

Practical Metalworking

The Qualifications Team

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Diet 2019

Course reports

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

Course reports include a summary of areas candidates performed well in and areas candidates found demanding. They also contain advice on preparing candidates for future assessment, and statistical data relating to grade boundaries. Course reports are available from the subject pages of our website at www.sqa.org.uk/ngsubjects.

Coursework

The practical activity is issued in two stages.

Stage 1: parts and materials

This document contains an initial simplified drawing, with a cutting list of the materials required. It is available on the [Practical Metalworking subject level page](#), under the 'Resources' tab and is valid for sessions 2018–19, 2019–20 and 2020–21 only.

Stage 2: practical activity

This document contains the complete working drawings, giving the construction and joint types, detailed dimensions, and detailed cutting list for the component parts. The practical activity for session 2019-20 will be published on our secure site by the end of October 2019.

Only this practical activity is valid — no other practical activity can attract marks (for example, a previous session's practical activity or a centre-devised activity).

The deadline for submitting the Internal Assessment Mark Form is 24 April 2020.

Candidates cannot be awarded full marks in any section where evidence from that section is incomplete. For example, if the tray is missing from the garden lantern practical activity, then the candidate cannot achieve full marks in either the bench work or fabrication sections of the marking instructions. Furthermore, candidates cannot achieve full marks in the independence of work area within these sections. Further information is available in both the Qualification Verification Summary Report and material from Understanding Standards website.

Information and guidance

Appointment opportunities

From time to time we advertise appointee opportunities. Becoming an appointee is a rewarding and useful experience, and we would encourage applications from all who meet the role criteria. You can find out more about [appointees](#) from our website.

Exemplification

In 2018, we published Understanding Standards materials covering both the question paper and the practical activity. You can find the question paper exemplification on the Understanding Standards [web page](#). The practical activity exemplification is published on our secure site, in the Understanding Standards course assessment section.

In summer 2019, we filmed a suite of short videos exemplifying how to apply the marking instructions for the practical activity. These videos will be available shortly to view either as a complete resource or in sections, as required. We strongly recommend that you view these videos before marking the practical activity component of course assessment.

You can access these materials via the Understanding Standards tab on the [subject page](#) of our website.

Internal assessment appeals

Once internal assessment is complete you must let candidates know their practical activity mark (for National 5) or unit result (for units at any level). You must tell them their result is provisional, as it is subject to external verification by SQA. Following external verification, you must inform candidates of their final mark or result.

The National 5 practical activity assessment only permits a single attempt within an academic session, so no re-assessment is possible. If candidates do not achieve their desired result, either in the National 5 practical activity or in units at any level, you must inform them of your centre's internal assessment appeals process and what options are available to them.

National 4 added value unit assessment

Throughout the last academic session, we received a number of queries from centres asking if the National 5 practical activity could be used to assess the National 4 added value unit.

The answer is no, National 4 candidates **cannot** be given the National 5 practical activity to use as an added value unit assessment. This assessment would not be valid, as it does not cover National 4 skills, content or demand.

You can assess units in any way you choose, provided that the content is covered and the assessment standards are met. You can use our unit assessment support packs (UASPs), adapt the UASPs, or develop an assessment of their own.

Using this rationale, you could take the National 5 practical activity and rework the content and demand to make it valid for a National 4 candidate (for example removing National 5 skills, processes and components, and replacing them with National 4 skills, processes and components). Candidates would then be assessed against the assessment standards of the National 4 unit. While this approach is feasible, we would recommend it and suggest you would be better using an existing UASP.

National Qualification Support Team (NQST)

We have an NQST (Design and Technology) that acts as an advisory group for this subject (and other technology subjects), primarily commenting on assessment. We are looking to expand the membership of this team; if you are interested, you can find more information about [National Qualification Support Teams](#) on our website, together with an [application form](#).

Question paper preparation

You must ensure that candidates are familiar with how to respond to the question paper. The command word used in each question informs the response that is required:

- ◆ State or Name or Give — the candidate will have to write a short answer — this could be one word or a short sentence.
- ◆ Describe — the candidate will need to detail or define a situation or the consequence of an action. This will be a fuller response, with more depth, than that of State or Name or Give.
- ◆ Explain — the candidate will need to demonstrate why something has happened, consider the cause and effect of a situation, or establish a relationship between different things. This will be a fuller response, with more depth, than that of State or Name or Give.

You should also 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.

Calculators

Calculators are not permitted in the question paper for Practical Metalworking.

Units

The units that previously contributed to the National 5 course are still available for centres to use on a freestanding basis. They no longer form a hierarchy with the National 4 units.

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