. The descriptions should include:

- ◆ identification, description and technical notes on the items which constitute the construction, including materials, fixing and fittings
- ◆ identification, description and technical notes on the type of jointing used
- ◆ evaluation of the considerations given to maximise stability and the suitability of the selected methodology

#### Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome could be combined with the other Outcomes of this Unit.

Candidates could be given three items of furniture to examine or could be provided with detailed visuals and a full description of three items of furniture and asked to produce a short report which would identify materials used, technical specification and structural considerations due to the specific nature of the item of furniture.

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

**Unit title:** Furniture: Construction

### Outcome 2

Describe and compare timber frame constructions

#### Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Common joint types
- ◆ Joint function
- ◆ Joint proportion
- ◆ Joint use

#### Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by describing and comparing the proportions and function of joints employed in furniture manufacture. Evidence should include:

- ◆ visuals and descriptions of each type of the following joint types:
  - mortice and tenon
  - dovetail
  - dowell
  - housing
  - mitre
  - ironmongery
- ◆ detailed examples of use and suitability of different types of joints

#### Assessment guidelines

The candidate could provide evidence in the form of a report which should include detailed descriptions, dimensions, proportions, comparisons and visuals which could form the basis of a portfolio of technical data which could be used throughout their studies.

The assessment of this Outcome could be combined with the other Outcomes of this Unit.

### Outcome 3

Analyse the requirements of furniture structures

#### Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Frame rigidity
- ◆ Carcase rigidity
- ◆ Upholstery rails
- ◆ Doors
- ◆ Drawers
- ◆ Extending tables
- ◆ Specialist aspects

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

**Unit title:** Furniture: Construction

### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by analysing the requirements of the furniture structures, components and specifications listed in knowledge and skills items above. The evidence should include an analysis of timber frames, carcasses and fitments and upholstery frames with relation to:

- ◆ suitability for function
- ◆ joints used
- ◆ stress and strain
- ◆ legislation and standards
- ◆ structural integrity

### **Assessment guidelines**

Candidates could be given a case study which asks for recommended structures and specifications to be analysed. This could be one case study encompassing timber frame, timber carcass and fitments and one upholstery frame or it could be three separate case studies — one for each type of structure.

The assessment of this Outcome could be combined with the other Outcomes of this Unit.

## Administrative Information

**Unit code:** F0XF 35  
**Unit title:** Furniture: Construction  
**Superclass category:** JP  
**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: Construction

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**

This Unit is part of the HNC/HND Furniture group award framework. It is an optional Unit for HNC and a Mandatory Unit for the HND award.

This Unit is intended to equip candidates with the ability to evaluate methods of creating furniture structures, to enable them to understand where certain joints are used and the concept of structural integrity. Candidates should gain an understanding of the constructional requirements of different types of furniture, such as:

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- ◆ Cabinet carcases
- ◆ Cabinet fitments
- ◆ Table
- ◆ Framework
- ◆ Articulated furniture

and be able to interpret the needs of specialist aspects such as nursery furniture and glass in furniture.

Cabinet carcases should include traditional structures and carcasing manufactured from modern sheet materials. Cabinet fitments would include aspects such as drawers, doors, falls, shelves, uprights, tambours. Tables would consider fixed top and extending top. Frameworks would need to include such areas as upholstered furniture as well as stands and other furniture frameworks. The candidate should also have understanding of specific standards applied to specialist furniture.

### **Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit**

This Unit could be delivered through a series of lectures with reference to existing pieces of furniture.

Examples of furniture should include fully stuff-over chair frames, traditional chest on stand, Pembroke table, plywood and MDF constructions.

Candidates should be encouraged to use visual evidence from the internet, textbooks and actual pieces of furniture. Candidates would also benefit from visits to museums and furniture showrooms and every effort should be made to ensure that candidates are introduced to a wide variety of furniture types and different construction types.

Assessment is likely to be linked with the candidate providing a coherent series of descriptions, technical notes and case study evidence which can be used throughout their studies for reference purposes.

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

### **Unit title:** Furniture: Construction

This Unit may be assessed holistically or each Outcome can be assessed separately. The assessments could be treated as separate case studies or linked through furniture analysis to other identified Units eg Furniture Materials, Furniture History, Furniture Specification within the structure of the award.

#### ***Opportunities for developing Core Skills***

IT skills will be developed in Outcome 1 where the candidates will be encouraged to access information through internet research. They will also be expected to word process responses for final assessments and could use digital images as part of their evidence.

Communication skills are developed throughout this Unit by candidate describing various aspects of furniture and furniture construction. While it is anticipated that descriptions of aspects of furniture construction will be compiled into a report, they could also be oral descriptions which could be presented in the form of an oral presentation.

### **Open learning**

It would be possible to do this Unit by Open Learning. In order to ensure the authenticity of candidate work candidates could be questioned or could be encouraged to write up their research under supervised conditions.

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).

### **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: Construction

This Unit is designed to provide you with the knowledge and skills to enable you to understand the construction techniques used in common items of furniture. This is a theoretical Unit which requires you to examine items of furniture or detailed visuals and comments on aspects of construction and create technical notes. You will also learn about the kind of joints used in furniture constructed from timber, how and when they are used. Additionally you will look at furniture structures and learn how to analyse these structures in terms of rigidity, joints used, structural integrity and the stresses and strains involved.

For particular types of furniture for example nursery furniture or furniture with glass in it, there will be specialist legislation and standards and you will learn about these during your studies.

You will be introduced to a wide range of furniture, frames, carcasses and fitments in this Unit and you will be expected to try to extend your knowledge by taking advantage of opportunities to examine actual pieces of furniture in for example furniture showrooms or museums or using the internet to investigate construction methods used.

While you are studying this Unit you will also be encouraged to develop skills in IT by using the internet and word processing technical notes. You will also develop Core Skills in Communication.