



## National Unit Specification: general information

**UNIT** Plastering: Tools and Materials (SCQF level 6)

**CODE** F6S5 12

### SUMMARY

This Unit is suitable for candidates working towards a Modern Apprenticeship in Plastering. This Unit is designed to provide candidates with competence in identifying and using plastering tools, identifying materials, preparing backgrounds, mixing materials, and applying sand/lime mortar to backgrounds and the ability to apply this in the workplace. It is also designed to enable candidates to develop their understanding of plastering terminology, techniques and practices.

### OUTCOMES

- 1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of plastering tools and materials
- 2 Select tools and prepare background wall area to receive sand lime mortar.
- 3 Select tools, mix and apply sand lime mortar to backgrounds.

### RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, candidates undertaking the Professional Development Award in Plastering at SCQF level 6 must meet the requirements of the Modern Apprentices which include being employed in the relevant craft industry.

### CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at SCQF level 6 (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6\*).

*\*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.*

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### Administrative Information

**Superclass:** TG

**Publication date:** June 2009

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

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## **National Unit Specification: general information (cont)**

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### **CORE SKILLS**

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit. Opportunities for developing aspects of the following Core Skills are highlighted in Support Notes of this Unit.

- ◆ *Working with Others* at SCQF level 4
- ◆ *Communication* at SCQF level 4
- ◆ *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 4

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards**

### **UNIT        Plastering: Tools and Materials (SCQF level 6)**

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 SQA.

#### **OUTCOME 1**

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of plastering tools and materials.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify and select plastering tools and explain their use.
- (b) Identify and select plastering materials and explain their use.
- (c) Explain the properties of plastering materials.

#### **OUTCOME 2**

Select tools and prepare background wall area to receive sand lime mortar.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify and select the correct tools and materials for the given task.
- (b) Prepare background in accordance with the given task.
- (c) Demonstrate safe handling of tools and materials.
- (d) Comply with current health and safety requirements during all work methods and activities.

#### **OUTCOME 3**

Select tools, mix and apply sand lime mortar to backgrounds.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify and select the correct tools and materials for the given task.
- (b) Mix sand lime mortar according to given instructions.
- (c) Apply sand lime mortar to prepared background.
- (d) Form a mechanical key correctly.
- (e) Demonstrate safe handling of tools and materials.
- (f) Comply with current health and safety requirements during all work methods and activities.

### **EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT**

These evidence requirements will be met by the completion of the Plastering Training and Assessment Programme (TAP).

Evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved this Unit to the standard specified in all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

## National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

### UNIT          Plastering: Tools and Materials (SCQF level 6)

Written and/or oral recorded evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved the knowledge elements of all Outcomes to the standard specified in the Performance Criteria. Candidates will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of plastering tools and materials including lime, types of sand, sand for plastering, impurities in sand, workability of materials, backgrounds and absorption. The instrument of assessment will be a questions paper conducted under closed-book, controlled, supervised conditions.

Product and performance evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved all Outcomes to the standards specified in the Performance Criteria. Candidates will be required to identify and use selected plastering tools, prepare backgrounds taking account of absorption and suction control, apply sand lime mortar to correct thickness, flatness and plumb and form a mechanical key (scratching).

Candidates must demonstrate safe handling of tools and materials, an awareness of standards and tolerances and comply with workshop cleaning and maintenance and health and safety and Personal Protective Equipment regulations.

| <b>Summary of standards (for candidate information only)</b> |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Item</b>  | <b>Measurement of standard</b>                            |
| Suction  | Brush down, damp down                                     |
| Preparation  | Provide adequate key                                      |
| Plumb  | ±10 mm  |
| Flatness   | ±10 mm  |
| Thickness  | 10 mm ±5 mm   |
| Scratch depth  | 4 mm or no greater than half coating thickness            |
| Scratch lines  | Horizontal and vertical with no misses                    |
| Material consistency   | Free from lumps and dry materials and workable/spreadable |
| Working area   | Clean at all times  |
| Wastage  | Kept to a minimum   |
| Health and safety  | Complies at all times                                     |

## National Unit Specification: support notes

### UNIT      Plastering: Tools and Materials (SCQF level 6)

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 a mandatory Unit in the Professional Development Award in Plastering at SCQF level 6.

The successful completion of this Unit will provide candidates with the required underpinning knowledge and skills relating to plastering tools and materials, preparation of backgrounds and the mixing and application of sand lime mortar.

The knowledge elements of this Unit should cover the following:

- ◆ Plastering tools (general plastering tools)
- ◆ Plastering materials (lime/types of sand/sand for plastering/impurities in sand/workability)
- ◆ Backgrounds and absorption
- ◆ Safe handling of tools and materials (COSHH control of substances hazardous to health)
- ◆ Mixing sand lime (by hand/by machine)
- ◆ Workshop health and safety (general health and safety and PPE)

The practical section of this Unit will cover the following:

- ◆ Identifying and using selected plastering tools (general plastering tools)
- ◆ Preparing backgrounds (absorption/suction control)
- ◆ Applying sand lime mortar (thickness/flatness/plumb)
- ◆ Forming a mechanical key (scratching)
- ◆ Safe handling of tools and materials/COSHH (control of substances hazardous to health)
- ◆ Complying with workshop cleaning and maintenance
- ◆ Complying with health and safety/PPE regulations

This Unit should be delivered as part of a structured programme of training and orientated to the context of the candidate's work and area of responsibility.

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.

## National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

### UNIT            Plastering: Tools and Materials (SCQF level 6)

#### GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

The candidate should be provided with plastering tools and materials or photographs/visual aids in a workshop environment followed by lecturer led demonstrations on how these tools and materials should be used safely and correctly.

The candidate should be introduced to a workshop environment where lecturer led demonstrations of preparing a range of backgrounds would be completed and made aware of cleaning off debris, raking out joints, and absorption/suction rates, mixing mortar and applying sand lime mortar to prepared backgrounds applying to correct thickness, flatness and plumb. The candidate should follow demonstrations which should be supported by classroom notes and group discussions. Candidates may work in pairs to carry out the practical elements of this Unit.

Opportunities should be taken throughout delivery of this Unit to meet the requirements of the generic Units of the Training and Assessment Programme including:

- ◆ Conform to General Workplace Safety
- ◆ Confirm Work Activities and Resources for the Work
- ◆ Develop and Maintain Good Working Relationships
- ◆ Confirm the Occupational Method of Work
- ◆ Conform to Efficient Working Practices
- ◆ Move and Handle Resources

#### OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 4 could be developed as candidates undertake this Unit. 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.

There are opportunities for candidates to develop the Core Skill of *Working with Others* at SCQF level 4, as this practical assessment may be carried out working in pairs. 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.

There will be opportunities for candidates to develop the Core Skill of *Communication* at SCQF level 4. Candidates will have the opportunity to develop written and/or oral communication skills for the knowledge part of the assessment. As candidates complete practical tasks, they should be expected to communicate with others using the correct terminology, tone and style suited to the workplace.

## **National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)**

### **UNIT            Plastering: Tools and Materials (SCQF level 6)**

#### **GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT**

Detailed assessment material for this Unit will be found in section 2 of the Plastering Training and Assessment Programme (TAP). Centres may use the instruments of assessment which they consider to be most appropriate but are advised to use the Plastering 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.

The candidate's knowledge and understanding of plastering tools and materials will be assessed through a question paper.

Candidates should be given as much practise as possible in prior to being set the assessment. Evidence will be gathered for all Outcomes through observation of work processes and assessment of the completed workpieces to ensure that the candidates have met the given standards and tolerances during the practical assessment. An assessor observation checklist should be used to record this evidence.

#### **Opportunities for the use of e-assessment**

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

#### **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 our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)