

National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT	Applying External Cementwork: An Introduction
NUMBER	DH29 11
COURSE	Scottish Progression Award in Building Crafts

SUMMARY

This unit will be suitable for candidates who have completed progression unit: Fixing Plasterboard and Applying Plastering Materials: An Introduction. The outcomes require the candidate to use and care for a basic range of tools, materials and equipment whilst undertaking skilled tasks associated with application of external cement work. The attainment of these skills is an essential requirement for progressing to higher level skills within this area.

Candidates who achieve this unit should feel confident in progressing to units based solely on plasterwork when the range and level of work will be wider and more advanced.

OUTCOMES

1. Manage the use of hand tools, materials and equipment.
2. Prepare backgrounds and set out metal trims for the application of external cementwork.
3. Apply external cementwork in two coats.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Access to this unit is at the discretion of the centre. It would be preferable if the candidate had completed progression unit – previous unit.

Administrative Information

Superclass:	TG
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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Intermediate 1 (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4*)

**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.*

CORE SKILLS

There is no automatic certification of core skills or core skills components in this unit.

Information on the automatic certification of any core skills in this unit is published in *Automatic Certification of Core Skills in National Qualifications* (SQA, publication code BA0906).

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

UNIT Applying External Cementwork: An Introduction

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

OUTCOME 1

Manage the use of hand tools, materials and equipment.

Performance criteria

- a) Select appropriate tools/equipment for the work being undertaken.
- b) Handle and transport tools, materials and equipment correctly.
- c) The use and maintenance of tools and equipment is correct.
- d) Store tools, materials and equipment correctly after use.
- e) Comply with current health and safety regulations.

Note on range for the outcome

Tools, materials and equipment for this outcome will be those required to carry out the tasks in Outcomes 2 and 3.

Evidence requirements

Evidence of actual performance is needed to show the candidate can, follow instructions, select tools and handle, transport, maintain, use and store tools, materials and equipment in the work area together with consistently complying with current safety regulations.

Evidence of the use and care of tools, materials and equipment and a basic awareness of their structure is needed to test underpinning knowledge and understanding and will be gained in a holistic assessment covering the unit.

OUTCOME 2

Prepare backgrounds and set out metal trims for the application of external cementwork.

Performance criteria

- a) Prepare and treat backgrounds to the specification.
- b) Metal trims are fixed in accordance with the specification.
- c) Comply with current health and safety regulations.

Note on range for the outcome

Background preparation area brick or block work construction.
Metal trims: 1 standard bell cast bead, 1 stop-end bead.

Evidence requirements

Evidence of actual performance is needed to show the candidate can, following instructions, prepare one flat wall and one flat background areas with attached pier, together with measuring, cutting, setting out and fixing metal beads involving plumbing, straightening, key, suction, face flatness and squaring. The candidate is required to work within stated tolerances and consistently behave in a safe manner throughout all activities.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence of basic practicable methodology on background preparations together the application of setting out and fixing metal trims is needed to test underpinning knowledge and understanding and will be gained in a holistic assessment covering the unit.

OUTCOME 3

Apply external cementwork in two coats.

Performance criteria

- a) Materials are correctly mixed.
- b) The first/scratch coat is in accordance with the specification.
- c) The finishing coat is applied in accordance with the specification.
- d) Comply with current health and safety regulations during all activities.

Note on range for the outcome

Materials: cement, sand, admixes.

Backgrounds: brickwork or block work.

Surfaces: 2 flat wall surfaces; 1 attached pier.

Surface finishes: plain facer (ashlar-regular courses) aggregate (dry dash).

Evidence requirements

Evidence of actual performance is needed to show the candidate can, following instructions mix cement render materials by hand and apply two coats of cement render on two separate occasions to include plain face and aggregate finishes to brick or block work backgrounds within the stated tolerances while consistently behaving in a safe manner throughout all activities.

Evidence of basic practicable methodology on the selection, mixing and application of two coat external cementwork is needed to test underpinning knowledge and understanding and will be gained in a holistic assessment covering the unit.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Applying External Cementwork: An Introduction

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 designed to introduce the candidate to skills required by craft persons working in the construction industry as plasterers. The unit will focus on basic skills and associated tasks involved in the application of two coat cement render, plumb, straight, flat and uniform surface finishes together with the basic skills involved with setting out and fixing metal beads. It is envisaged that many candidates will have little or no experience of working with the range of tools, materials and equipment. Underpinning the practical skills is the need to ensure the candidate appreciates the reasons for carrying out the tasks in the manner directed and the reasons for using specific tools, materials, equipment and personal protective equipment. Whilst it is imperative that all activities are carried out in compliance with relevant health and safety regulations it is intended that only a basic understanding is summatively assessed.

Corresponding to outcomes 1 to 3

Outcome 1

This outcome requires the candidate to select tools, and to handle, transport, use, maintain and store tools, materials and equipment. It should inform the candidate on the importance of working in an organised and systematic manner while giving due consideration to others. The maintenance of a clean and tidy work area including the positioning of tools, materials and equipment before, during and after use is paramount in complying with relevant health and safety regulations. Tools are likely to include hawk, trowel, gauger, spirit level, float, wire scratch, harling trowel, scrub/splash brush, plasterers hammer, tape measure, tin snips, pointing key. Materials are likely to be cement, sand, admixture, aggregate, bell cast bead and stop-end bead. Equipment to include, board and stance, straightedge, darby and mixing board.

Outcome 2

This outcome entails tasks in background preparation, setting out and fixing metal trims on one occasion for the application of cement render to a brick or block work background with an attached pier. Prior preparations of background areas in terms of candidate's assessment of key and suction together with the positioning, plumbing and straightness of the metal beads are of vital importance to the success of the operation. The use of cement render dabs together with spirit level; straightedge and plumbing/straightening methods will increase the candidate's awareness of techniques common in this area of work.

Outcome 3

This outcome should enable the candidate to develop practical skills in using hand tools during the application of two-coat cement render on two separate occasions. Mixing and consistency of materials together with setting out, plumbing and appropriate methodology of application are of vital importance to the success of the operation. Candidates should manually mix all materials and be made fully aware of mechanical mixing methods. It is important that the candidate is fully aware of all the implications involving accurate selecting, proportioning and mixing of all cement based materials including admixtures.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcomes 1, 2 and 3

Health and Safety Regulations will include the HSAWA (Health and Safety at Work etc) Act and the COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) Regulations

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Recognised working practices should be fully explained, demonstrated and practised including manual handling techniques, posture when using tools and methods of working in a clean and tidy manner. Outcome 1 should be integrated with Outcome 2 and 3. Where it is possible to do so, underpinning knowledge should be integrated with practical activities in the workshop or project area.

Formative assessment should inform the candidate of his/her progress when emphasis should be placed on working accurately.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Centres may use the Instruments of Assessment, which they consider to be the most appropriate. Examples are given below:

Outcome 1

Practical Exercise

The candidate should be informed that this Outcome is integrated with Outcome 2 and Outcome 3 and will be assessed as an ongoing assessment.

A checklist will be used to record the evidence.

Outcome 2

Practical Exercise

This exercise is integrated with Outcome 1. The candidate will be provided with instructions outlining the tasks to be undertaken, the performance required and the observations, which will be made by the assessor during practical activities.

A checklist will be used to record the evidence.

OUTCOME 2 SPECIFICATION

Flat wall area (exercise 1)

Checks made for:

Plumb

Flatness

Key

Suction

Appropriate action taken to ensure sufficient key and control of suction

Bellcast bead cut to length of 1.5m $\pm 6\text{mm}$.

Bellcast bead securely fixed/bedded.

Bellcast bead horizontal $\pm 6\text{mm}$

Bead straight throughout entire length $\pm 6\text{mm}$.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Applying External Cementwork: An Introduction

Flat wall area with attached pier (exercise 2)

Checks made for:

Plumb

Flatness

Key

Suction

Appropriate action taken to ensure sufficient key and control of suction

Stop-end bead cut to lengths of 1.5m $\pm 6\text{mm}$

Stop-end bead securely fixed and bedded

Stop-end bead vertical $\pm 6\text{mm}$

Bead straight throughout entire length $\pm 6\text{mm}$

Outcome 3

Practical exercise

This exercise is integrated with Outcome 1. The candidate will be provided with instructions outlining the tasks to be undertaken, the performance required and the observations, which will be made by the assessor during practical activities.

A checklist will be used to record the evidence

OUTCOME 3 SPECIFICATION

FLAT WALL AREA

Dry Dash (exercise 1)

Cement render gauged/mixed to correct consistency.

Applies first coat flat and free from heavy trowel marks minimum thickness 6mm.

First coat evenly scratched generally – no misses

Straightening coat applied flat and free from heavy trowel marks.

Aggregate sufficiently bedded to backing materials generally free from misses, sags and whip marks.

FLAT WALL AREA WITH ATTACHED PIER

Plain render – Ashlar keying (exercise 2)

Cement render gauged/mixed to correct consistency.

Applies first coat flat and free from heavy trowel marks minimum thickness 6mm.

First coat evenly scratched – generally no misses.

Forms screeds straight and plumb $\pm 6\text{mm}$

Bay filled in flat and straight $\pm 6\text{mm}$

Pier return square $\pm 6\text{mm}$

Arises and angles plumb, square and straight $\pm 6\text{mm}$

Floated to a smooth finish free from trowel or scour marks.

Ashlar keying to be level plumb and of regular height and length $\pm 6\text{mm}$

Satisfactory performance in the practical content of this outcome will be based on the candidate gaining all the above tasks to the tolerances stated together with complying with current health and safety regulations during practical activities.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcomes 1, 2 and 3

Objective questions

This assessment is holistic in terms of covering the entire unit. Questions will be set to assess the candidate on his/her knowledge and understanding of basic methodology in working with tools, materials and equipment including selecting tools for specific use, on handling, transporting, using, maintaining and storing tools, materials and equipment in compliance with relevant health and safety regulations.

Satisfactory performance in this assessment is needed before a candidate can be considered as being competent in the entire unit.

SPECIAL NEEDS

This unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering special alternative outcomes for units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment Arrangements* (SQA, September 2003).