



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Plastering: External Finishes (SCQF level 6)

CODE F6SD 12

SUMMARY

This Unit is suitable for candidates working towards a Modern Apprenticeship in Plastering and will develop the candidates understanding of external finishes. This Unit is designed to provide candidates with competence in preparing backgrounds, fixing metal trims and timber rods to form bellcasts, applying two coats to wall areas using lime cement sand mortar, form internal and external angles, produce a dry dash finish, produce a wet dash finish and will show the ability to apply these in the workplace. It is also designed to enable candidates to develop their understanding of external plastering terminology, techniques and practices.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of terminology, components, techniques, practices and calculations used in external finishes.
- 2 Produce fully annotated scaled working drawing of bellcast bead.
- 3 Prepare background and fix metal trims and timber rods to form bellcast.
- 4 Form internal and external angles.
- 5 Produce a two coat dry dash finish.
- 6 Produce a two coat wet dash finish.
- 7 Carry out silt test.

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.

Administrative Information

Superclass: TG

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CREDIT VALUE

2 credits at Higher (12 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.*

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
- ◆ *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 4
- ◆ *Numeracy* at SCQF level 4
- ◆ *Communication* at SCQF level 4

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

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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 terminology, components, techniques, practices and calculations used in external finishes.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify and select the use of different types of external finishes.
- (b) Identify and select the different types of backgrounds and their absorption.
- (d) Identify and select the correct use of external finishes.
- (e) Calculate areas, perimeters, weight and cost.
- (f) Identify health and safety issues when using external finishes.

OUTCOME 2

Produce fully annotated scaled working drawing of bellcast bead.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Produce a drawing of a bellcast bead to a prescribed scale in compliance with the current Building Standards (Scotland) Regulations.
- (b) Annotate drawings accurately in accordance with the current Building Standards (Scotland) Regulations.

OUTCOME 3

Prepare background and fix metal trims and timber rods to form bellcast.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Prepare background to receive lime cement sand mortar.
- (b) Measure and cut metal trims and timber rods accurately.
- (c) Fix metal trims and timber rods to form bellcast.
- (d) Comply with current health and safety requirements during all work methods and activities.

OUTCOME 4

Form internal and external angles.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Form internal angles to given specification.
- (b) Form external angles to given specification.
- (c) Comply with current health and safety requirements during all work methods and activities.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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OUTCOME 5

Produce a two coat dry dash finish.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Apply first coat to wall area and form key to given specification.
- (b) Apply second coat to wall area to given specification.
- (c) Produce dry dash finish to given specification.
- (d) Comply with current health and safety requirements during all work methods and activities.

OUTCOME 6

Produce a two coat wet dash finish.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Apply first coat to wall area and form key to given specification.
- (b) Apply second coat to wall area to given specification.
- (c) Produce wet dash finish to given specification.
- (d) Comply with current health and safety requirements during all work methods and activities.

OUTCOME 7

Carry out silt test.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Set up apparatus to carry out silt test.
- (b) Carry out silt test.
- (c) Report findings and conclusions from silt test.
- (d) 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)

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Written and/or oral recorded evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved Outcomes 1 and 7 to the standard specified in the Performance Criteria. Candidates will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of preparing backgrounds, fixing metal trims, forming bellcasts with timber rods, applying two coats to wall areas using lime cement sand mortar, forming internal and external angles, producing a dry and wet dash finishes and reporting on silt tests. The instruments of assessment will be a questions paper and silt test experiment conducted under closed-book, controlled, supervised conditions.

Product evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved Outcome 2 to the standards specified in the Performance Criteria. Candidates will be required to produce a fully annotated drawing of a bellcast bead. Assessment will be conducted under controlled, supervised conditions.

Product and performance evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved Outcomes 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 to the standards specified in the Performance Criteria. Candidates will be required to of preparing backgrounds, fix metal trims, form bellcasts with timber rods, apply two coats to wall areas using lime cement sand mortar, form internal and external angles, produce a dry dash finish, producing a wet dash finish and performing silt test. Candidates must demonstrate safe handling of tools and materials, an awareness of standards and tolerances and comply with workshop cleaning and maintenance, Health and Safety and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) regulations.

Summary of standards (for candidate information only)	
Item	Measurement of standard
Background preparation	Checks for: plumb, suction, flatness, key Appropriate action is taken to ensure sufficient key, and suction is controlled to prevent excessive drying out of the first coat
Bellcast bead	Cut to required length ± 4 mm Securely fixed to background, level ± 4 mm Straight throughout its length ± 4 mm
First coat	Free from heavy trowel marks, minimum thickness 6mm
Key	Overall surface evenly scratched to provide a strong key – no misses
Surface finish to return	Floated/sponged to a smooth finish, even texture, free from trowel or scour marks
Straightening coat	Flat and free from heavy trowel marks, minimum thickness 6mm
Aggregate	Sufficiently bedded to backing materials
Surface finish	Uniform in texture, generally free from misses, sags and whip marks with no damage to arris
Wastage	Kept to a minimum
Work area	Clean at all times
Health and Safety	Complies at all times

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

UNIT Plastering: External Finishes (SCQF level 6)

Summary of standards (for candidate information only)	
Item	Measurement of standard
Background preparation	Checks for: plumb, suction, flatness, key Appropriate action is taken to ensure sufficient key, and suction is controlled to prevent excessive drying out of the first coat
Timber rod	Cut to required length $\pm 4\text{mm}$ Securely fixed to background, level $\pm 4\text{mm}$ Straight throughout its length $\pm 4\text{mm}$
First coat	Flat and free from heavy trowel marks, minimum thickness 6mm
Key	Overall surface evenly scratched to provide a strong key – no misses
Straightening coat	Flat and free from heavy trowel marks, minimum thickness 6mm
Key	Overall surface evenly scratched to provide a light key – no misses
Aggregate	Sufficiently bedded to backing materials
Surface finish	Uniform in texture and colour without runs or whip marks
Wastage	Kept to a minimum
Work area	Clean at all times
Health and safety	Complies at all times

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

UNIT Plastering: External Finishes (SCQF level 6)

Summary of standards (working towards industrial tolerances)	
Item	Measurement of standard
Background preparation	Checks for: plumb, suction, flatness, key Appropriate action is taken to ensure sufficient key, and suction is controlled to prevent excessive drying out of the first coat
Bellcast/stop-end bead/timber rod	Cut to required length $\pm 3\text{mm}$ Securely fixed to background, level/plumb $\pm 3\text{mm}$ Straight throughout its length $\pm 3\text{mm}$
First coat	Flat and free from heavy trowel marks, minimum thickness 5mm
Key	Overall surface evenly scratched to provide a strong key – no misses
Ingoes/soffit	Square top, middle, bottom $\pm 3\text{mm}$ Straight, plumb and level $\pm 3\text{mm}$
Surface finish	Floated/sponged to a smooth finish, even texture, free from trowel or scour marks
Arrises and angles	Shape maintained – minimal damage to arris
Straightening coat	Flat and free from heavy trowel marks, minimum thickness 6mm
Aggregate	Sufficiently bedded to backing materials
Surface finish	Uniform in texture, generally free from misses, sags and whip marks with no damage to arris
Risk assessment	Safety boots worn at all times Safety gloves to be worn when working with EML Respiratory masks and goggles to be worn when dismantling models
Method statement	Working area kept clean at all times Materials stacked safely at all times Tools/equipment handled safely at all times Tools/equipment cleaned and stored safely at the end of each working day Waste disposal to conform with organisational requirements

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Plastering: External Finishes (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 80 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 preparing backgrounds, fixing metal trims and timber rods to form bellcasts, applying two coats to wall areas using lime cement sand mortar, form internal and external angles and producing a dry and wet dash finish.

The knowledge elements of this Unit will cover the following:

- ◆ Backgrounds and absorption
- ◆ Plastering materials (cement/types of sand/sand for plastering/impurities in sand/workability)
- ◆ The use of metal trims (stop beads, bellcast beads, angle beads)
- ◆ Forming bellcast using timber rod method
- ◆ Applying two coat work
- ◆ Forming internal and external angles
- ◆ Dry dashing
- ◆ Wet dashing
- ◆ Floating in surfaces

The practical section of this Unit will cover the following:

- ◆ Preparing backgrounds (absorption/suction control)
- ◆ Cutting, fixing, and plumbing/levelling metal trims
- ◆ Cutting, fixing, and levelling timber rods
- ◆ Applying first coat sand lime mortar (thickness/flatness/plumb)
- ◆ Forming a mechanical key (scratching)
- ◆ Applying straightening coats
- ◆ Forming internal and external angles
- ◆ Forming bellcast
- ◆ Floating in surfaces
- ◆ Dry dashing
- ◆ Wet dashing
- ◆ Silt testing
- ◆ Annotated drawings of a bellcast bead
- ◆ Workshop health and safety (general health and safety PPE)
- ◆ Safe handling of tools and materials/COSHH (control of substances hazardous to health)
- ◆ Knowledge of standards/tolerances (training and assessment programme)
- ◆ Complying with workshop cleaning and maintenance
- ◆ Complying with health and safety/PPE regulations

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Plastering: External Finishes (SCQF level 6)

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.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

The candidate should be provided with materials, photographs/visual aids, and student handouts in a classroom environment followed by lecturer led discussions preparing backgrounds, fixing metal trims, forming bellcasts with timber rods, applying two coats to wall areas using lime cement sand mortar, form internal and external angles and producing a dry and wet dash finish safely and correctly.

The candidate should be introduced to a workshop environment where lecturer led demonstrations of preparing backgrounds, fixing metal trims, forming bellcasts with timber rods, applying two coats to wall areas using lime cement sand mortar, form internal and external angles, produce a dry dash finish, produce wet dash finish and to be carried out to the correct thickness, flatness and plumb/level. The candidate should follow demonstrations which should be supported by classroom notes and group discussions and by the use of information and communications technology (ICT). 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

Components of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 4, such as Planning and Organising and Critical Thinking will 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 will be carried out working in pairs, as part of teaching and learning. 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.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Numeracy at SCQF level 4 could be developed through the interpretation of information and the use of calculation, measuring and costing exercises.

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 for Outcomes 1 and 2. As candidates complete practical tasks, they should be expected to communicate with others using the correct terminology, tone and style suited to the workplace.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Detailed assessment material for this Unit will be found in section 4 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 terminology, techniques and construction practices and components related to applying coatings to metal laths will be assessed through a question paper.

Candidates will be required to produce an annotated drawing to meet the requirements of Outcome 2 and carry out a silt test experiment for Outcome 7.

Candidates should be given as much practise as possible in external finishes prior to being set the assessment. Evidence will be gathered for Outcomes 3, 4, 5 and 6 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 on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements