

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Furniture History

Unit code: FOXY 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop an understanding and knowledge of styles and developments in furniture. It analyses and evaluates furniture evolution and development. This Unit is intended for candidates wishing to work in a variety of roles, within the furniture industry.

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

- 1 Research and describe the main methods of furniture construction of a chosen period.
- 2 Identify the materials commonly used in pieces of furniture during a chosen period of history.
- 3 Evaluate the factors that affected changes in furniture styles during a chosen period.

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. No previous knowledge is required for this Unit. However, candidates would benefit from having a basic knowledge and understanding of European history.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication, IT and Problem Solving at SCQF level 5, 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 research and evaluate historical methods of furniture construction, identify materials commonly used and describe the factors that have affected the changes in furniture styles within agreed historical periods. Evidence for the Unit should be presented in the form of a written report, chart or oral presentation.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Furniture History

Unit code: F0XY 34

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 and describe the main methods of furniture construction of a chosen period

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Research skills
- ◆ Methods of construction
- ◆ Jointing techniques
- ◆ Tools and equipment
- ◆ Properties and limitations of techniques

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by researching and describing clearly and in detail:

- ◆ two furniture construction methods
- ◆ two jointing techniques
- ◆ tools and equipment
- ◆ properties and limitations of the jointing techniques

Evidence, equivalent to approximately 600 words, can be presented orally, graphically or in report form and should be accompanied by visuals.

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by the candidate producing a report. This report could be linked with Outcomes 2 and 3 and be presented in the form of a written report, chart or oral presentation.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Furniture History

Outcome 2

Identify the materials commonly used in pieces of furniture during a chosen period of history

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Construction materials
- ◆ Upholstery materials
- ◆ Applied finishes

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by identifying and describing materials used to construct, upholster and apply finishes to furniture of a specific historical period.

The evidence should include correct identification and description of physical properties, suitability, uses and appearance of:

- ◆ three of four given timbers
- ◆ two of three given metals
- ◆ three of four given upholstery materials
- ◆ two of three given applied finishes

Each description should include details of the physical properties, uses, appearance and suitability of each material and should be accompanied by visuals.

Assessment guidelines

Candidates could be presented with samples for which they provide a brief technical report demonstrating their ability to identify and describe the physical properties, suitability, uses and appearance of the samples. These samples could be from the period researched in Outcome 1 and could also be linked to Outcome 3.

Outcome 3

Evaluate the factors that affected changes in furniture styles during a chosen period

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Political influences
- ◆ Technological advances
- ◆ Commercial implications
- ◆ New materials
- ◆ Social structure and fashion

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Furniture History

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by evaluating the social, political and technological events of a chosen period, illustrating how these factors impacted on the design and construction of furniture at that time. Evidence, of approximately 600 words or equivalent in length, should include reference to:

- ◆ political influences which affected furniture styles
- ◆ the effects technological advances of the time had on furniture design and manufacture
- ◆ the commercial aspects of furniture design and manufacture of the period
- ◆ new materials available in this historical period
- ◆ the effects of social structures and fashions on furniture design and manufacture of the period

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome can be linked with Outcomes 1 and 2.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F0XY 34
Unit title: Furniture History
Superclass category: JP
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History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Furniture History

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 a mandatory Unit in the HNC/HND Furniture Group Award framework.

Due to the extensive content and nature of this subject area it is envisaged that candidates will be assessed only on a period of history chosen from 1500 to the present day timeframe eg 1700–1850), or a specified period of time. Because change in recent years has been rapid, a short time span may be more appropriate.

Outcome 1

Construction methods may include boarded, panelled, welded construction, laminated structures or any other recognised method of connection or construction relevant to the chosen timeframe. Candidates could be introduced to the tools and equipment used. Properties and limitations of techniques should be highlighted.

Outcome 2

Candidates could be shown a variety of materials with explanation of their properties and relevance to furniture construction. Candidates could also research information for specific uses of material. Materials could include:

- ◆ timbers from locally sourced native woods to imported exotic hardwoods
- ◆ metals from basic iron, brasses and coppers to steels, alloys and aluminium
- ◆ upholstery stuffings/suspension systems and covering materials
- ◆ applied finishes ranging from waxes and oils, print finishes, varnishes and lacquers, gold leafing and plating

Outcome 3

Candidates should be made aware of how the topics listed in Knowledge and/or Skills have affected the changes that have taken place in various styles of furniture dating from the chosen period from 1500 to the present day.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

It is anticipated that this Unit will be delivered on a stand alone basis. However, it may be integrated with another appropriate Unit. Candidates should formally or informally present their work from time to time. This can facilitate oral presentation as well as enabling review of graphic or written work. This will encourage candidates to participate more fully in on-going review of their own work and progress.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Furniture History

Outcome 1

Research should be drawn from a small number of different sources, not relying too heavily on only one type of source, such as the internet. First hand research and personal investigation should be encouraged as much as possible. Visual evidence could take the form of photographs or drawings.

Outcome 2

Ideally, samples of the various materials should be available for personal inspection, although it is envisaged, that in some instances, photographs or similar may be used. Candidates will be asked to identify and describe timber and upholstery materials, finishes and metals used in a specific historical period.

Outcome 3

Candidates will be asked to provide evidence of why furniture styles change. An understanding of the drivers of change should be evident in the candidate's research.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Communication skills are not formally assessed in this Unit, although candidates should be expected to produce and present written or oral work to a professional standard. The Unit will require responses to be in written or oral format and should show evidence of information having been researched, edited and put into context. Candidates should be encouraged to reference their sources accurately.

The availability of suitable software packages to support the candidate should ensure a high standard of accuracy, coherence and presentation with suitable structure and format. This may also assist in the development of skills in the use of IT. The candidate's IT skills could be tested through research using the internet, word processing their findings and using digital imagery to enhance their assessment.

Candidates have an opportunity to enhance and develop their skills of Problem Solving whilst analysing and evaluating structures, techniques of manufacture and the materials utilised.

Open learning

This Unit is suited to open/distance learning. However, it would require planning by the centre to ensure the sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence.

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

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Furniture History

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 History

This Unit will introduce you to the range of techniques and materials used in the construction of furniture during a period of history from 1500 to the present day. You will look at the political, social and technological influences within particular historical periods and their impact on styles and you will be expected to research and evaluate your findings for a chosen period. You will be encouraged to gather your findings together in a project file.

Your research will introduce you to a variety of material samples and you will learn to identify and differentiate them. You will also develop an understanding of the properties and limitations of the materials involved.

During the Unit you will develop an understanding and knowledge of the factors that have — and still do — influence furniture design and construction.