



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Plastering: Screeds and Straightening (SCQF level 6)

CODE F6S4 12

SUMMARY

This Unit is suitable for candidates working towards a Modern Apprenticeship in Plastering and will develop the candidate's understanding of plastering screeds and straightening. This Unit is designed to provide candidates with competence in preparing backgrounds, fixing angle 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 candidates 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/beads and timber rods to form external angle.
- 3 Set out, form screeds and apply straightening coat.

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.*

Administrative Information

Superclass: TG

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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 Core Skills are highlighted in Support Notes of this Unit.

There are opportunities in this Unit to develop aspects of the following Core Skills:

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

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.
- (e) Comply with current health and safety requirements during all work methods and activities.

OUTCOME 2

Fix metal trims/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.
- (d) Comply with current health and safety requirements during all work methods and activities.

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.
- (d) Comply with current health and safety requirements during all work methods and activities.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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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 candidate has achieved this Unit to the standard specified in all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

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 prepare backgrounds, cut fix and plumb angle 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.

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/PPE regulations.

Summary of standard (for candidate 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
Corner Bead	Plumb/vertical and straight throughout its length ± 8 mm
Material consistency	Free from lumps and dry material and workable/spreadable

Summary of standard (for candidate information only)	
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	Evenly consolidated and scratched to a depth no greater than half coating thickness
Material consistency	Free from lumps and dry materials and workable/spreadable

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Summary of standard (for candidate 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
Arris and angle	Straight, plumb and square ±6 mm
Surface finish	Floated evenly, generally free from scour marks

Summary of standard (for candidate 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: support notes

UNIT Plastering: Screeds and Straightening (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 preparing backgrounds first coating, forming plastering screeds, 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 sand/workability)
- ◆ The use of angle beads
- ◆ Forming screeds using a range of methods (dot and screed/box screed)
- ◆ Applying straightening coats
- ◆ Floating in surfaces
- ◆ 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

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.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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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 on preparing backgrounds, fixing angle beads, forming screeds and applying straightening coats safely and correctly.

The candidate should be introduced to a workshop environment where lecturer led demonstrations of preparing backgrounds, cutting plumbing and fixing angle 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 candidate should follow demonstrations which should be supported by classroom notes and group discussions and by the use of Information and Communication 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 may 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 will be developed through following of measuring and costing exercises.

There will be opportunities for candidates to develop the Core Skills of Communications at SCQF level 4. 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 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.

Candidates 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 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