

## Higher National Unit Specification

### General information for centres

**Unit title:** Furniture: Traditional Upholstery

**Unit code:** FOXT 34

**Unit purpose:** This Unit is designed to provide candidates with the knowledge and skills required to upholster furniture using traditional techniques. Candidates will learn how to install suspension systems and fill, cover and finish traditional upholstered items. This Unit could be studied by those who wished to specialise in furniture restoration or furniture craftsmanship studies.

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

- 1 Describe manufacturing sequence applied to traditional upholstery.
- 2 Demonstrate methods of installing suspension systems.
- 3 Demonstrate techniques used to apply filling materials.
- 4 Demonstrate techniques used to cover and finish traditional upholstered furniture.

**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:** Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. However, candidates would benefit from having studied NC upholstery Units: E841 11, *Traditional Upholstery Preparation* and E842 11, *Traditional Upholstery Finishing* SCQF levels 5 and 6, equivalent qualifications, or possessing relevant work experience.

**Core Skills:** There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of 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:** In Outcome 1 candidates are asked to compile a logbook/record of work detailing the upholstery techniques that may be used in Outcomes 2, 3 and 4.

Outcomes 2–4 are assessed by practical assignments with candidates demonstrating their ability to upholster furniture using a variety of techniques.

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

**Unit title:** Furniture: Traditional Upholstery

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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**

Describe manufacturing sequence applied to traditional upholstery

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

- ◆ Materials: suspensions, fillings, covering materials, trimmings
- ◆ Techniques and methods
- ◆ Sequence of installing suspensions, applying fillings, covering and finishing
- ◆ Tools and equipment

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by describing the manufacturing sequence applied to traditional upholstery. Candidates will produce a detailed and accurate record of work for upholstering a piece of furniture. This record of work should include:

- ◆ visuals
- ◆ sequence of work carried out
- ◆ description of techniques and methods used when working with suspensions, fillings, covering materials and trimmings
- ◆ reasons for choosing each of these materials
- ◆ tools and equipment required

#### **Assessment guidelines**

The candidates could record each stage of upholstery using various means including photographs, sketches and text, gradually building up a portfolio of work carried out. The final submission could include: a description of the frame being upholstered; details of suspensions used along with installation methods; types of fillings and stuffings; application techniques and reasons for choosing particular fillings and stuffings; samples of covering materials used along with reasons for using them.

This information can be collated concurrently with Outcomes 2, 3 and 4.

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

**Unit title:** Furniture: Traditional Upholstery

### **Outcome 2**

Demonstrate methods of installing suspension systems

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

- ◆ Types of suspensions
- ◆ Installation techniques

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and skills by showing that they can install a suspension system accurately. Candidates should:

- ◆ correctly prepare the frame to receive the suspension
- ◆ ensure accurate positioning and fixing
- ◆ choose a method suitable for purpose which should include at least one type of webbing and one type of springing

Evidence should be recorded in an observation schedule.

#### **Assessment guidelines**

The candidate could complete the installation of two suspension systems which meet the standards outlined above. These standards could be detailed on an accompanying checklist.

### **Outcome 3**

Demonstrate techniques used to apply filling materials

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

- ◆ Tools and equipment
- ◆ Types of fillings
- ◆ Use of fillings
- ◆ Application of fillings
- ◆ Covering techniques

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by choosing and applying fillings and stuffings to suit a given task. Fillings should include:

- ◆ a range of natural fibres
- ◆ felts and waddings

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

### **Unit title:** Furniture: Traditional Upholstery

The fillings should be:

- ◆ selected for appropriate end use
- ◆ applied to correct densities
- ◆ formed to required shapes
- ◆ covered in an appropriate undercovering

The evidence should be recorded on an Observation Schedule.

### **Assessment guidelines**

The candidate should complete the selection and installation of fillings to meet the standard outlined in the Evidence Requirements. Performance should be recorded on an accompanying checklist.

### **Outcome 4**

Demonstrate techniques used to cover and finish traditional upholstered furniture

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

- ◆ Covering materials
- ◆ Measurement techniques
- ◆ Planning techniques
- ◆ Marking techniques
- ◆ Cutting techniques
- ◆ Fitting and finishing techniques
- ◆ Trimmings

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can cover and finish traditional upholstered furniture by:

- ◆ accurately measuring from a frame
- ◆ producing an accurate cutting plan which takes account of pile direction and pattern repeat
- ◆ marking and cutting material within a specified tolerance through the use of templates and French chalk
- ◆ fitting covers correctly using tacks
- ◆ close covers using traditional upholstery stitching techniques
- ◆ apply trimmings securely and accurately

Performance evidence should be recorded on an Observation Schedule.

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

**Unit title:** Furniture: Traditional Upholstery

### **Assessment guidelines**

Candidates should consider sewing allowances, pile direction, pattern repeat, use of templates, mark covers using French chalk. Covers should be fixed using tacks. Finishing techniques could include back tacking strip and slip stitching. Trimmings could be gimp, braid, buttons, decorative nails. The techniques used to cover and finish traditional upholstered furniture will be completed to standards on an accompanying checklist.

## Administrative Information

**Unit code:** F0XT 34  
**Unit title:** Furniture: Traditional Upholstery  
**Superclass category:** JP  
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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: Traditional Upholstery

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 forms part of the Group Award of HNC/D Furniture where it is an optional Unit.

#### **Outcome 1**

This Outcome covers manufacturing sequences, which could include:

- ◆ Suspensions: webbing (jute and English); springs (compression and tension)
- ◆ Fillings: Coir, Algerian fibre, animal hair, felts, flocks and waddings
- ◆ Covering materials: woven and non woven
- ◆ Trimmings: braid, gimp, dome headed nails, cord and pipings
- ◆ Techniques and methods
- ◆ Sequence of installing suspensions, applying fillings, covering and finishing
- ◆ Tools and equipment

#### **Outcome 2**

When teaching this Unit the techniques of installing suspension systems should be demonstrated and candidates should get the opportunity to look at examples of different kinds of suspension systems used in traditional upholstery. This Outcome should cover correct assembly and attachment of suspension systems using tacks and staples.

#### **Outcome 3**

Correct assembly and attachment of stuffing should be covered, including different methods of applying stuffing materials and the health and safety implications of dealing with these materials — for example coir, Algerian fibre, animal hair, felts, flocks and wadding. Candidates should learn about densities and suitability of each of those traditional materials.

#### **Outcome 4**

When teaching this Unit, different methods of covering and finishing should be addressed. Candidates should learn about:

- ◆ Sewing allowances
- ◆ Pile direction
- ◆ Pattern repeat
- ◆ Use of templates
- ◆ Use of French chalk to mark covers
- ◆ Back tacking strip and slip stitching finishing techniques

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

**Unit title:** Furniture: Traditional Upholstery

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

This is a practical Unit delivered within a workshop environment.

#### **Outcome 1**

Candidates should be encouraged to keep a record of each stage of the project. This information could be logged at the end of each working day. Candidates could liaise with lecturer to ensure an accurate account is recorded. Samples of materials should be kept and photographs and/or drawings would provide an excellent means of recording experiential learning. The final submission could be a comprehensive account for the entire project, word processed, containing detailed information on the installation of suspensions, application of fillings and the covering and finishing of a traditional upholstered piece of furniture.

#### **Outcome 2**

It would be useful for candidates if the piece of furniture to be upholstered had a sprung back and seat. This would provide the opportunity for maximum installation of suspensions. Typical webbing in the seat could be black and white webbing with 8–9 gauge coil springs and the back could be jute webbing with 11–12 gauge springs.

#### **Outcome 3**

The application of fillings could include materials suitable for first stuffings, eg coir fibre/Algerian fibre and second stuffings, eg animal hair/flocks along with waddings. First stuffings could be applied using edge treatments of blind and top stitching producing a stitched up edge.

#### **Outcome 4**

It would be beneficial for candidates to choose covering fabrics which lend themselves for hand stitching techniques such as moquette, brocade, tweed or other similar woven fabrics. A cutting list and cutting plan should be produced as this encourages the candidate to problem solve by calculating covers for quantity, economy, match, pile direction, etc. Finishing trimmings and techniques should suit and complement the chosen upholstered piece.

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

In this Unit candidates will be asked to apply complex Problem Solving skills. They will have to examine a piece of traditional furniture in detail and from a study of the way it has been upholstered and covered, produce a cutting list and a cutting plan. Alternatively they could be asked to upholster a new piece of furniture using traditional methods eg to match existing furniture. They will need to work out how best to support the upholstered part of the item of furniture and will have to apply traditional methods of stuffing and covering it. This shows clear evidence of problem solving. Where use of materials and chosen suspensions does not work out as anticipated, the candidate will need to evaluate why amend their plan and workmanship.



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

**Unit title:** Furniture: Traditional Upholstery

### **Open learning**

This Unit is not suitable for open learning as a large proportion of the content is practical work that involves specific complex activities that have 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).

### **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: Traditional Upholstery

This is a practical Unit in which you will learn about traditional upholstery manufacturing sequences and techniques.

You will learn about the materials used in traditional upholstery, the kind of stuffings and fillings used and you will learn about the types of suspensions and installation techniques which are used in traditional upholstery in particular. When you are dealing with stuffings you will learn not only about the stuffing themselves but you will learn about the correct densities to be used and you will learn how to form the stuffings to the required shapes.

You will also learn how to cover and finish traditional upholstered furniture in this Unit. You will therefore be learning how to use traditional stitching techniques and how to fit covers. Using traditional methods does not mean that you will always be using old pieces of furniture. You may be using traditional techniques on modern furniture.

As you work your way through this Unit you will also develop your Problem Solving skills in addition to your Upholstery skills.