



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Jewellery: Repairs (SCQF level 6)

Unit code: H1KG 12

Superclass: JH

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Summary

This Unit will introduce the candidate to a variety of techniques and skills required to service and repair items of jewellery. In addition the candidate will learn about the precious metal alloys likely to be encountered when undertaking jewellery repairs and about the hallmarking system operated in the UK.

This Unit is particularly suitable for those candidates wishing to embark upon a career in jewellery design and/or manufacture.

Outcomes

- 1 Describe the range of precious metal alloys available in the UK.
- 2 Describe the hallmarking system as operated in the UK.
- 3 Assess and repair jewellery items provided to commercially acceptable standards.

Recommended entry

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

Credit points and level

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.*

National Unit specification: general information (cont)

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Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the support notes of this Unit specification.

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

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

Describe the range of precious metal alloys available in the UK.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe noble metals and their alloys correctly.
- (b) Describe base metals alloys correctly.
- (c) Describe methods of testing precious metals correctly.

Outcome 2

Describe the hallmarking system as operated in the UK.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe current hallmarking legislation correctly.
- (b) Describe the range of hallmarks correctly.
- (c) Describe the importance of hallmarking regulations to support consumer confidence.

Outcome 3

Assess and repair jewellery items provided to commercially acceptable standards.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Assess jewellery items for repair.
- (b) Prepare equipment and materials for repair.
- (c) Undertake jewellery repairs to commercially acceptable standards.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

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

Outcome 1

Written/oral evidence gathered under open-book conditions on one occasion. The candidate will name and describe the properties (colour, specific gravity and working properties) of the main four precious jewellery metals (gold, silver, platinum and palladium) and their alloys and associated properties.

The candidate will name and describe the properties of base metal alloys (copper, brass) which may be used in the jewellery industry.

The candidate will briefly describe the Troy testing method of metal testing to identify precious metals.

Outcome 2

Written/oral evidence gathered under open-book conditions. The candidate will briefly describe the legal requirements placed on the jeweller under the Hallmarking Act 1973, specifically in relation to description, metal weights and purity. The candidate will briefly describe the acceptance of a UK hallmark on the buying public and its influence on the buying process.

The candidate will describe the range of punch marks seen in gold, silver, platinum and palladium and with particular reference to sponsors mark, metal standard mark, assay office mark and date letter.

Assessment for Outcomes 1 and 2 can be integrated.

Outcome 3

Performance and product evidence under supervised workshop conditions.

The candidate will perform a range of common repairs on jewellery items as follows:

- (a) One simple chain repair.
- (b) One simple ring sizing to reduce a finger size.
- (c) One simple ring sizing to increase a finger size using stretching techniques.
- (d) One simple ring sizing to increase a finger size using piecing-in technique.

All repairs should be carried out to a commercially acceptable standard in terms of quality of finish and speed of repair.

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 is intended to provide the candidate with the underpinning knowledge and basic skills required to undertake a range of simple jewellery repairs as would be expected in a jewellery workshop environment.

On completion of the Unit the candidate will be familiar with the four important precious metals from which objects for repair are likely to have been manufactured. Specifically these would be gold, silver, platinum and palladium but also their common alloys (sterling silver, 9ct yellow gold, etc) and any specific properties and issues encountered when working with those specific alloys.

The candidate will also learn how to perform acid testing (Troy test) on precious metals to confirm their identity prior to a repair being estimated or undertaken.

The Candidate will move on to study the UK hallmarking system and its importance in dealing with sales, service and repair in the context of a commercial jewellery environment.

On completion of the initial theoretical aspects of this Unit, the candidate will then proceed to perform a range of standard repairing techniques on jewellery items. It is expected that the lecturer will acquire lengths of various styles of silver chain to permit the candidates experience in various types of chain repair although one style should be chosen as the assessment. The use of finer soldering equipment such as a micro welder would be advantageous for candidates when undertaking this Unit as this could be expected to be the most used item of equipment by a modern jewellery repairer.

The candidate should then move on to learn the procedures required to size rings using a variety of techniques and when each technique would be most suitable. Any precautions which must be taken in relation to non-heat resistant gemstones should be covered by the lecturer at this point as well as issues such as safe use of the pickle, etc. Stretching techniques (wedding band and pistol grip), hammering techniques and piecing-in techniques should all be demonstrated by the candidate.

The Unit should be completed by a discussion about various other types of repairs which may be performed in a repairing workshop and on the transferable nature of the skills which the candidate is likely to already possess and how they may be applied to the repairing procedure at hand.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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This Unit aligns to the following National Occupational Standards for Jewellery from Creative and Cultural Skills:

- J2.11 Identify and secure stones in settings.
- J2.4 Identify the basic properties of common precious metals and alloys used the jewellery or silversmithing.
- J2.8 Carry out permanent joining of jewellery or silverware components.
- J3.14 Polish and finish jewellery or silverwork to a commercial standard.
- J3.4 Demonstrate and apply an understanding of metallurgy to your jewellery or silversmithing work.
- J3.20 Set gemstones by hand.
- J4.19 Carry out repairs and restoration to jewellery or silverware.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

This Unit should be delivered in such a manner as to provide as many practical demonstrations of the required repair techniques as is practicable in the workshop environment. The lecturer should obtain suitable items for the candidates to work with to allow for consistency of approach and candidates. Silver or base metal chains could be supplied to perform chain repairs and simple pre-cast ring blanks could be obtained for the sizing procedures.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Written/oral evidence is required for Outcomes 1 and 2 and product evidence required for Outcome 3. Assessment for Outcomes 1 and 2 can be integrated and could be assessed using a worksheet under open-book conditions. Outcome 3 could be assessed by observing candidate performance and recording this using an observation checklist.

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 social software. 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

This Unit introduces the candidate to the techniques required to learn about the materials from which jewellery is manufactured and then perform various repairs on items of jewellery.

Candidates will:

- ◆ Describe the properties of precious metals.
- ◆ Test precious metals.
- ◆ Describe the UK hallmarking system.
- ◆ Perform jewellery repairs.

As candidates are doing this Unit they will be developing aspects of the Core Skills in *Communication, Numeracy, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Problem Solving* and *Working with Others*.

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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