



**Higher National and Vocational Qualifications  
Internal Assessment Report 2016  
Construction: Plasterwork**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in Higher National and Scottish Vocational Qualifications in this subject.

# Higher National units

## General comments

Only one centre was verified this session for the PDA in Plasterwork. The centre was well prepared for the visit and provided a good source of evidence for all sections of the visit.

The external verifier commented on the high standard of practical and knowledge-based assessments the centre delivered.

## Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

The centre has a very experienced workforce with a good in-depth knowledge of the qualification. Unit assessment is carried out using SQA's current Training & Assessment Programme (TAP) which staff are familiar with. External verifiers' discussions with centre staff confirmed their knowledge of the qualification.

## Evidence requirements

The centre met the evidence requirements for the PDA in Plasterwork. The external verifier highlighted good practice for most of the craft units and generic units that were verified.

The verifier highlighted good practice within the support requirements for candidates.

Assessment and internal verification requirements are working efficiently within the centre.

## Administration of assessments

The external verifier's report commented on the assessment instruments being in the form of SQA's current Training & Assessment Pack. All assessments are administered fairly and consistently in line with SQA regulations. The TAPs have integrated candidate assessments which ensure all candidates are administered the same assessments.

The centre's feedback was highlighted as a good practice:

*'Good constructive feedback to staff and detailed feedback from students within the reports.'*

Internal verification was carried out in line with SQA requirements.

All candidate assessment is stored safely to meet with SQA requirements.

## **General feedback**

The external verifier commented on a purpose-built training facility with excellent accommodation and equipment that enhances the students' learning environment. All candidate training and assessments are delivered in line with SQA's TAP framework. All feedback is linked to the appropriate assessments being delivered.

## **Areas of good practice**

The following points are taken from the external verifier's report and highlight good practice for session 2015–16.

- ◆ *'The centre has a purpose-built training facility with excellent accommodation and equipment that fully supports the qualification.'*
- ◆ *Good constructive feedback to staff and detailed feedback from students.*
- ◆ *The facility is an excellent working environment in terms of workshop areas and resources, with a high standard of candidate written and practical evidence.'*

## **Specific areas for improvement**

No areas require any improvement.

# SVQ awards

## General comments

All centres visited in session 2015–16 had a very broad understanding of the qualifications they were delivering. With either few or no recommendations on criteria across all centres, this confirms centres' competence at delivering the awards.

Almost every external verifier commented on how the centres are carrying out an excellent job delivering the awards and the good standard of work completed by the candidates.

All centres use SQA's most current TAP.

## Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Verifiers stated that centres have very experienced workforces with good in depth knowledge of the Plasterwork qualification they are delivering.

Staff are current with plasterwork practices as well as SQA's TAP framework. External verifier reports highlight that staff at all centres have current CPD records to confirm this.

## Evidence requirements

All centres met with SQA's evidence requirements. External verifiers highlighted that the centres have a good understanding of all technical, generic units, H109 12 Construction Craft Competence Assessment (Phase test) and unit H10A 12 Construction Craft Employment Skills.

External verifier reports highlighted that assessors and verifiers from centres were carrying out their duties competently and robustly to ensure all candidate work is marked fairly and is consistent for all candidates and in line with SQA criteria.

## Administration of assessments

External verifiers commented in their reports that centres are using SQA's Training & Assessment Pack (TAP) to administer assessments. Reports also highlighted that assessors deliver constructive feedback to candidates using the TAP.

External verifiers commented on the high quality of the learning and teaching environment centres provided for their candidates.

Candidate portfolios were stored safely and securely to meet SQA requirements.

## **General feedback**

Candidate feedback was positive, consistent and fair. All written feedback for assessments and tasks is stored within the TAP feedback pages.

Candidate feedback regarding the centres and their staff was positive according to all verifiers.

External verifiers posed questions to centres regarding their assessment procedure, the internal verification process and the general learning environment. The feedback from verifiers was positive on all reports. One verifier commented on the IT skills candidates gained in their first year.

The timing element of the Plastering qualification was mentioned in the EV reports. It was commented on as being 'too short' because of the units being delivered and the addition of unit H109 A (Phase Test).

## **Areas of good practice**

The following points are taken from the external verifiers' reports and highlight good practice for the session 2015–16.

- ◆ *'E-mails are sent to the relevant internal verifiers as to when units are to be verified.'*
- ◆ *Candidates have reviews with assessors at the end of units.*
- ◆ *Good use of student journals for each unit. Candidates and assessor can monitor progress for each unit and this is regularly reviewed.*
- ◆ *Good practice of developing the standard of IT skills within the first year students.'*

## **Specific areas for improvement**

One verifier recommended one centre use the most up to date TAP framework.