



National Unit Specification

General information

Unit title: Plastering: Screeds and Straightening (SCQF level 6)

Unit code: HK4M 46

Superclass: TG

Publication date: June 2017

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 02

Unit purpose

This unit is suitable for learners working towards a Modern Apprenticeship in Plastering and will develop the learner's understanding of plastering screeds and straightening. This unit is designed to provide learners with competence in preparing backgrounds, fixing angle and stop beads, applying first coats, forming screeds, straightening wall areas using sand/lime mortar and will show the ability to apply these in the workplace. It is also designed to enable learners to develop their understanding of plastering terminology, techniques and practices.

Outcomes

- 1 Apply first coat sand lime mortar and form key.
- 2 Fix metal trims/angle beads and timber rods to form external angle.
- 3 Set out, form screeds and apply straightening coat.
- 4 Fix metal trims/stop beads to form screeds and apply straightening coat.
- 5 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of terminology, techniques and practices used in forming screeds and straightening walls.

Credit points and level

2 National Unit credits at SCQF level 6 (12 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6).

Recommended entry to the unit

While entry to this unit is at the discretion of the centre, learners 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.

National Unit Specification: General information (cont)

Unit title: Plastering: Screeds and Straightening (SCQF level 6)

Core Skills

Achievement of this unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills component:

Complete Core Skill	None
Core Skill component	Using Number at SCQF level 4 Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the support notes of this unit specification.

Context for delivery

If this unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

The Training and Assessment Programme (TAP's) for this unit provides assessment and marking guidelines that exemplify the national standard for achievement. It is a valid, reliable and practicable assessment. Centres wishing to develop their own assessments should refer to the TAP to ensure a comparable standard. A list of existing TAP's is available to download from SQA's website (<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/46233.2769.html>).

Equality and inclusion

This unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

National Unit Specification: Statement of standards

Unit title: Plastering: Screeds and Straightening (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

Apply first coat sand lime mortar and form key.

Performance criteria

- (a) Prepare background to receive sand lime mortar.
- (b) Mix sand lime mortar according to given instructions.
- (c) Apply sand lime mortar to prepared background.
- (d) Form a mechanical key correctly.

Outcome 2

Fix metal trims/angle beads and timber rods to form external angle.

Performance criteria

- (a) Prepare backgrounds to receive metal trims/beads.
- (b) Measure cut and fix metal trims to form external angle.
- (c) Form external angle using timber rods.

Outcome 3

Set out, form screeds and apply straightening coat.

Performance criteria

- (a) Set out and form screeds using box screed or dot and screed method.
- (b) Apply straightening coat to wall area and attached pier.
- (c) Produce a float finish correctly and form key (devil float).

Outcome 4

Fix metal trims/stop beads to form screeds and apply straightening coat.

Performance criteria

- (a) Prepare backgrounds to receive metal trims/stop beads.
- (b) Measure, cut, set out, plumb and fix metal trims/stop beads to form screeds.
- (c) Apply straightening coat to wall area.
- (d) Produce a float finish correctly.

National Unit Specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Plastering: Screeds and Straightening (SCQF level 6)

Outcome 5

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of terminology, techniques and practices used in forming screeds and straightening walls.

Performance criteria

- (a) Identify and explain terminology related to forming screeds.
- (b) Identify and explain setting out techniques when forming screeds and straightening walls.
- (c) Identify tools and equipment used when forming screeds and straightening wall areas.
- (d) Calculate areas, perimeters, cost.
- (e) Identify health and safety issues when using mortars and plasters.

Evidence requirements for this unit

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

Evidence is required to demonstrate that the learner has achieved this unit to the standard specified in all outcomes and performance criteria.

Product and performance evidence is required to demonstrate that the learner has achieved all outcomes to the standards specified in the performance criteria. Learners will be required to prepare backgrounds, cut fix and plumb angle and stop beads, apply first coats, produce a mechanical key, form screeds, apply straightening coats and produce a float finish taking account of absorption, suction, correct thickness, flatness and plumb.

Learners 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/PPE regulations.

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: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Plastering: Screeds and Straightening (SCQF level 6)

Outcomes 1, 2 and 3

Apply two coat sand/lime work to background area including on attached pier min 4 m²

Summary of standard (for learner information only)	
Item	Measurement of standard
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
formed external corner	Plumb/vertical and straight throughout its length ± 8 mm
Material consistency	Free from lumps and dry material and workable/spreadable

second coat	
Item	Measurement of standard
Plumb	±7 mm
Flatness	±7 mm
Screed Thickness	10 mm ±5 mm
Screed level (vertically)	±7 mm
Screed level (horizontally)	±7 mm
Float scratched/devil floated	Evenly consolidated and scratched to a depth no greater than 3 mm
Material consistency	Free from lumps and dry materials and workable/spreadable

Wastage	Kept to a minimum
Health and safety	Complies at all times
Risk assessment	Safety boots worn at all times Respiratory masks and goggles to be worn when dismantling models COSHH regulations to be adhered to throughout all activities
Method statement	Work area kept clean at all times Materials stacked safely at all times Tools and equipment handled safely at all times Tools and equipment stacked/stored safely at the end of each working day Waste disposal to conform with organisation requirements

National Unit Specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Plastering: Screeds and Straightening (SCQF level 6)

Outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4

Apply two coat sand/lime work to background area including on attached with pier fixed angle bead min 4 m²

Summary of standard (for learner information only)	
Item	Measurement of standard
Suction	Brush down, damp down
Preparation	Provide adequate key
Plumb	±5 mm
Flatness	±5 mm
Thickness	7 mm ±3 mm
Scratch depth	3 mm or no greater than half of the coating thickness
Scratch lines	Horizontal and vertical with no misses
Straightening coat screed level (vertically)	±4 mm
Straightening coat screed level (horizontally)	±4 mm
Material consistency	Free from lumps/workable
Working area	Clean at all times
Arise and angle	Straight, plumb and square ±6 mm
Surface finish	Floated evenly, generally free from scour marks

Summary of standard (for learner information only)	
Item	Measurement of standard
Wastage	Kept to a minimum
Health and safety	Complies at all times
Risk assessment	Safety boots worn at all times Respiratory masks and goggles to be worn when dismantling models COSHH regulations to be adhered to throughout all activities
Method statement	Work area kept clean at all times Materials stacked safely at all times Tools and equipment handled safely at all times Tools and equipment stacked/stored safely at the end of each working day Waste disposal to conform with organisation requirements

National Unit Specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Plastering: Screeds and Straightening (SCQF level 6)

Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4

Apply two coat sand/lime work to background area fixing stop beads to form screeds, min 4 m²

Summary of standard (for learner information only)	
Item	Measurement of standard
Suction	Brush down, damp down
Preparation	Provide adequate key
Plumb	±5 mm
Flatness	±5 mm
Thickness	7 mm ±3 mm
Scratch depth	3 mm or no greater than half of the coating thickness
Scratch lines	Horizontal and vertical with no misses
Straightening coat screed level (vertically)	±4 mm
Straightening coat screed level (horizontally)	±4 mm
Material consistency	Free from lumps/workable
Working area	Clean at all times
Stop beads	Straight, plumb and flat ±6 mm
Surface finish	Floated evenly, generally free from scour marks

Summary of standard (for learner information only)	
Item	Measurement of standard
Wastage	Kept to a minimum
Health and safety	Complies at all times
Risk assessment	Safety boots worn at all times Respiratory masks and goggles to be worn when dismantling models COSHH regulations to be adhered to throughout all activities
Method statement	Work area kept clean at all times Materials stacked safely at all times Tools and equipment handled safely at all times Tools and equipment stacked/stored safely at the end of each working day Waste disposal to conform with organisation requirements

National Unit Support Notes



Unit title: Plastering: Screeds and Straightening

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 learners with the required underpinning knowledge and skills relating to preparing backgrounds first coating, forming plastering screeds, fixing metal trims, and applying straightening coats to backgrounds.

The knowledge elements of this unit will cover the following:

- ◆ Backgrounds and absorption
- ◆ Plastering materials (lime/types of sand/sand for plastering/impurities in and/workability)
- ◆ Applying first coats and forming a key.
- ◆ The use of angle beads
- ◆ The use of stop beads
- ◆ Forming screeds using a range of methods (dot and screed/box screed/stop beads)
- ◆ Applying straightening coats
- ◆ Floating in surfaces
- ◆ Forming a key (devil float)
- ◆ Workshop health and safety (general health and safety and PPE)
- ◆ ICT at SCQF level 3

The practical section of this unit will cover the following:

- ◆ Preparing backgrounds (absorption/suction control)
- ◆ Cutting, fixing, and plumbing angle beads
- ◆ Applying first coat sand lime mortar (thickness/flatness/plumb)
- ◆ Forming a mechanical key (scratching)
- ◆ Forming screeds
- ◆ Applying straightening coat (using screeds as a guide for thickness, flatness, and plumb)
- ◆ Floating in surfaces (floating and forming key)
- ◆ 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 Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Plastering: Screeds and Straightening (SCQF level 6)

This unit should be delivered as part of a structured programme of training and orientated to the context of the learner'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 approaches to delivery of this unit

The learner should be provided with materials, photographs/visual aids, and student handouts in a classroom environment followed by lecturer led discussions on preparing backgrounds, fixing angle beads, forming screeds and applying straightening coats safely and correctly.

The learner should be introduced to a workshop environment where lecturer led demonstrations of preparing backgrounds, cutting plumbing and fixing angle and stop beads, first coating and keying (scratching), forming screeds, applying straightening coat and floating and to be carried out to the correct thickness, flatness and plumb. The learner should follow demonstrations which should be supported by classroom notes and group discussions and by the use of *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)*. Learners 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

Guidance on approaches to assessment of 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.
- ◆ Learners should be given as much practise as possible 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 learners have met the given standards and tolerances during the practical assessment. An assessor observation checklist should be used to record this evidence.

National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Plastering: Screeds and Straightening (SCQF level 6)

- ◆ *conditions of assessment*
- ◆ *how to integrate assessment in an Outcome and/or across Outcomes or as a whole unit*
- ◆ *advice on how a learner's work can be authenticated*

Opportunities for 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 learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment.

Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

Components of the Core Skill of Problem Solving at SCQF level 4, such as Planning and Organising and Critical Thinking will be developed as learners undertake this unit. Learners 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 learners to develop the Core Skill of Working with Others at SCQF level 4, as this practical assessment may be carried out working in pairs, as part of teaching and learning. Learners 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.

This unit has the Using Number component of Numeracy and the Critical Thinking component of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when learners achieve the unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Using Number at SCQF level 4 and Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4.

History of changes to unit

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Core Skills components Using Number at SCQF level 4 and Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4 embedded.	01/06/17

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General information for learners

Unit title: Plastering: Screeds and Straightening (SCQF level 6)

This section will help you decide whether this is the unit for you by explaining what the unit is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the unit and opportunities for further learning and employment.

This unit is suitable for individuals working towards a Modern Apprenticeship in Plastering and will develop their understanding of plastering screeds and straightening. This unit is designed to provide you with competence in preparing backgrounds, fixing angle and stop beads, applying first coats, forming screeds, straightening wall areas using sand/lime mortar and will show the ability to apply these in the workplace. It is also designed to enable you to develop your understanding of plastering terminology, techniques and practices.

You will be introduced to a workshop environment where lecturer led demonstrations of preparing backgrounds, cutting plumbing and fixing angle and stop beads, first coating and keying (scratching), forming screeds, applying straightening coat and floating and to be carried out to the correct thickness, flatness and plumb. You will follow demonstrations which will be supported by classroom notes and group discussions and by the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). You 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 you undertake this unit. You 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 you to develop the Core Skill of Working with Others at SCQF level 4, as this practical assessment may be carried out working in pairs, as part of teaching and learning. You can agree responsibilities and provide support and information to each other during the assessments. After assessment, you will be encouraged to consider how effectively you supported each other.

There will be opportunities for you to develop the Core Skills of Communication at SCQF level 4. As you complete practical tasks, they should be expected to communicate with others using the correct terminology, tone and style suited to the workplace.

This unit has the Using Number component of Numeracy and the Critical Thinking component of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when you achieve the unit, your Core Skills profile will also be updated to show you have achieved Using Number at SCQF level 4 and Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4.

Assessment

Evidence will be gathered for all outcomes through observation of work processes and assessment of the completed workpieces to ensure that you have met the given standards and tolerances during the practical assessment, knowledge evidence in the form of a question paper can be produced in the form of a hard copy or an e assessment.