



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Industrial Machine Sewing Skills: An Introduction
(SCQF level 5)

Unit code: FP4V 11

Superclass: WH

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Summary

This Unit is designed to provide candidates with an introduction to sewing skills using industrial equipment. Candidates will learn a range of industrial sewing techniques and will use them to produce a simple sewn product.

This Unit forms part of the National Certificate in Fashion Design and Manufacture but can also be delivered as a freestanding Unit.

Outcomes

- 1 Produce a range of sewing samples.
- 2 Produce a simple sewn product.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would normally be expected to have attained a Course or its component Units at SCQF level 4.

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 5: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5*)

**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.*

National Unit specification: general information (cont)

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Core Skills

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills in this Unit.

The Unit provides opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of the following Core Skills:

- ◆ *Problem Solving (SCQF level 4)*
- ◆ *Numeracy (SCQF level 4)*

These opportunities are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit Specification.

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

Produce a range of sewing samples.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Produce sewing samples which demonstrate a range of seam types using industrial equipment and methods to specified standards.
- (b) Produce sewing samples which demonstrate a range of sewing techniques using industrial equipment and methods to specified standards.
- (c) Comply with appropriate Health and Safety requirements.

Outcome 2

Produce a simple sewn product.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Produce a sewn product using industrial equipment and techniques to a given specification.
- (b) Finish the product to a saleable standard.
- (c) Comply with appropriate health and safety requirements.

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Outcomes 1 and 2 — Practical exercises

For **Outcome 1** candidates will be required to produce samples that demonstrate a minimum of four seam types and four techniques from the following:

- ◆ seam types — plain, french, overlapped, raised/top stitch, edge stitch, bound/binder, channel/slot
- ◆ technique — basic hem, corner, curve, easing in, clipping of seams, gathering, pleating, shirring, darts, simple pocket, simple zip, pressing

The samples must have appropriate stitch length and balanced stitches with edges together and comply with a given specification.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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For **Outcome 2** candidates must produce a sewn product that demonstrates a minimum of three seam types and/or techniques from the list for Outcome 1. The finished product must:

- ◆ have appropriate stitch length and balanced stitches
- ◆ comply with a given specification
- ◆ be fit for purpose
- ◆ be finished to a saleable standard

The assessment must include an **observation checklist** to assess that candidates can use the equipment correctly — this should include threading the needle, spool winding, spool case threading and changing the needle for a lockstitch sewing machine. The checklist should also confirm that candidates comply with health and safety requirements, including maintaining the work area.

National Unit specification: support notes

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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 could be studied on its own as a freestanding Unit or it could be studied in conjunction with other Units as part of the National Certificate for *Fashion Design and Manufacture*, for example *Garment Pattern Construction: An Introduction*. Delivery of some of the more advanced sewing techniques in the Unit, such as zips and pockets, could be also be introduced in conjunction with higher level Units such as *Sewing Skills: Waist Suspended Garments/Shoulder Suspended Garments*.

The Unit will develop a range of sewing techniques that will allow candidates to progress to sewing garments. Candidates will learn to use industrial methods and equipment. Industrial equipment must be used, including lockstitch machine, overlocker and iron vacuum table.

Seam types will include plain, french, overlocked, raised/top stitch, edge stitch, bound/binder and channel/slot. Other techniques will include basic hems, corners, curves, easing in, clipping of seams, gathering, pleating, shirring, darts, simple pocket, simple zip and pressing.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

A candidate centred, resource based learning approach is recommended. The Outcomes in this Unit need not be taught separately and it is likely that an integrated approach could be used. The Outcomes are likely to be taught in the order shown.

Candidates will need to learn how to use industrial equipment — this will include threading needles, spool winding, spool case threading and changing the needle for a lockstitch sewing machine. Working within health and safety guidelines should be stressed and candidates should be encouraged to work safely at all times and maintain the work area. They also need to be aware of the importance of maintaining equipment.

Candidates should start with a range of sewing exercises and learn how to use industrial methods using the industrial equipment techniques. Candidates can then progress to creating samples.

The sewn product is designed to give a focus for the activities and add some interest and purpose for the candidates. The product could be something practical that the candidates can use in other units, for example, a working belt or roll up wallet, or an accessory such as a cushion or holdall, or it could be a simple garment which could form part of a range of garments being created for a show.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Candidates should be aware of the importance of working within tolerances and to a specification and should be provided with relevant samples and tolerances for the seam types and techniques. Candidates should be encouraged to evaluate their samples and sewn products against the given samples and tolerances.

Definition of acceptable 'saleable' standard

The definition of a 'saleable' standard will differ according to the SCQF level of the Unit. Each qualification level should be a skills progression from the previous level.

Within high street stores there is often a basic range and a higher quality range. NQ Units at SCQF levels 5 and 6 would be comparable to the saleable standard expected in the lower range high street store's basic range. Level 5 would have more 'allowable' faults than level 6. HN Units at levels 7 and 8 would be comparable to the saleable standard expected in the mid range high street store's basic range. Level 7 would have more 'allowable' faults than level 8.

Centres could produce samples of work at the minimum acceptable level and also at a high level of finish. Samples of what is not acceptable would also be useful – such as poor stitch tension in a garment seam. The following areas should be considered when assessing an acceptable 'saleable' standard:

- ◆ raw material faults eg holes, tears, marks on fabric
- ◆ machining faults eg unbalanced stitch tension, skipped stitches, puckered stitches
- ◆ appearance defects eg notches too deep and visible in seam, twisted hem, zip slide unable to open or close, sleeve not draping correctly
- ◆ finish eg trimming of threads and final pressing

Candidates should be encouraged to inspect the inside as well as the outside of a garment. They should look at the stitching, seams and seam finishes and the drape of the garment. Candidates could benchmark their work against samples to assess if it is an acceptable standard.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Each candidate should have several opportunities to develop practical skills required in this Unit and should be assessed at appropriate points throughout the Unit. The Outcomes are likely to be assessed in the order shown. Where a candidate is unsuccessful in achieving an outcome, provision should be made for remediation and reassessment.

Instruments of Assessment

Centres may use Instruments of Assessment which are considered by assessors/tutors to be the most appropriate.

It is recommended that practical exercises are used to assess Outcomes 1 and 2.

As well as producing the requirements of the outcomes, practical observation checklists should be used to evidence the candidates' completion of the outcomes and performance criteria, in particular in relation to sewing techniques, use of equipment and compliance with health and safety requirements.

Assessment Guidance

Outcome 1

Candidates will be required to create a range of sewing samples to demonstrate a minimum of four seam types and a minimum of four techniques. Individual samples could show more than one seam type/technique. Candidates should be issued with appropriate standards/tolerances for each seam type/technique and they should be completed with appropriate stitch length and balanced stitches.

Outcome 2

Candidates must create a sewn product which demonstrates at least three seam types and/or techniques. The product that candidates create could be a simple garment or an accessory, eg cushion, holdall, working belt, roll up wallet. Candidates should be issued with appropriate standards/tolerances. The product must be fit for purpose and finished to a saleable standard (as a point of reference the basic range of a lower range high street store would be an acceptable saleable standard).

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)*.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Opportunities for developing Core Skills

During the delivery of this Unit candidates will be involved in a range of practical activities which could offer opportunities for developing aspects of:

- ◆ *Problem Solving*
- ◆ *Numeracy*

The following gives some examples of some of the opportunities for developing these Core Skills which the Unit makes available to candidates.

Problem Solving (Practical exercises) — interpretation of given specifications.

Numeracy (Practical exercises) — working within tolerances.

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

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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