



Common questions about Practical Woodworking

National 5 practical activity

The practical activity changes each year — what happens if candidates do the wrong one?

Candidates must complete the current practical activity to gain marks. It is only available on our secure website, and it clearly shows which session it is for.

Can teachers, lecturers or candidates discuss the practical activity on forums or secure groups?

No. The practical activity is a secure assessment, and the mark contributes to a candidate's overall grade. It is only available on our secure website and must not be shared or discussed on other forums, including social media.

Is it possible to deliver some content, have the candidate do part of the practical activity, deliver more content and then have the candidate complete the practical activity?

No. Candidates must start the practical activity at an appropriate point in the course, once all content has been delivered and without interruption by periods of learning and teaching.

Can we use the practical activity mark from last session for a resit candidate?

No. We publish a new practical activity annually and it is only valid for that academic session. Candidates resitting a question paper will have to do the practical activity relating to the same academic session.

If we are delivering the course over two years, when do we give candidates the practical activity?

Candidates must do the practical activity from the same academic session as the question paper that they are sitting. They must start the practical activity at an appropriate point in the course, once all content has been delivered (which would not be in the first year of a two-year delivery).

What should we do if a candidate needs additional support or has an assessment need?

You should contact the [Assessment Arrangements Team](#) to discuss the needs of the candidate and potential arrangements that can be made. We deal with every request on an individual basis to ensure equity for all candidates and that the most appropriate arrangement is in place.

We are having major problems with our machine tools (for example, woodturning lathe) and cannot use it — what should we do?

Escalate this within your centre as a matter of urgency. Without the necessary machine tools, you cannot deliver the course and candidates cannot do the practical activity.

Can we change the sizes in the practical activity?

No. Candidates must do the practical activity as published by SQA. You cannot change the layout or the format of the activity.

The only exception is the thickness of materials. If you cannot provide the prescribed thickness (typically due to supplier issues), you can change it, but you will have to amend the working drawings to take this into account. Refer to the practical activity documentation for further information.

My candidates don't like the object in the practical activity — can we do something else?

No. The SQA practical activity is a mandatory part of the course assessment, in the same way as the question paper. The only practical activity that is valid is the one published annually on our secure website, and it is only valid for that academic session.

If you feel that other objects may be more engaging for your candidates, you can use these as part of your learning and teaching activities.

General

If candidates are doing freestanding units rather than the course, how long do we need to retain evidence of unit assessment?

The timescale is unchanged — unit evidence must be retained until the end of the academic session in which the assessment decisions were made. However, if unit entries are altered after 28 February (for example change of level, change of result, or new unit entry), you must retain the assessment evidence until 30 September in the same calendar year.

You will find general questions and answers about National Qualifications on our website at www.sqa.org.uk/faq