



## **National Unit specification: general information**

**Unit title:** Jewellery: Piercing (SCQF level 5)

**Unit code:** H09R 11

**Superclass:** JH

**Publication date:** December 2011

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**Version:** 01

### **Summary**

This is an optional Unit in the National Certificate in Jewellery at SCQF level 6. It is also available as a free standing Unit.

The Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop the skills and techniques which will allow them to identify and use the different types of equipment appropriate to cut and pierce materials within the context of the manufacture of jewellery and/or silverwares.

This Unit is suitable for candidates who have no prior knowledge or experience of the subject matter. It is also suitable for those working in industry who have no formal qualifications. The content of this Unit can be integrated with other jewellery Units. Candidates doing this Unit do not need any prior knowledge or experience of metalwork or the manufacture of jewellery or silverwares. However, good hand-skills will be an advantage. The Unit is recommended as an entry level Unit for progression to the Unit Jewellery: Advanced Piercing (SCQF level 6)

### **Outcomes**

- 1 Prepare for cutting and piercing components according to a given brief.
- 2 Cut shapes for jewellery or silverware components.
- 3 Finish components for pre-polishing or further construction.

### **Recommended entry**

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

## **General information (cont)**

**Unit title:** Jewellery: Piercing (SCQF level 5)

### **Credit points and level**

1 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.*

### **Core Skills**

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

## **National Unit specification: statement of standards**

**Unit title:** Jewellery: Piercing (SCQF level 5)

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**

Prepare for cutting and piercing components according to a brief.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Select materials for cutting appropriate to the brief.
- (b) Select piercing saw blade and frame appropriate to the brief.
- (c) Transfer patterns accurately to selected material in preparation for cutting.

### **Outcome 2**

Cut shapes for jewellery or silverware components.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Cut external shapes accurately to the transferred pattern.
- (b) Drill holes for internal cutting appropriately to the transferred pattern.
- (c) Cut internal shapes accurately to the transferred pattern.

### **Outcome 3**

Finish components for pre-polishing or further construction.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Remove pattern transfer marks in a suitable manner to an acceptable standard.
- (b) Finish cut edges in a suitable manner to an acceptable standard.

## **National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Jewellery: Piercing (SCQF level 5)

### **Evidence Requirements for this Unit**

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

Product Evidence is required for all Outcomes. Assessment for all Outcomes can be integrated.

The candidate must produce three different samples of piercing, evidencing accurate straight-line cutting and curved-line cutting, both internally and externally. These samples must conform accurately to the given instruction brief which must include acceptable tolerances and timescales.

The candidate should finish these samples to a standard where they are suitable for further use as components of finished items of jewellery or silverware. Pattern transfer marks should be removed according to the material used and the intended component. Cut edges should be finished according to the material chosen and the intended use.

The candidate should demonstrate the importance of using the correct blade for different materials and patterns and should demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the size of hole drilled and the saw blade used for internal piercing.

The evidence can be produced over a period of time and may be generated as appropriate to the progress of the candidate. All assessment evidence must be retained along with a copy of the brief.

Centres must be satisfied that the evidence submitted is the work of individual candidates.

## **National Unit specification: support notes**

**Unit title:** Jewellery: Piercing (SCQF level 5)

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 is an optional Unit in the National Certificate in Jewellery at SCQF level 6. It is also available as a free standing Unit. Candidates require no previous workshop or metalworking abilities in order to access the Unit. Health and safety issues should be covered as part of the overview of the Unit.

This Unit is a basic introduction to the fundamentals of jewellery manufacture and it could usefully be taught in conjunction with Jewellery: Marking Out (SCQF level 5), which focuses on the processes of pattern transfer and marking out, required by Outcome 1 or Jewellery: Polishing (SCQF level 5), which focuses on the processes of metal finishing, required by Outcome 3.

The Unit is recommended as an entry level Unit for progression to the Unit Jewellery: Advanced Piercing (SCQF level 6).

It is suggested that a blended approach should be adopted to delivering this Unit and that a mixture of brief demonstrations should be precursory to as much practical bench-based learning as possible. The candidate should be encouraged to see the importance of piercing as a key skill for the manufacture of jewellery. Candidates should be encouraged to find a way of working which suits their individual needs (for example, using supplementary lenses or left-handed saws and pegs) and should be allowed to find ways of working which are comfortable to them.

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

J2.2 Read jewellery manufacture or silversmithing drawings

J2.3 Mark out and measure materials for jewellery or silverware components

J2.5 Cut and pierce jewellery or silverware components

## **National Unit specification: support notes (cont)**

**Unit title:** Jewellery: Piercing (SCQF level 5)

### **Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit**

It is envisaged that the teaching of this Unit should be primarily practical with an emphasis on the candidates learning by practising the techniques required.

Demonstrations by tutors and one-to-one instruction and guidance would be an important part of the delivery and candidates could be encouraged to explore the techniques as part of their own personal development as designer-makers. Candidates should be encouraged to be using 4/0 saw blades or finer by the end of the Unit, but satisfactory performance can be achieved with coarser blades.

It is envisaged that the Unit would be taught in a jewellery studio or workshop and that each candidate would have a bench equipped with a bench peg, adequate lighting and access to marking out equipment in addition to the absolute requirement of the Outcomes for a piercing saw frame, drills and blades.

Candidates should be encouraged to understand the importance of using the correct blade for different materials and patterns and should understand the relationship between the size of hole drilled and the saw blade used for internal piercing.

At all times, candidates should be encouraged to use materials economically and with care for environmental issues.

### **Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit**

Candidates could be given specific projects to ensure uniformity or could be given self-directed project, the end products of which reflect the requirements of the Outcomes.

The Unit should usefully be taught within the context of commercial jewellery manufacturing, with absolute tolerances and applied timescales to each of the projects. Assessed projects should reflect commercial constraints.

Suggested tolerances would be of around 0.1mm deviation from any pattern and timescales should be set realistically according to the projects given.

The Unit should be assessed after a period of tuition and the candidate should be allowed to practice the techniques before assessment.

Outcome 1: Given or self-generated brief; checklist and discussion/observation to ensure that analysis of the brief is accurate and the correct tools and methods are selected for the tasks.

Outcome 2: Product evidence in the form of cut shapes which demonstrate cutting of straight and curved lines and both internal and external shapes to the tolerances noted above.

Outcome 3: Product evidence in the form of cut and pre-polished shapes which demonstrate the finishing of work appropriate to the use of the shape (either for polishing as a finished piece of jewellery or for further construction work).

## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Jewellery: Piercing (SCQF level 5)

It is envisaged that the Unit would be taught as part of an holistic programme in which the Outcomes could be completed as part of a cross-assessed package of other related Units. Although assessment could be completed with one single piece of work, a more suitable method would be to develop a range of exercises which build in complexity as the candidate progresses — for example, straight-line cutting only; straight-line cutting with internal shapes; curved-line cutting only; curved-line cutting with internal shapes; cutting involving all aspects; cutting using 4/0 blades — giving a portfolio of pieces which could be assessed individually if required.

### 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)*.

### Opportunities for developing Core Skills

This Unit will teach the candidate how to cut metal accurately to a given pattern using a variety of workshop techniques and tools.

Candidates will:

- ◆ Follow instructions
- ◆ Interpret a brief
- ◆ Work in groups to practice activities
- ◆ Make amendments to equipment and tools to achieve the desired results
- ◆ Explain their selection of tools and equipment

As candidates are doing this Unit they will be developing aspects of the Core Skills in *Problem Solving; Working with Others and Communication*.

### 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)

## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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