



Course Report 2015

Subject	Hospitality: Practical Cake Craft
Level	National 5

The statistics used in this report have been compiled before the completion of any Post Results Services.

This report provides information on the performance of candidates which it is hoped will be useful to teachers, lecturers and assessors in their preparation of candidates for future examinations. It is intended to be constructive and informative and to promote better understanding. It would be helpful to read this report in conjunction with the published assessment and marking instructions for the examination.

Section 1: Comments on the Assessment

Component 1: Practical activity

To gain the course award, candidates must pass the Cake Baking and Cake Finishing Units as well as the course assessment. The course assessment will provide the basis for gaining attainment in the course award.

Course Assessment comprises one component, a practical activity. This is conducted in stages.

Learners demonstrate their skills, knowledge and understanding by: using skills in cake baking and cake finishing; using specialist tools and equipment with dexterity and flair; carrying out the overall finishing and presentation of the cake; and demonstrating effective organisational skills throughout the practical activity as well as working safely and hygienically.

There was a lack of evidence of internal quality assurance and verification in some centres at the time of the external visits. A toolkit has been provided by SQA for the purpose of internal verification. This can be found on the SQA website.

The marking instructions were judged to be overly generous against the assessment standards for the Course and, after a review of quantitative and qualitative data gathered on the performance of this year's candidates, the grade boundaries. As a result, work will be undertaken to review the marking instructions to ensure an appropriate correct challenge for SCQF Level 5. The amended marking instructions will be made available in due course.

Section 2: Comments on candidate performance

Component 1: Practical activity

The course is progressing well. Candidates performed well in the practical activity and in most instances attained high marks.

External verification comments on candidate performance included:

- ◆ “Candidate work presented was of a good standard and met the criteria for assessment.”
- ◆ “A wide range of cake finishing techniques demonstrated and associated paperwork in most instances was completed to a satisfactory standard.”
- ◆ “Photographic evidence was presented within candidate workbooks and also electronically.”

Section 3: Areas in which candidates performed well

Component 1: Practical activity

Candidates performed well in the practical activity with a wide range of techniques demonstrated. Candidate workbooks were completed and photographic evidence of the finished cakes was available for external verification. Candidates used SQA-devised paperwork for assignments, and these were completed to a satisfactory standard.

Section 4: Areas which candidates found demanding

Component 1: Practical activity

Evidence provided showed that most candidates found the evaluation section demanding. Design drawings were demanding for some candidates — guidance needs to be provided by centres on drawing designs to scale. Guidelines are provided for this activity.

Section 5: Advice to centres for preparation of future candidates

Component 1: Practical activity

- ◆ Early planning and techniques practice is recommended.
- ◆ Each stage of the practical assignment requires accurate planning; each skill/technique requires accuracy in execution. Finishing techniques and presentation of final cake, balance in colour and design, use of correct size cake board(s) in relation to sizes of cakes should be considered at the planning stages.
- ◆ In the presentation of candidate workbooks, the use of correct evaluative comments should be encouraged.
- ◆ The most up-to-date version of the Guidelines are provided by SQA to assist with marking. Centre staff are advised to read this document as it may have been revised since previous readings and contain changes for the new session.

Statistical information: update on Courses

Number of resulted entries in 2014	561
Number of resulted entries in 2015	1609

Statistical information: Performance of candidates

Distribution of Course awards including grade boundaries

Distribution of Course awards	%	Cum. %	Number of candidates	Lowest mark
Maximum Mark - 100				
A	41.6%	41.6%	669	84
B	34.6%	76.2%	557	72
C	17.1%	93.3%	275	60
D	3.2%	96.5%	52	54
No award	3.5%	-	56	-

Although the assessment was considered to be on standard there was evidence that the structure of the marking instructions may be causing Centres to award marks generously in some areas. As a result, the grade boundaries were moved up 3 at upper A and 4 at A to compensate for this.