

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Furniture: Modern Upholstery

Unit code: F0Y3 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to analyse and demonstrate modern upholstery techniques. Candidates will learn how to install suspension systems and fill, cover and finish an upholstered item. 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 Specify materials and techniques to upholster a modern upholstery project.
- 2 Demonstrate methods of installing suspension systems.
- 3 Demonstrate the techniques used to apply filling materials.
- 4 Demonstrate the techniques used to cover and finish modern 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 will be at the discretion of the centre. However, candidates will benefit from having studied modern upholstery at SCQF level 5 or 6, equivalent qualifications, or relevant work experience.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill 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 will be asked to research a range of materials used in modern upholstery — this could be evidenced by the production of a portfolio that would include images, samples and technical details of a range of employed materials. In Outcomes 2, 3 and 4 candidates will be assessed by practical demonstrations of the techniques used in modern upholstery. Evidence will be recorded on observation schedules.

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.

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

Specify materials and techniques to upholster a modern upholstery project

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Materials
- ◆ Frame construction
- ◆ Measuring techniques
- ◆ Planning techniques
- ◆ Cutting techniques
- ◆ Sewing techniques
- ◆ Fitting techniques
- ◆ Finishing techniques
- ◆ Current legislation
- ◆ Tools and equipment
- ◆ Fixings

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 brief, specify the materials and processes required to upholster a modern chair frame. This specification should include:

- ◆ consideration of the frame construction
- ◆ a materials list outlining the properties of each material to be used
- ◆ samples of materials to be used and reasons for choosing these materials
- ◆ visuals of proposed upholstery style to be used
- ◆ a production plan outlining the sequence of operations and outlining the techniques to be used including cutting techniques, sewing techniques, fitting techniques and finishing techniques
- ◆ samples of proposed sewing techniques to be used
- ◆ an outline of related current legislation which applies to the materials and processes used

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Furniture: Modern Upholstery

Assessment guidelines

The candidates could produce a portfolio which may include drawings/sketches of proposed upholstery styles; samples of materials such as suspensions, fillings and covers; experimentation samples for sewing techniques such as decorative stitching, quilting, fluting, appliqué and piping they propose to use; and a production plan.

Outcome 2

Demonstrate methods of installing suspension systems

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Suspension systems
- ◆ Suspension properties
- ◆ Installation techniques
- ◆ Fixings

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can install **two** suspension systems accurately. Candidates should:

- ◆ correctly prepare the frame to receive the suspension
- ◆ ensure accurate positioning and fixing
- ◆ choose methods suitable for purpose

Evidence should be recorded on an observation schedule.

The two systems should be installed from the following: elastic webbing, rubberised webbing, jute webbing, tension springing, spring unit, serpentine springing.

Assessment guidelines

Candidates could complete the installation of two suspension systems to standards on an accompanying checklist. This Outcome could be assessed along with Outcomes 3 and 4.

Outcome 3

Demonstrate the techniques used to apply filling materials

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Types of fillings
- ◆ Density of fillings
- ◆ Cutting of fillings
- ◆ Application of fillings
- ◆ Tools and equipment

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Furniture: Modern Upholstery

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 brief, apply filling materials accurately. Candidates must:

- ◆ select appropriate filling and density of filling to meet given brief and reflecting the height, depth and width of the frame
- ◆ cut to size and shape, or fabricate to shape, minimising wastage
- ◆ fit accurately

Candidate performance should be recorded on an observation schedule.

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed with Outcomes 2 and 4.

Fillings demonstrated should include foams and waddings at a range of densities appropriate for the chosen upholstered piece. Thicknesses of fillings should reflect the height, depth and width of the frame.

Outcome 4

Demonstrate the techniques used to cover and finish modern upholstered furniture

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Covering materials and trimmings
- ◆ Measuring techniques
- ◆ Planning techniques
- ◆ Marking techniques
- ◆ Cutting techniques
- ◆ Fitting and finishing of covers

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 brief, cover and finish modern upholstered furniture by:

- ◆ accurately measuring from a frame
- ◆ producing a cutting plan taking into account pile direction and pattern repeat
- ◆ marking the fabric using French chalk
- ◆ cutting the material to a tolerance of 3 mm
- ◆ machine stitch covers to meet requirements of the piece of furniture using specialist sewing techniques and appropriate trimmings to enhance the piece
- ◆ fit covers and close covers using modern upholstery techniques

Evidence should be recorded on an observation schedule.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Furniture: Modern Upholstery

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome could be linked with Outcomes 2 and 3 so that candidates follow all of the procedures required to upholster a modern piece of furniture.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F0Y3 34

Unit title: Furniture: Modern Upholstery

Superclass category: JP

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Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Furniture: Modern 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 is optional within the HNC/D Furniture group award framework.

This Unit could be integrated with a timber based Unit within the group award which would allow the candidate to actually make the frame or an existing frame can be sourced.

Outcome 1

Candidates should be introduced to a range of modern upholstery frames. It is important they grasp critical areas such as; positioning of rails, timbers used for rails, construction methods etc. Candidates should be encouraged to adopt an analytical approach and explore the potential for upholstery. It is important that lecturers liaise with each candidate to ensure ideas/concepts are practicable and achievable. Materials which should be explored in this Unit would include frames, suspension systems, fillings, covering materials and trimmings.

It is important that candidates are aware of current legislation relevant for upholstery which at the time of writing is the 1988 Furniture and Furnishings (Fire Safety) Act

Outcome 2

Elastic webbing, rubberised webbing, jute webbing, tension springing, spring unit, serpentine springing should be taught along with details of the suitability of each type of suspension.

Outcome 3

Polyurethane foams are currently the most common types of foam fillings in modern upholstery. Candidates should ensure they conform to current legislation (1988 Furniture and Furnishings (Fire Safety) Act at time of writing). Fillings should be cut using a proper foam cutter especially where shapes are to be formed.

Outcome 4

This Outcome provides candidates with the opportunity to finish a piece of modern upholstery. Candidates could personalise their piece using methods experimented with in Outcome 1. It is important that all covering materials used are of upholstery quality to ensure durability and conform to current legislation.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Furniture: Modern Upholstery

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Outcome 1

Access to IT facilities should be encouraged to allow candidates to research materials fully. Books, exemplars, existing frames, trade publications and manufacturers' information should also be used as sources of reference.

Outcome 2

Candidates will be required to build up skills through demonstrations and small practical exercises so that they can eg install suspensions on a small scale. For assessment it may be useful to encourage candidates to use one metallic and one non metallic suspension system -this would provide suspensions with different installation techniques and frame requirements. Elastic webbing could be the non-metallic and serpentine (zig-zag) springs the metallic one.

Outcome 3

Candidates should have practice in dealing with a variety of fillings throughout the Unit. Foams selected should be of appropriate densities eg polyurethane foam for a seat 38–40 kgs per cubic metre; backs/arms 24–28 kgs per cubic metre. Polyester waddings used as wrapping over foams should be a minimum of 2 ozs to a maximum of 8 ozs. Thicknesses of fillings should reflect the height, depth and width of the frame. All these factors should have been considered in Outcome 1.

Outcome 4

Throughout the Unit candidates should develop their planning, cutting and sewing skills and should be introduced to different types of trimmings, finishing techniques and decorative seams. Candidates should consider sewing allowances, pile direction, pattern repeat, use of templates, mark covers using French chalk. Sewing could include decorative seams such as piping or cord and other sewing features such as quilting or fluting. Covers should be fixed using staples. Finishing techniques could include back tacking strip, flexible metal strip or slip stitching. Trimmings could be gimp, braid, buttons, decorative nails or nail strip. The techniques used to cover and finish modern upholstered furniture will be completed to standards on an accompanying checklist.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Throughout the Unit candidates will develop their planning, organising and evaluating skills. Planning is clearly the main part of Outcome 1 where candidates will have to work out materials and techniques to be employed in the upholstery project. This planning activity will be developed throughout Outcomes 2, 3 and 4 and will be evidenced by the finished product. Throughout the Unit, candidates will have to show evidence of evaluating the techniques used and their workmanship and may have to amend their original plan to take account of any changes.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Furniture: Modern Upholstery

Open learning

Outcome 1 could be achieved by open learning. However, the other Outcomes will require workshop facilities and would not be suitable for Open learning.

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: Modern Upholstery

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

You will learn about the materials used in modern upholstery, the kind of stuffing and fillings used and you will learn about types of suspension and installation techniques which are used in modern upholstery in particular. You will learn how to specify all the materials and techniques you will use in a project and this will involve you researching appropriate materials and costs, measuring frames, working out cutting plans, and developing your sewing, fitting and finishing techniques.

You will learn about suspension systems and how to install them. Although they will not all be tested, you should look at elastic webbing, rubberized webbing, jute webbing, tension springs, spring units and serpentine springing. When you are dealing with stuffings, you will learn not only about the stuffings themselves, but also about the correct densities to be used and cutting and forming the stuffings to the required shape.

You will also learn how to cover and finish modern upholstered furniture in this Unit. You will therefore be learning how to use modern stitching techniques and how to fit covers.

As you work your way through this Unit, you will also develop your problem solving skills in addition to your upholstery skills.