

Practical Woodworking

The Qualifications Team

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Changes to documents following Diet 2018

The units that were previously part of the National 5 Practical Woodworking course are now available as freestanding units at SCQF level 5 and have been republished with an appendix showing unit content.

There is a link to the freestanding units from the [subject landing page](#) of our website.

Course reports

Please read the annual course report for Practical Woodworking. We produce these reports following the exam diet and they provide information on how candidates performed in course assessment for National Qualifications.

The course reports include a summary of areas candidates performed well in and areas candidates found demanding. They also contain advice on preparing future candidates and statistical data relating to grade boundaries. Course reports are available from the [subject level page](#) of our website.

Coursework

Conditions of assessment for coursework

To ensure fairness for all candidates, it is essential that you apply the specified assessment conditions for coursework. During the 2018 diet, we saw an increase in incidences of

potential malpractice, where some centres had not followed the required conditions of assessment.

Please ensure you refer to the following documents when conducting coursework with your candidates. These documents detail the specific conditions of assessment that must be applied for each assessment:

- course specification
- coursework assessment task
- parts and materials

The parts and materials document is available on the Practical Woodworking subject level page on our website. It helps centres prepare materials for candidates to use in the practical activity.

The practical activity is now an annually issued task. It is published on our secure website at the end of October and is only valid for that academic session. A previous practical activity or a centre-devised task will not attract marks.

The practical activity is issued in two stages:

Stage 1: parts and materials

This is an initial simplified drawing with a cutting list of the materials required and is available on the Practical Woodworking subject level page, under the 'Resources' section. This document is **valid for academic sessions 2018–19, 2019–20 and 2020–21 only**.

Stage 2: practical activity

This is the complete working drawings for the practical activity, giving the construction and joint types, detailed dimensions, and detailed cutting list for the component parts.

This is published on our secure website at the end of October each year and is **only valid for that academic session**.

You must also refer to our [Guidance on conditions of assessment for coursework](#), which provides important information on the time and volume of assessment, the use of resources, and the supervision, control and authentication of assessment — including examples.

Further information and guidance

Incomplete coursework

Through our verification activity, we have identified some instances where centres are misinterpreting the marking instructions when candidates have not fully completed the practical activity.

When the marking instructions state 'All...', this refers to all the work required for the activity and not all the work that a candidate has provided. Where work is incomplete, centres cannot award the highest mark and must follow the marking instructions to determine the correct mark for the candidate.

In addition, incomplete work is very unlikely to achieve marks in the 'Finishing' and 'Overall assembly' sections, however, this is dependent upon the extent of incompleteness.

Likewise, candidates with incomplete work (who did not need assistance) cannot be awarded the same marks as candidates with complete work (who did not need assistance). Centres must follow the marking instructions to determine the correct mark for each candidate.

Subject-specific terminology

Centres should ensure that candidates are familiar with the terms given in the course specification (for example, names of tools, processes and materials). Candidates must use these terms when responding to the question paper.

Exemplification

Following the first academic session of revised course assessment at National 5, we are preparing a range of materials exemplifying question paper performance. Once ready, these will be found on the 'Understanding Standards' tab on the [subject level page](#).

We are also in the process of developing a video that details how to apply the practical activity marking instructions to a candidate's work. This video will be published by March 2019 and centres will be notified when it is available.

Grade boundaries

Academic session 2017–18 was the first with the revised approach to National 5 course assessment (a question paper and a practical activity). Both assessments functioned as intended and the grade boundaries were set at notional points ('notional' is where the 'C', 'B' and 'A' grade boundaries are set at 50%, 60% and 70% of the available marks respectively).

Grade boundaries for all subjects, and a guide explaining how they are set, can be found in the [statistics section](#) of our website.

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