



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Plastering: External Rendering and Floors

Unit code: F8R3 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to External Renderings and Floors. The candidate will demonstrate their understanding of techniques and practices as well as their practical abilities in production of external render and floor finishes.

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

- 1 Run external moulding in-situ.
- 2 Produce a range of external render finishes.
- 3 Apply and finish a proprietary render finish.
- 4 Explain and illustrate the techniques used the production of external render and floor finishes.

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 centres. However it is recommended that candidates have completed the Professional Development Award in Plastering at SQF level 6 or have the equivalent level of industrial experience and prior learning.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication, Numeracy, Working with Others* and *Problem Solving* all at SCQF level 5 and *Information and Communication Technology* at SCQF level 4 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 in the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes. This Unit was developed as part of the Professional Development Award in Plastering at SCQF level 7 and is aimed at candidates following a career in Plastering and with current industrial experience.

General information for centres (cont)

Assessment: The candidate will be given the opportunity to enhance their skills and knowledge in Plastering by learning about complex setting out and methodologies used in the production of both traditional and modern external wall and floor finishes. Techniques and practices used to set out produce external render and floor finishes should be integrated in the practical tasks undertaken. The principles and techniques should be explained throughout the practical activities.

This Unit is assessed on the candidates' performance of the production of a range of external render finishes together with supporting underpinning knowledge for both render and floor finishes.

In order to achieve this Unit, candidates are required to present sufficient evidence that they have met all the Knowledge and/or Skills elements for each Outcome. Details of these requirements are given for each Outcome.

The assessment instruments used should follow the general guidance offered by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) assessment model and an integrative approach to assessment is encouraged. (See references at the end of support notes).

Evidence will be gathered through observation of work processes and assessment of completed work. Assessment should be carried out under controlled, supervised conditions. Candidates must achieve all of the Knowledge and/or Skills and Evidence Requirements specified for each Outcome to gain this Unit. Centres may use the instrument of assessment which they consider to be most appropriate but are advised to use the Plastering Training and Assessment Programme (TAP) which has been developed centrally by SQA. Any other instruments of assessment used must be comparable to the TAP and have been through prior verification.

Accurate records should be made of the assessment instruments used showing how evidence is generated for each Outcome and giving marking schemes, checklists and recorded candidate feedback. Records of candidates' achievements should be retained. These records will be made available for external verification.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Plastering: External Rendering and Floors

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

Outcome 1

Run external moulding in-situ

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Background preparations
- ◆ Setting out techniques
- ◆ Forming/running in-situ moulding
- ◆ Safe Working Practices
- ◆ Sustainability/Site Waste Management

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ set out and prepare a background area for running external moulding (in-situ)
- ◆ produce a completed run length of external moulding (in-situ)
- ◆ follow current safe working practices
- ◆ minimise the waste of materials throughout practical work
- ◆ work to specified tolerances identified in the specification

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Plastering: External Rendering and Floors

The following will assist the assessor in judging the candidate performance against the Evidence Requirements.

The selection of equipment is appropriate to the task	as specified
Setting out — height 1m to base	+2mm
Running screed to suit mould- straight throughout its length	+2mm
Fix running rule/rod — straight and level	+2mm
Fix rebate to mould — securely no movement	+1mm
Running	
Muffle mould average thickness 4mm	+2mm
Mix materials for coring out to suitable consistency	Free from lumps and dry materials
Core out moulding — straight throughout its length	Fully formed free from large misses
Mix materials for finishing to suitable consistency	Free from lumps and dry materials
Finished run length(2.00m) — straight throughout its length	Fully formed members and arises — no defects with a consistent finish throughout the run length.
Remove running rod	No damage to run length
Make good nail/screw holes	Flush smooth to match existing finish
Minimise waste	
Handle components with care	No damage
Leave job in tidy condition	
Wears appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	at all times
Current Health and Safety legislation	complies at all times

Evidence will be gathered through observation of work processes and assessment of the completed work. Assessment should be carried out under controlled, supervised conditions. In order to achieve this Outcome, candidates are required to present sufficient evidence that they have met all the Knowledge and/or Skills elements. An assessor observation checklist should be completed to ensure that the candidate has met the required specification and tolerances and this observation checklist should be retained as evidence.

Assessment Guidelines

In addition to the practical assessment candidates will be required to complete a written assignment based on drawings and specifications for an actual work project. This could be conducted as an assignment in a classroom environment.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Plastering: External Rendering and Floors

Outcome 2

Apply external cement finishes

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Background preparations
- ◆ Setting out
- ◆ Produce a range of external finishes
- ◆ Safe Working Practices
- ◆ Sustainability/Site Waste Management

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ set out and prepare a background area for a range of external finishes
- ◆ apply and finish a range of external finishes
- ◆ follow current safe working practices
- ◆ minimise the waste of materials throughout practical work
- ◆ work to specified tolerances identified in the specification

The following will assist the assessor in judging the candidate performance against the Evidence Requirements.

External finish 1

Prepare background area for rendering/s	
Scratch coat applied evenly –thickness 6mm	±3mm
Scratch coat evenly scratched(depth and surface area)	even depth/No misses
Beads/rods cut to length	±3mm
Beads/rods fixed securely (plumb/level)	Straight/plumb throughout their length +3mm
Apply and finish render — plumb, flat and even	±3mm with a uniform finish no scour/trowel/float or whip marks
Minimise waste	
Handle components with care	No damage
Leave job in tidy condition	
Wears appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	at all times
Current Health and Safety legislation	complies at all times

Evidence will be gathered through observation of work processes and assessment of the completed work. Assessment should be carried out under controlled, supervised conditions. In order to achieve this Outcome, candidates are required to present sufficient evidence that they have met all the Knowledge and/or Skills elements. An assessor observation checklist should be completed to ensure that the candidate has met the required specification and tolerances and this observation checklist should be retained as evidence.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Plastering: External Rendering and Floors

Assessment Guidelines

In addition to the practical assessment candidates will be required to complete a written assignment based on drawings and specifications for an actual work project. This could be conducted as an assignment in a classroom environment.

Outcome 3

Apply a proprietary external render system

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Background preparations
- ◆ Setting out techniques
- ◆ Application of external render finish
- ◆ Safe Working Practices
- ◆ Sustainability/Site Waste Management

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ set out, prepare a background area for an external render system
- ◆ produce in two coats a proprietary external render finish
- ◆ follow current safe working practices
- ◆ minimise the waste of materials throughout practical work
- ◆ work to specified tolerances identified in the specification

The following will assist the assessor in judging the candidate performance against the Evidence Requirements.

Prepare background area for rendering/s	±3mm
Scratch coat applied evenly to manufacturers recommended thickness	
Scratch coat evenly scratched(depth and surface area)	even depth/No misses
Beads/rods cut to length	±3mm
Beads/rods fixed securely (plumb/level)	Straight/plumb throughout their length +3mm
Apply and finish render to manufacturers specification — plumb, flat and even	±3mm with a uniform finish no scour/trowel/float or whip marks
Minimise waste	
Handle components with care	No damage
Leave job in tidy condition	
Wears appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	at all times
Current Health and Safety legislation	complies at all times

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Plastering: External Rendering and Floors

Evidence will be gathered through observation of work processes and assessment of the completed work. Assessment should be carried out under controlled, supervised conditions. In order to achieve this Outcome, candidates are required to present sufficient evidence that they have met all the Knowledge and/or Skills elements. An assessor observation checklist should be completed to ensure that the candidate has met the required specification and tolerances and this observation checklist should be retained as evidence.

Assessment Guidelines

In addition to the practical assessment candidates will be required to complete a written assignment based on drawings and specifications for an actual work project. This could be conducted as an assignment in a classroom environment.

Outcome 4

Explain and illustrate techniques used to produce stair and floor finishes

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Setting out techniques
- ◆ Application and production of stair/floor finishes
- ◆ Selection of materials
- ◆ Safe Working Practices
- ◆ Sustainability/Site Waste Management
- ◆ Modern stair and floor laying Techniques

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ explain the sequence of operations and techniques used in setting out and forming stair and floor finishes
- ◆ explain the selection and use of materials for stair and floor finishes
- ◆ identify safe working practices relevant to producing stair and floor finishes
- ◆ outline methods used to minimise waste and onsite disposal
- ◆ compare and contrast modern methods of setting out and forming stair and floor finishes

All the Evidence Requirements must be met and all items in the knowledge and skills covered. Evidence should be gathered through an assignment outlining the processes, techniques, health and safety and sustainability requirements related to setting out and producing stair and floor finishes. Assessment should be conducted under open-book supervised conditions.

Assessment Guidelines

In the assessment candidates will be required to complete an assignment based on drawings and specifications for an actual work project. This could be conducted as an assignment in a classroom environment lasting up to three hours.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F8R3 34

Unit title: Plastering: External Rendering and Floors

Superclass category: TG

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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: Plastering: External Rendering and Floors

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 has been developed as an optional Unit in the Professional Development Award in Plastering at SCQF level 7 and may be delivered in a sequence suitable to individual candidates and centres.

This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to a range of external renderings and floor screeding applications

Candidates following a career in plastering and with current industrial experience will benefit from undertaking this Unit.

The knowledge and skills for this Unit should be incorporated with modern methods of producing external finishes to wall and floors and applied where possible. Terminology commonly associated with external plastering should also be used throughout this Unit.

It is vitally important that candidates gain an understanding and knowledge of the sequencing of operations with regard to the application of external rendering/s and floors.

Current Health and Safety, sustainability and waste management issues should be fully emphasised throughout the delivery of this Unit.

Working to specified tolerances and methods of checking completed work should be demonstrated and undertaken by the candidate.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

The principles and methods of setting out, preparing backgrounds together with a variety of methodologies, applications and finishing techniques should be demonstrated to the candidate before summative assessment takes place.

The differing constraints candidates could encounter on site with various setting out, applications and production of surface finishes with regard to the range of external renderings and floors should be fully explained.

Health and Safety and Sustainability are integral and key to the Construction Industry therefore throughout the Unit emphasis will be placed where appropriate on the application of Health and Safety and Sustainability. Safety working practices should be looked at in accordance with current safety codes of practice and regulations. Sustainability should include reference to criteria affecting sustainability, impact of not implementing sustainability on the environment and the legislation promoting sustainability.

Working tolerances should be explained as being the minimum standard which will be accepted and candidates should be encouraged to evaluate their own work.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Plastering: External Rendering and Floors

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Communication skills at SCQF level 5 may be developed by the completion of the assignment for Outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4. Candidates are required to produce a written assignment outlining the processes, techniques, health and safety and sustainability requirements related to a range of external rendering and floor finishes.

Working with Others at SCQF level 5 could be developed in Outcome 3 when working in pairs when applying and producing a finish to a proprietary external render system. Candidates can agree responsibilities and provide support and information to each other during the assessments. After assessment, they should be encouraged to consider how effectively they supported each other.

Information and Communication Technology at SCQF level 4 may be developed by the candidates' carrying out individual research of modern and traditional external render and floor techniques, health and safety legislation and sustainability relating to the task.

Problem Solving at SCQF level 5 could be developed as candidates compare and contrast modern and traditional external render and floor techniques. Candidates will need to take account of a range of factors in order to work efficiently and safely, such as the choice of tools, appropriate materials, safety issues, safety equipment and sustainability. Individual discussions with assessors will enhance the evaluation of efficient working practices.

Numeracy could be developed at SCQF level 5 when taking off dimensions from working drawings, measuring, calculating and setting out.

Open learning

Although this Unit could be delivered by distance learning, it would require a considerable degree of planning by the centre to ensure the sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence. Arrangements would have to be made to ensure that:

- ◆ the practical activity in outcomes 1, 2 and 3 is supervised by a responsible person and clearly recorded (using an assessment checklist, or on video) for the assessor
- ◆ the assessor is, at some point able to question the candidate on the performance (face to face, by telephone, online)
- ◆ the open-book assignment for outcome 1, 2, 3 and 4 is conducted in a supervised environment

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website

www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

General information for candidates

Unit title: Plastering: External Rendering and Floors

This Unit is designed to develop your practical skills and knowledge of complex setting out and the production of external render and floor finishes. You will develop your understanding of modern and traditional practices and techniques and comply with sustainability issues and current Health and Safety legislation throughout the Unit.

You will have to demonstrate the required techniques in setting out producing external render and floor finishes and demonstrate your understanding of the traditional and modern techniques for external wall and floor finishes.

You will learn about sustainability issues and how new materials, techniques and systems can have an impact on improving the sustainability in general and you will comply with current Health and Safety regulations and legislation throughout.

Outcome 1: Run external moulding in-situ.

- ◆ Prepare a background area for in-situ running.
- ◆ Setting out rods/rules for in-situ running.
- ◆ Prepare running mould and external moulding (in-situ).
- ◆ Safe Working Practices.
- ◆ Sustainability/Site Waste Management.

You will be assessed in supervised workshop conditions to specified tolerances contained in an observation checklist. These tolerances should be fully explained and available prior to you commencing the assessment. You will be required to work individually for the assessment and where required in pairs. You will receive both oral and written feedback on your performance from the assessor.

Outcome 2: Apply external cement finishes.

- ◆ Prepare a range of background areas for external render finishes.
- ◆ Set out for a range of external finishes.
- ◆ Produce a range of external finishes.
- ◆ Safe Working Practices.
- ◆ Sustainability/Site Waste Management.

You will be assessed in supervised workshop conditions to specified tolerances contained in an observation checklist. These tolerances should be fully explained and available prior to you commencing the assessment. You will be required to work individually for the assessment and where required in pairs. You will receive both oral and written feedback on your performance from the assessor.

General information for candidates (cont)

Unit title: Plastering: External Rendering and Floors

Outcome 3: Apply a proprietary external render system

- ◆ Prepare a background area for a proprietary external render system.
- ◆ Set out for a render system application.
- ◆ Apply and finish a proprietary render system.
- ◆ Safe Working Practices.
- ◆ Sustainability/Site Waste Management.

You will be assessed in supervised workshop conditions to specified tolerances contained in an observation checklist. These tolerances should be fully explained and available prior to you commencing the assessment. You will be required to work individually for the assessment and where required in pairs. You will receive both oral and written feedback on your performance from the assessor.

Outcome 4: Explain and illustrate techniques used to produce stair and floor finishes.

- ◆ Setting out techniques.
- ◆ Application and production of stair/floor finishes.
- ◆ Selection of materials.
- ◆ Safe Working Practices.
- ◆ Sustainability/Site Waste Management.
- ◆ Modern stair and floor laying Techniques.

You will be assessed on the completion of an assignment in which you will be required to describe and explain in detail the methods and techniques used to produce stair and floor finishes. You will give details, methodologies used, setting out techniques, types of finishes, material selection and sequence of operations.

The assessment for this Outcome will be open-book and will be carried out in a supervised environment. You will have access to your own notes that you have prepared personally for your own use. You will not be permitted to bring textbooks, handouts or other materials that you have not prepared yourself.

There are opportunities for you to develop your Core Skills of *Communication, Numeracy, Working with Others* and *Problem Solving* all at SCQF level 5 and *Information and Communication Technology* at SCQF level 4 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.