

Practical Woodworking

The Qualifications Team

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Changes to documents following Diet 2019

We have made some minor alterations to the following documents:

- ◆ Course specification (National 5) —we have redesigned the tolerance table to give information applicable to all machine and power tools.
- ◆ Coursework assessment task (National 5) —we have redesigned the tolerance table to give information applicable to all machine and power tools.
- ◆ Coursework assessment task (National 5) — we have made the wording for 'independence of work' consistent.

Please ensure you use the current, published coursework assessment task and specimen question paper.

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.

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/nqsubjects.

Coursework

Practical activity

As the practical activity is an assessment of practical craft skills, candidates must make all joints in flat-frame and carcass construction using hand tools unless otherwise stated.

Candidates can:

- ◆ drill the holes for dowels and pilot holes for screws using hand, machine or power tools
- ◆ use jigs, however, using them could restrict the availability of marks for 'marking out' any joints

Note: if a candidate has used a jig, they must have produced it themselves and it must be retained for assessment and verification purposes.

The 'overall assembly' section relates to all component parts of the practical activity (including turnery). You cannot award full marks if any parts are missing or not assembled. In every section of the marking instructions, where we state 'All...', this refers to everything that is required (and not 'all' of what a candidate has produced).

Only the practical activity for the current session is valid (issued at the end of October each session). Nothing else is valid or can attract marks.

Information and guidance

Exam technique

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. For example, 'Name tool x.' or 'State one check that would be made.'
- ◆ 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. For example, 'Describe how plywood is constructed.'
- ◆ 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. For example, 'Explain why joint x was used instead of joint y.'

Units

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

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 your 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 not recommend it and suggest you would be better using an existing UASP.

Exemplification

Following the first year of the revised course assessment at National 5, we published exemplification materials covering the question paper.

We have also published a suite of short videos exemplifying how to apply the marking instructions for the practical activity. These videos cover each section of the practical activity and are available to view either as a complete resource or by section as required. We strongly recommend that you view these videos before marking the practical activity component of course assessment.

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

Calculators

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

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 Qualifications 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](#).

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.

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