

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Furniture: Finishing Techniques

Unit code: FOXG 33

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to give candidates the skills to apply various finishing techniques to a range of timber based furniture surfaces. This Unit could be studied by those who wish to specialise in furniture design, restoration or furniture craftsmanship studies.

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

- 1 Identify and follow the requirements of preparing surfaces prior to applying finishes.
- 2 Apply a range of finishing techniques.
- 3 Research workshop health and safety requirements for the materials and techniques used.

Credit points and level: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 6: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6*)

**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. No previous knowledge is required for this Unit, however, candidates would benefit from having experience covering basic polishing techniques or preparation of surfaces.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication at SCQF level 5, Problem Solving at SCQF level 5 and IT 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: In Outcomes 1 and 2 candidates will be asked to prepare surfaces and apply a range of finishing techniques to artefacts or samples. In Outcome 3 candidates research health and safety requirements in relation to materials and techniques used within a workshop environment.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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

Outcome 1

Identify and follow the requirements of preparing surfaces prior to applying finishes

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Surface preparation techniques
- ◆ Substrate requirements
- ◆ Materials and equipment
- ◆ Health and safety requirements

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can, with reference to a given specification, prepare:

- ◆ surfaces using correct flattening techniques
- ◆ colouring, mechanical and hand equipment
- ◆ materials

Preparation techniques for a minimum of three flattening and two staining techniques should be assessed to a standard suitable for finishing.

Evidence should be recorded on an observational schedule.

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by the candidate producing a series of sample boards or an item of furniture and would be possible to assess holistically with Outcome 2.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Furniture: Finishing Techniques

Outcome 2

Apply a range of finishing techniques

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Finishing techniques for oil, wax, French polish, lacquer, varnish
- ◆ Application methods — mechanical and hand
- ◆ 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 apply a minimum of three surface finishes from those listed in the first bullet point above. The sample chosen should demonstrate the use of both hand and mechanical finishing techniques.

The finishing techniques applied should be marked against a centre-devised checklist which should include:

- ◆ quality of finish
- ◆ identification of faults
- ◆ observation of safe working practices
- ◆ following of specific manufacturers' instructions

A checklist should be devised for each finish specified. The assessment should be carried out under controlled conditions.

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed holistically with Outcome 1. The candidate could use sample boards or furniture from Outcome 1. If furniture is used, any additional techniques not appropriate to that particular item could be demonstrated on sample boards.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Furniture: Finishing Techniques

Outcome 3

Research workshop health and safety requirements for the materials and techniques used

Knowledge and/or skills

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

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and skills by showing that they can accurately research the health and safety requirements for finishing techniques used in a workshop.

The assessment should be carried out under open-book, unsupervised conditions.

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome could be tested by providing evidence of health and safety requirements of a small workshop in relation to the materials and techniques used throughout the Unit. Alternatively it could be tested by responding to a given scenario or to a series of short answer questions.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F0XG 33
Unit title: Furniture: Finishing Techniques
Superclass category: WK
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History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Furniture: Finishing Techniques

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 6 Unit it is anticipated that only timber-based materials would be covered in the content. It is not anticipated that the 2 processes outlined in Outcomes 1 and 2 would be artificially separated but would be part of one overall process which was assessed holistically.

Outcome 1

Suggested substrates which could be covered in this Unit are solid timber and timber derivatives such as plywood, MDF, etc. Candidates should be introduced to sanders, cabinet scrapers and spray guns and should develop hand and machine skills appropriate to preparing surfaces.

Outcome 2

Materials and equipment should include different types of spray equipment, brush, mop, mouse and rubber or alternative hand finishes. Candidates should be able to apply all of the finishes indicated although they will only be assessed on a sample of these finishes.

Outcome 3

Candidates can research the health and safety requirements of a workshop using paper-based or computer-based methods. Candidates should be aware of legislation such as:

- ◆ Health and Safety at Work Act (HASWA)
- ◆ Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)
- ◆ Petroleum Act and the storage of flammable liquids
- ◆ Relevant EU Directives
- ◆ British Standards/ISO standards
- ◆ and any other legislation relevant to safety in the workplace

Additionally candidates should be aware of the manufacturer's instructions pertaining to the materials in use in the workshop.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Furniture: Finishing Techniques

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is an optional Unit in the Group Award of HNC/D Furniture.

Outcome 1

Surface preparation techniques would usually be demonstrated in the class and candidates would 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. This Outcome would normally be assessed along with Outcome 2 with the candidates preparing surfaces for subsequent finishing.

Outcome 2

A centre-devised checklist should be devised for each finish chosen. For example the checklist for lacquer might have the following criteria:

Checklist

Finish – (to be inserted)	Candidate/Assessor comments
Preparation	
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	
Assessor Comments	

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Furniture: Finishing Techniques

Finishing	
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	
Assessor Comments	

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.

Outcome 3

It is anticipated that candidates should follow manufacturer's instructions and the health and safety requirements for materials used as they prepare and finish surfaces throughout the Unit. Legislation could be researched as an out of class activity supplemented by in class guidance and exercises. Candidates should be given clear timelines for first draft and final submission of the assessment and should submit their answers in a well presented manner. It is good practice to encourage candidates to acknowledge where information was sourced. The assessment could be a case study or a series of short answer questions covering different aspects of health and safety legislation, in addition to the evidence of adherence to health and safety guidelines gathered in the Observational Schedule completed for Outcomes 1 and 2.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Furniture: Finishing Techniques

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Elements of the Core Skill of Problem Solving could be developed in Outcomes 1 and 2 where candidates are expected to identify appropriate techniques, tools and applications and correct any faults.

The opportunities for development of Core Skills in IT and Communication are in Outcome 3 where candidates would be encouraged to access the Internet for research purposes and information retrieval and could word process their answers.

Open learning

This Unit is not appropriate for Open Learning due to the workshop requirements.

For further information and advice, please refer to the SQA guide *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning* 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.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Furniture: Finishing Techniques

In this Unit you will learn how to prepare and apply finishing techniques to surfaces. These techniques will be applied to timber or timber-based products.

The kind of finishes you will use will include oil, wax, French polish, lacquer and varnish. You will be assessed on at least three of these finishes. You will learn how to use different kinds of tools to apply these finishes. The tools will include different types of spray equipment, brush, mop, mouse and rubber or alternative hand finishes.

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.

If you are undertaking this Unit as part of the HNC/D Furniture you may combine this Unit with another Unit for assessment purposes.