XSQA

Group Award Specification for:

Full title of qualification: NC in Furniture at SCQF level 5

Group Award Code: GG57 45

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Contents

1   Introduction

This document was previously known as the Arrangements document. The purpose of this document is to:

♦ assist centres to implement, deliver and manage the qualification
♦ provide a guide for new staff involved in offering the qualification
♦ inform course managers teaching staff, assessors, learners, employers and HEIs of the aims and purpose of the qualification
♦ provide details of the range of learners the qualification is suitable for and progression opportunities

The new Group Award, the National Certificate (NC) in Furniture at SCQF level 5, has been developed under the Design Principles for National Certificates.

This new qualification will be part of a suite of qualifications in Furniture that have been designed to provide candidates with a unique opportunity to develop both design and manufacturing skills in a range of processes used in furniture making.

The National Certificate is designed to provide articulation and progression within further education, although there is also potential for candidates to transfer to trainee positions within the Furniture industry or in to employment on completion. The main focus is on furniture making however the various skills developed during the programme are fully transferable. The intention is to equip candidates with a sufficiently broad range of design, practical and theoretical skills to provide the opportunity for employment, self-employment or articulation to higher level courses.

Candidates will learn a diverse range of Furniture related skills working with a variety of materials, tools and equipment. The NC will develop candidates understanding of design, technical drawing, timber construction, upholstery and wood finishing.

The knowledge and skills developed within the NC in Furniture at SCQF level 5 have been based on the understanding and experience required for working in a variety of furniture applications.

2   Qualification structure

The NC in Furniture at SCQF level 5 consists of 12 SQA Units (72 SCQF credit points) including eight mandatory Units (48 SCQF points all at SCQF level 5) and a choice of four optional Units (24 SCQF points) from six total options. The optional Units include two Units at SCQF level 6 which may be suitable for candidates wishing to progress to the HNC/HND in Furniture (SCQF level 7/8).

2.1 Structure

Mandatory Units 8 Credits	Unit code	SCQF level	SQA credit value	SCQF credit points
Furniture: Machine Woodworking	H3MB 11	5	1	6
Furniture: Workshop Practice	H3LG 11	5	1	6
Furniture: Timber Frame	H3LK 11	5	1	6
Furniture Upholstery: An Introduction	H3MK 11	5	1	6
Furniture Upholstery Application	H3MJ 11	5	1	6
Furniture Polishing: An Introduction	H3ML 11	5	1	6
Furniture Polishing: Hand Finishing	H3MM 11	5	1	6
Furniture Drawing: An Introduction	H3ME 11	5	1	6
TOTAL			8	48

Optional Units Candidates must take a minimum of 4 credits from the following group	Unit code	SCQF level	SQA credit value	SCQF credit points
Furniture: Carcase Making	H3MC 11	5	1	6
Furniture: Polishing Practice	H3MD 11	5	1	6
Furniture Veneering: An Introduction	H3MH 11	5	1	6
Furniture in Context	H3MN 11	5	1	6
Art & Design: Digital Media	F5CH 12	6	1	6
3D CAD	FT8P 12	6	1	6
TOTAL			7 (4 Required)	42 (24 Required)

The Design Principles state that at SCQF levels 4, 5 and 6 National Certificates will be made up of Units to the value of 72 SCQF credit points and the majority of the Unit credits will be at the level of the qualification. For NCs at SCQF levels 4, 5 and 6 the mandatory section will be a minimum of 36 SCQF credit points.

Candidates will be awarded the NC in Furniture at SCQF level 5 on completion of all of the eight Units listed in the mandatory section (48 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5) and a minimum four Unit Credits (24 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5 or 6) from the optional section. Therefore the proposed structure meets the Design Principles for National Certificates.

3   Aims of the qualification

This qualification has been developed for a range of possible candidates including young learners through to adults who wish to consider entering into a career in the Furniture sector and are ready to commit to a full-time programme.

The aims outlined in the following sections reflect the breadth of candidates and the intention to provide a NC level qualification which will facilitate access to further study. This NC will become an entry point for some candidates who could progress from school through, higher national to degree level studies.

3.1 Principal aims of the qualification

♦ Provide candidates with skills and knowledge of the furniture industry so that they can consider the area for employment or future study.
♦ Develop a broad based curriculum that can facilitate vocationally specialist skills acquisition taking account of relevant health and safety considerations.
♦ Develop a critical thinking capacity and reflective evaluation process within furniture manufacture.
♦ Develop candidate's creative processes and visual language.
♦ Develop candidate employability skills for furniture manufacture.
♦ Develop candidate communication, team working and critical thinking skills in the context of furniture.
♦ Provide opportunities for progression within the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).

3.2 General aims of the qualification

♦ Provide candidates with opportunities to develop awareness of the disciplines within Furniture manufacture.
♦ Encourage the candidates knowledge and skills in planning, and manufacturing furniture artifacts.
♦ Provide opportunities to develop Core Skills including *Communication*, *Numeracy*, *Working with Others*, *Problem Solving* and *ICT*.
♦ Provide candidates with a range of learning, teaching and assessment styles, which motivates them to achieve their full potential.
♦ Encourage candidates to develop a positive attitude to their own learning.
♦ Provide opportunities for candidates to develop organisational skills.
♦ Encourage flexibility and working cooperatively with others (Citizenship and a Curriculum for Excellence).
♦ Encourage students to undertake project work involving the integration and application of a variety of skills within a determined time frame.

4 Recommended entry to the qualification

There are no specific entry requirements for this qualification, entry is at the discretion of the centre. Individual centres may wish to interview prospective candidates in order to ensure their suitability for the qualification.

The Qualifications Design Team recognised that further education has to cater for a variety of different student requirements and aspirations. With the apparent breadth of the furniture industry, we would aim to provide the skills which would meet the needs of the industry at various levels of occupation.

The development of any programme must look to provide opportunities across the sector, and therefore include wider access arrangements for candidates.

4.1   Core Skills entry profile

The opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skills at SCQF level 4 are identified in the table 4. There are opportunities to develop all five of the core skills within this qualification. For example, candidates may be asked to utilise IT in their research and basic numeracy may be incorporated into skills such as measuring, working out scale for a particular component or piece part. More information regarding the development of Core Skills can be found in the support notes of the individual units which make up this qualification. Development of Core Skills can take place through learning and teaching activities as well as through assessment of practical activities which candidates have been involved in planning and delivering and their own reflections on such activities.

In addition to the recognised Core Skills, this qualification requires candidates to be able to manage their time and organise their activities effectively. These skills are developed throughout the qualification and in particular within the Furniture practically based Units. Core skills have been signposted.

The expected Core Skills Entry and Exit Profile is shown below:

Core Skill	Entry Level	Exit Level
Communication	Level 3	Level 4
Numeracy	Level 3	Level 4
ICT	Level 3	Level 4
Problem Solving	Level 3	Level 4
Working with Others	Level 3	Level 4

5   Additional benefits of the qualification in meeting employer needs

This qualification was designed to meet a specific purpose and what follows are details on how that purpose has been met through mapping of the Units to the aims of the qualification. Through meeting the aims, additional value has been achieved by linking the Unit standards with those defined in National Occupational Standards and/or trade/professional body requirements. In addition, significant opportunities exist for learners to develop the more generic skill, known as Core Skills through doing this qualification.

5.1   Mapping of qualification aims to Units

Principal Aims	Machine Woodworking	Workshop Practice	Timber Frame	Upholstery: An Introduction	Upholstery: Application	Polishing: An Introduction	Polishing: Hand Finishing	Drawing: An Introduction
Provide candidates with skills and knowledge of the furniture industry so that they can consider the area for employment or future study	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Develop a critical thinking capacity and reflective evaluation process within a Furniture making environment.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Develop a broad base curriculum that can facilitate vocational specialist skills acquisition, taking account of relevant health and safety considerations.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Develop candidate's creative processes and visual language.	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
Develop candidate's employability skills for the furniture industry and allied timber trades	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Develop candidate communication, team working and critical thinking skills in the context of furniture production.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Provide opportunities for progression within the Scottish Credit Qualification Framework (SCQF)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

5.2 Mapping of National Occupational Standards (NOS) and/or trade body standards

Unit name	Outcome/PC	NOS	PC
Furniture: Workshop practice	1 Identify and describe the function and maintenance of a range of woodworking tools. 2 Safely demonstrate the manufacture of a range of woodworking joints. 3 Produce cutting lists and production plans and describe their function.	PROFFI236 Maintain tools and equipment used in furniture making and installation. PROFFI217 Make and assemble wooden components of hand-crafted furniture.	1 Checking the condition of tools. 2 Carrying out routine maintenance. 3 Bringing tools into working condition. 1 Cutting, shaping and moulding components. 2 Cutting joints. 3 Working in ways which maintain your own and others' safety.
Furniture: Machine Woodworking	1 Demonstrate knowledge of the parts of a range of woodworking machines. 2 Describe the safe working practices of a range of machines. 3 Demonstrate the safe working practice of at least six woodworking machines.	PROFFI228 Set up and operate woodworking machinery.	1 Interpreting information 2 Planning, organising and adopting safe working practices. 3 Selecting and maximising resources. 4 Preparing and setting up machinery to work timber and timber-based materials to a specification.
Furniture: Timber Frame	1 Describe the structural requirements of furniture timber frameworks. 2 Plan the manufacture of a framed item of furniture. 3 Produce a furniture framework from a manufacturing schedule.	PROFFI237 Prepare resources for use in making hand-crafted furniture.	1 Checking the condition and suitability of materials. 2 Marking out materials. 3 Preparing surfaces 4 Identifying and preparing different tools and equipment needed for the operations to be carried out. 5 Selecting and preparing wood working adhesives. 6 Working in ways which maintain your own and others' safety.

Unit name	Outcome/PC		NOS	PC	
Furniture Polishing: An Introduction	1	Describe the materials and equipment employed for the preparation of surfaces.	PROFFI239 Finish hand-crafted furniture.	1	Preparing work-pieces for finishing.
	2	Prepare surfaces using wax and oil finishes.		2	Correct and safe use of hand held spray equipment.
	3	Produce a range of polished surfaces using wax and oil finishing techniques.		3	Working in ways which maintain your own and others' safety.
Furniture Polishing: Hand Finishing	1	Describe the properties of materials and the equipment used for hand finishing.	PROFFI220 Apply stains, sealers and primers.	1	Applying stains to surfaces.
	2	Apply the correct application of varnish to a panel.		2	Applying sealing and polishing coats.
	3	Apply the correct application of French polish to a panel.		3	Working in ways which maintain your own and others' safety.
Furniture veneering: An introduction	1	Describe the types of veneers and adhesives used in making furniture.	PROFFI204 Lay veneers.	1	Preparing equipment and materials for applying veneers.
	2	Produce a range of Matching and Jointing techniques to a given brief.		2	Applying veneers to surfaces.
	3	Produce a range of laying techniques to a given brief.		3	Working in ways which maintain your own and others' safety.
3D CAD (SCQF level 6)	1	Produce 3D wireframe and surface models using a 3D CAD system.	PROFFI359 Operate CAD equipment.	1	Operating computer systems and peripheral hardware.
	2	Produce 3D Solid Models using a 3D CAD system.		2	Using design software.
	3	Generate 2D drawings from 3D solid model geometry using a 3D CAD system.		3	Methods of drawing and design.

Unit name	Outcome/PC		NOS	PC
Furniture Drawing: An Introduction	1	Render three dimensional items of furniture into accurate orthographic drawings.	No match	
	2	Produce furniture drawings to illustrate different projections.		
	3	Produce furniture drawings demonstrating the use of perspective.		
	4	Produce furniture drawings in relation to ergonomics.		
Art and Design: Digital Media (SCQF level 6)	1	Describe the uses of digital media in art and design.	No match	
	2	Demonstrate understanding of the application and uses of digital media in art and design.		
	3	Develop experimental digital concepts in response to a given brief.		
Furniture in Context	1	Describe the key factors in development of furniture manufacturing within the last century.	No match	
	2	Describe the effect technology has had on furniture manufacture within the last century.		
	3	Describe how traditional furniture manufacture has inspired contemporary furniture design.		

Unit name	Outcome/PC		NOS	PC	
Furniture Upholstery: An Introduction	1	Describe tools for measuring, marking and cutting upholstery materials.	PROFFI214 Produce simple seamed components by hand and machine.	1	Preparing components and materials.
	2	Apply techniques for measuring, marking and cutting upholstery materials.		2	Stitching seams to specification.
				3	Pressing materials before and after stitching to achieve specification.
	3	Demonstrate machine and hand sewing techniques for upholstery covers.		4	Working in ways which maintain your own and others' safety.
Furniture Upholstery Application	1	Attach suspension systems to an upholstery frame	PROFFI108 Prepare resources and components for use in soft furnishings and/or upholstery.	1	Maintaining tools and equipment for use in soft furnishings and/or upholstery.
	2	Cut and fix fillings to an upholstery frame	PROFFI213 Cut fabrics and components for use in soft furnishings and/or upholstery.	1	Cutting fabric components.
	3	Fit final covering material to an upholstery frame	PROFFI211 Upholster standard items of modern furniture.	1	Preparing, cutting and applying upholstery materials.
Furniture Polishing Practice	1	Describe the materials and equipment used for spray finishing.	PROFFI235 Finish furniture by hand held spray gun.	1	Preparing work-pieces for finishing.
	2	Spray a given material on to a furniture frame.		2	Correct and safe use of hand held spray equipment.
	3	Spray a given material on to a flat furniture surface.		3	Working in ways which maintain your own and others' safety.
Furniture Carcase making	1	Select woodworking materials for specific purposes.	PROFFI217 Make and assemble wooden components of hand-crafted furniture.	1	Cutting, shaping and moulding components.
	2	Make a range of woodworking joints.		2	Cutting joints.
	3	Manufacture a carcase component from a working drawing.		3	Working in ways which maintain your own and others' safety.

5.3 Mapping of Core Skills development opportunities across the qualification(s)

Core Skills Development within Mandatory Individual Units

Mandatory Units	Unit Code	Communication		Working with Others		Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving		
		Written	Oral	Carry out own role in the co-operative activity and/or activities	Adapting role as necessary	Using numbers	Using graphical information	Accessing information	Processing information	Critical Thinking	Planning and Organising	Review and Evaluate
Furniture: Machine Woodworking	H3MB 11	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S			√(4)E	√(4)S	√(4)S
Furniture: Workshop Practice	H3LG 11	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S			√(4)E	√(4)E	√(5)S
Furniture: Timber Frame	H3LK 11	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S			√(4)E	√(4)E	√(4)S
Furniture Upholstery: An Introduction	H3MK 11	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S			√(4)E	√(4)S	√(4)S
Furniture Upholstery Application	H3MJ 11	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S			√(4)E	√(4)S	√(5)S
Furniture Polishing: An Introduction	H3ML 11	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S			√(4)E	√(4)S	√(5)S
Furniture Polishing: Hand Finishing	H3MM 11	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S			√(4)S	√(4)S	√(5)S
Furniture Drawing: An Introduction	H3ME 11	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(5)S

Key:

√ — Development of Core Skills, or Core Skills component within unit
(No) — SCQF level of Core Skill development
S — Core Skills development is signposted within the unit
E — Core Skills embedded in Unit

Core Skills Development within Optional Individual Units

	Unit Code	Communi-cation		Working with Others		Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving		
		Written	Oral	Working co-operatively with others	Reviewing co-operatively with others	Using numbers	Using graphical information	Assessing information	Providing Creating information	Critical Thinking	Planning and Organising	Review and Evaluate
Furniture: Carcase Making	H3MC 11	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)E	√(4)S	
Furniture: Polishing Practice	H3MD 11					√(4)S				√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S
Furniture: Veneering: An Introduction	H3MH 11	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)E	√(4)S	
Furniture in Context	H3MN 11					√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S		√(4)S	√(4)S
Art & Design: Digital Media	F5CH 12	√(4)S	√(4)S			√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S
3D CAD	FT8P 12	√(4)S	√(4)S			√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S	√(4)S

5.4 Assessment Strategy for the qualification

Suggested Approaches to Assessment by Unit

Unit	Observation Checklist	Short Answer Questions	Identification Exercise	Portfolio Approach	Paperwork/ Records
Furniture: Workshop Practice	3	3	3		
Furniture: Machine Woodworking	3	3			3
Furniture: Polishing Practice	3				3
Furniture: Carcase Making	3		3		3
Furniture in Context				3	
Furniture: Timber Frame	3	3			3
Furniture Polishing: An Introduction	3	3			
Furniture Polishing: Hand Polishing	3	3			
Furniture Upholstery: An Introduction	3	3			3
Furniture Upholstery Application	3	3			
Furniture Veneering: An Introduction	3		3		
Furniture Drawing: An Introduction	3			3	3
3D CAD	3			3	3
Art and Design: Digital Media	3	3		3	

6 Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment

6.1 Sequencing/integration of Units

A suggested delivery sequence is provided below:

Unit	Mandatory/Optional	Block	Credit
Furniture: Machine Woodworking	Mandatory	1	1
Furniture: Workshop Practice	Mandatory	1	1
Furniture: Upholstery: An Introduction	Mandatory	1	1
Furniture: Polishing: An Introduction	Mandatory	1	1
Furniture: Drawing: An Introduction	Mandatory	1	1
Furniture: Upholstery: Application	Mandatory	2	1
Furniture: Polishing: Hand Finishing	Mandatory	2	1
Furniture: Carcase Making	Optional	2	1
Furniture: Polishing Practice	Optional	2	1
Furniture: Timber Frame	Mandatory	2	1
Art & Design: Digital Media	Optional	2/3	2
Furniture in Context	Optional	3	1
CAD	Optional	3	1
Furniture Veneering: An introduction	Optional	3	1

Potential opportunities to integrate assessment between Units are identified in the table below:

Unit	Furniture: Workshop Practice	Furniture: Machine Woodworking	Furniture: Polishing Practice	Furniture: Carcase Making	Furniture in Context	Furniture: Timber Frame	Furniture Polishing: An Introduction	Furniture Polishing: Hand Polishing	Furniture Upholstery: An Introduction	Furniture Upholstery Application	Furniture Veneering: An Introduction	Furniture Drawing: An Introduction	3D CAD	Art and Design: Digital Media
Furniture: Workshop Practice	▓	3		3		3					3	3		
Furniture: Machine Woodworking	3	▓		3		3						3		
Furniture: Polishing Practice			▓				3	3						
Furniture: Carcase Making	3	3		▓		3						3		
Furniture in Context					▓									
Furniture: Timber Frame	3	3		3		▓								
Furniture Polishing: An Introduction			3				▓	3						
Furniture Polishing: Hand Polishing			3					▓						
Furniture Upholstery: An Introduction									▓	3				
Furniture Upholstery Application									3	▓				
Furniture Veneering: An Introduction	3										▓			
Furniture Drawing: An Introduction												▓	3	3
3D CAD												3	▓	3

6.2   Recognition of Prior Learning

SQA recognises that learners gain knowledge and skills acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning contexts.

In some instances, a full Group Award may be achieved through the recognition of prior learning. However, it is unlikely that a learner would have the appropriate prior learning and experience to meet all the requirements of a full Group Award.

The recognition of prior learning may **not** be used as a method of assessing in the following types of Units and assessments:
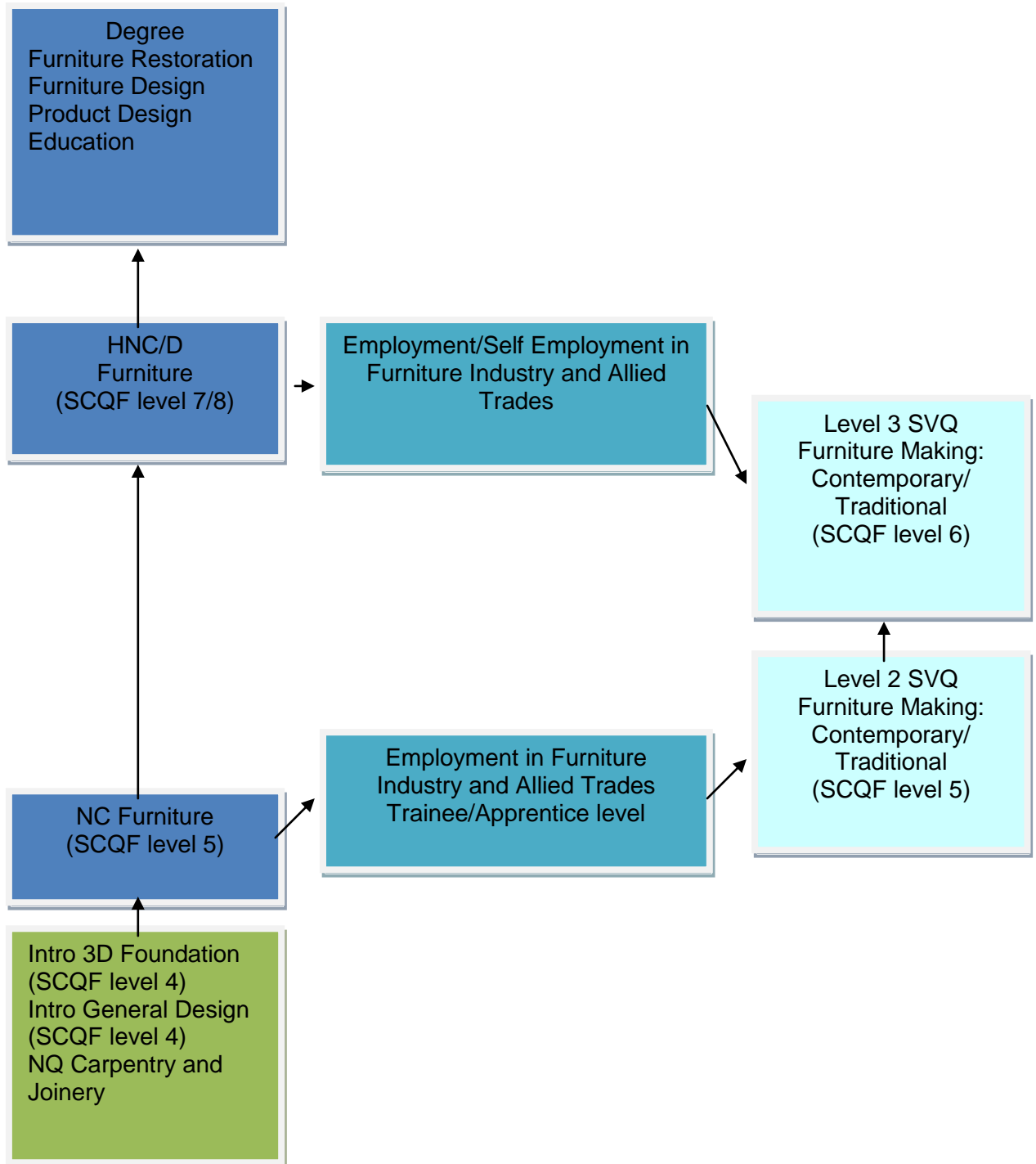
♦   HN Graded Units
♦   Course and/or external assessments
♦   Other integrative assessment Units (which may or not be graded)
♦   Certain types of assessment instruments where the standard may be compromised by not using the same assessment method outlined in the Unit
♦   Where there is an existing requirement for a licence to practice
♦   Where there are specific health and safety requirements
♦   Where there are regulatory, professional or other statutory requirements
♦   Where otherwise specified in an Assessment Strategy

More information and guidance on the *Recognition of Prior Learning* (RPL) may be found on our website **www.sqa.org.uk**.

The following sub-sections outline how existing SQA Unit(s) may contribute to this Group Award. Additionally, they also outline how this Group Award may be recognised for professional and articulation purposes.

6.2.1 Articulation and/or progression

Details of possible articulation and progression routes are illustrated below:

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Degree
Furniture Restoration
Furniture Design
Product Design
Education
        ↑
HNC/D              →   Employment/Self Employment in
Furniture              Furniture Industry and Allied
(SCQF level 7/8)       Trades                                Level 3 SVQ
        ↑                                ↘                   Furniture Making:
                                                             Contemporary/
                                                             Traditional
                                                             (SCQF level 6)
                                                                    ↑
                                                             Level 2 SVQ
                       Employment in Furniture               Furniture Making:
NC Furniture       →   Industry and Allied Trades            Contemporary/
(SCQF level 5)         Trainee/Apprentice level       →      Traditional
        ↑                                                    (SCQF level 5)
Intro 3D Foundation
(SCQF level 4)
Intro General Design
(SCQF level 4)
NQ Carpentry and
Joinery
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6.3   Opportunities for e-assessment

Although not specifically designed as an online or open learning programme there is scope for e-learning and e-assessment of theoretical components. However, in the case of practical activities, such as undertaking furniture manufacture activity, e-assessment is not appropriate; in these cases other forms of evidence could be encouraged such as video recording.

7   General information for centres

Equality and inclusion

The Unit specifications making up this Group Award have been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners will 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**.

Internal and external verification

All instruments of assessment used within this/these qualification(s) should be internally verified, using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in *SQA's Guide to Assessment* **(www.sqa.org.uk/GuideToAssessment)**.

8   Glossary of terms

Embedded Core Skills: is where the assessment evidence for the Unit also includes full evidence for complete Core Skill or Core Skill components. A learner successfully completing the Unit will be automatically certificated for the Core Skill. (This depends on the Unit having been successfully audited and validated for Core Skills certification.)

Finish date: The end of a Group Award's lapsing period is known as the finish date. After the finish date, the Group Award will no longer be live and the following applies:

♦   candidates may not be entered for the Group Award
♦   the Group Award will continue to exist only as an archive record on the Awards Processing System (APS)

Graded Unit: Graded Units assess learners' ability to integrate what they have learned while working towards the Units of the Group Award. Their purpose is to add value to the Group Award, making it more than the sum of its parts, and to encourage learners to retain and adapt their skills and knowledge. (**Note to writer:** delete if not applicable to product type)

Lapsing date: When a Group Award is entered into its lapsing period, the following will apply:

♦ the Group Award will be deleted from the relevant catalogue
♦ the Group Award specification will remain until the qualification reaches its finish date at which point it will be removed from SQA's website and archived
♦ no new centres may be approved to offer the Group Award
♦ centres should only enter candidates whom they expect to complete the Group Award during the defined lapsing period

SQA credit value: The credit value allocated to a Unit gives an indication of the contribution the Unit makes to an SQA Group Award. An SQA credit value of 1 given to an SQA Unit represents approximately 40 hours of programmed learning, teaching and assessment.

SCQF: The Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) provides the national common framework for describing all relevant programmes of learning and qualifications in Scotland. SCQF terminology is used throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF visit the SCQF website at **www.scqf.org.uk**.

SCQF credit points: SCQF credit points provide a means of describing and comparing the amount of learning that is required to complete a qualification at a given level of the Framework. One National Unit credit is equivalent to 6 SCQF credit points. One National Unit credit at Advanced Higher and one Higher National Unit credit (irrespective of level) is equivalent to 8 SCQF credit points.

SCQF levels: The level a qualification is assigned within the framework is an indication of how hard it is to achieve. The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. HNCs and HNDs are available at SCQF levels 7 and 8 respectively. Higher National Units will normally be at levels 6–9 and Graded Units will be at level 7 and 8. National Qualification Group Awards are available at SCQF levels 2–6 and will normally be made up of National Units which are available from SCQF levels 2–7.

Subject Unit: Subject Units contain vocational/subject content and are designed to test a specific set of knowledge and skills.

Signposted Core Skills: refers to opportunities to develop Core Skills arise in learning and teaching but are not automatically certificated.

History of changes

It is anticipated that changes will take place during the life of the qualification and this section will record these changes. This document is the latest version and incorporates the changes summarised below.

Version Number	Description	Date

Acknowledgement

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of this qualification.

9   General information for learners

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

The furniture industry offers exciting and rewarding careers to individuals with the appropriate skills. The National Certificate (NC) in Furniture at SCQF level 5 has been designed is a practical introduction to furniture making and related skills and can be the first step to a career within the industry.

It will give you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and skills in a number of key areas including:

♦   Machine Woodworking
♦   Workshop Practice
♦   Timber Frames
♦   Upholstery
♦   Polishing
♦   Furniture Drawing

Depending on your interests and what is offered at your centre you will also have the opportunity to study other areas such as Veneering, Carcase Making, CAD or Design. On completion of the 12 Units (72 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5) you may be able to progress on to the Higher National Certificate and Diploma (HNC/HND) in Furniture or related qualifications or to enter employment at an apprentice or trainee level as, for example, as a cabinet maker, upholsterer or polisher/finisher.

The NC is highly practical in nature and you will have plenty of opportunities to practice and develop your skills in a workshop setting.

The NC will normally be delivered on a full time basis over a year.

9.1   Who should apply for this course?

This course would best suit those:

♦   Who have a general interest in Practical furniture manufacture.
♦   Have taken one or more art and design based subjects as part of their school study.
♦   Have shown an aptitude in 3D craft skills.
♦   Who have an interest in the technical aspects of the woodworking industry.
♦   Who are creative and enjoy design, craft and practical workshop activities.
♦   Who wish to work in the Furniture manufacturing industry.
♦   Mature candidates seeking a career change.

Entry to this qualification is at the discretion of the Centre, each centre will operate it's own procedures for recruitment and candidates' prior experience and qualifications will normally be taken in to account.

Staff in colleges will usually interview course applicants to ascertain suitability, existing skills and abilities and consider any support needs.

9.2   What kind of study is involved?

The course comprises a series of Units devised to reflect the needs of the furniture industry. It is anticipated that this course will require approximately 33 weeks of study within one academic year and the candidate will have to successfully complete a minimum of 12 credits to achieve the National Certificate. The National Certificate requires the candidate to study eight Mandatory Units with a total value of 6 credits and an additional 5 credits being required from a list of optional choices offered by the delivering centre.