



Higher
coursework
assessment task



Higher Fashion and Textile Technology, SCQF Level 6 Practical activity Assessment task

This document provides information for teachers and lecturers about the coursework component of this course in terms of the skills, knowledge and understanding that are assessed. It **must** be read in conjunction with the course specification.

Valid from session 2027-28 and until further notice.

The information in this publication may be reproduced in support of Qualifications Scotland qualifications only on a non-commercial basis. If it is reproduced, Qualifications Scotland must be clearly acknowledged as the source. If it is to be reproduced for any other purpose, written permission must be obtained from permissions@qualifications.gov.scot.

This edition: August 2026 (version 3.0)

Copyright © Qualifications Scotland 2026

Contents

Introduction	1
Marking instructions	2
Recording documentation	9
Instructions for candidates	14

Introduction

This document contains marking instructions, recording documentation and instructions for candidates for the Higher Fashion and Textile Technology practical activity. You must read it in conjunction with the course specification.

The practical activity has 35 marks out of a total of 116 marks available for the course assessment, which is 35% of the final mark.

There are three course assessment components. The other components are a question paper worth 45 marks, which is 35% of the total and an assignment worth 36 marks, which is 30% of the total.

Candidates carry out one task – making a complex fashion/textile item.

Marking instructions

In line with Qualifications Scotland's normal practice, the following marking instructions for the Higher Fashion and Textile Technology practical activity are addressed to the marker. They will also be helpful if you are preparing candidates for course assessment.

The practical activity is marked by teachers and lecturers, in line with the marking instructions provided in this document. Candidate evidence for the practical activity must be retained by centres for quality assurance purposes.

All marking is quality assured by Qualifications Scotland.

General marking principles

Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.

- a Always use positive marking. This means candidates accumulate marks for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding; marks are not deducted for errors or omissions.
- b Candidates can gain between 1 and 6 marks for each of the eight construction techniques they choose to demonstrate. Mark the quality of execution of each technique in line with the mark allocation shown in the 'quality of construction techniques' table, and in relation to the 'construction techniques marking tariff'.

Detailed marking instructions for the practical activity

Making the complex fashion/textile item (35 marks)

Candidates must demonstrate **eight** appropriate construction techniques. Award between 1 and 6 marks for each construction technique demonstrated.

Do not award marks for any techniques carried out beyond the eight required for assessment.

Award a maximum of 35 marks for the making and finishing:

- ◆ **30 marks** for the quality of execution of construction techniques.
- ◆ **5 marks** for the overall standard of the finished textile item.

Potential indicators of the standard of finish include:

- ◆ accurate shape and fit
- ◆ correct use of grain
- ◆ good drape or lack of distortion
- ◆ pressing for final finish
- ◆ trimming all threads
- ◆ fitness for purpose
- ◆ aesthetic appeal
- ◆ appropriate textile(s) used

Award marks for construction techniques demonstrated as follows:

- ◆ For full marks, candidates must attempt at least two construction techniques from the 5-mark or 6-mark columns in the 'Higher construction techniques tariff' table. Award a **maximum of 18 marks** to candidates who do not carry out two construction techniques from the 5 mark or 6 mark columns.
- ◆ Award a **maximum of 21 marks** if the candidate does not demonstrate at least eight textile construction techniques.
- ◆ Award a **maximum of 2 marks** to candidates who demonstrate construction techniques from the 1-mark column (ie two 1 mark techniques).
- ◆ Award a **maximum of 4 marks** to candidates who demonstrate construction techniques from the 2-mark column (ie two 2 mark techniques).
- ◆ Award **0 marks** if the candidate does not demonstrate any construction techniques.

Awarding marks for quality of construction techniques demonstrated

The table below shows how marks may be awarded for construction techniques. These exemplify the criteria for a selection of construction techniques and should be used to guide marking for all construction techniques demonstrated by the candidate.

Marks for each construction technique should be **awarded holistically**, taking into consideration all of the criteria which would apply to the technique, up to the maximum mark available for that technique. Markers should use professional judgement when considering **how accurately** each construction technique is completed.

The maximum mark available for each construction technique is detailed in 'Part 2: Higher construction techniques marking tariff' table on the next page.

Part 1: guidance for marking the execution of construction techniques

Guidelines	Machined hem with lay or finished edge (2 marks)	Semi-concealed zip (4 marks)	Piped seam (6 marks)
Construction technique marking criteria Markers should consider all relevant criteria when awarding marks for the construction technique.	♦ even depth of hem ♦ even depth of lay ♦ edge finish secure	♦ top edges even ♦ equal spacing of stitching at both sides ♦ zip placed accurately behind opening ♦ stitching appropriate distance from fold ♦ stitching at bottom of zip accurate ♦ slider moves easily	♦ piping fabric straight, not twisted ♦ piping cord secure within piping fabric ♦ depth of piping even throughout

Award 1 mark for any technique that is completed to a functional standard but meets no additional criteria.

Part 2: Higher construction techniques marking tariff

Technique	1 mark	2 marks	3 marks	4 marks	5 marks	6 marks
Buttons and buttonholes	♦ basic button	♦ button with stitched shank ♦ reinforced unstitched buttonhole	♦ machined buttonhole ♦ single large rouleau loop	♦ hand-stitched buttonhole ♦ large fabric-covered button ♦ single small rouleau loop	♦ shaped machined buttonhole ♦ medium fabric-covered button	♦ multiple rouleau loops less than 4 mm thickness ♦ small fabric-covered button
Collars	♦ applied ready-made collar, eg lace		♦ single piece collar	♦ Peter Pan collar	♦ mandarin collar ♦ applied pre-ribbed fabric collar	♦ multiple-piece collar with stand or reverse
Craft skills	♦ fabric painting ♦ simple one-colour wet felting ♦ flat needle felting, one colour	♦ simple tie-dye ♦ simple cut and sew patchwork ♦ simple shapes/two-colours wet felting ♦ needle felting shapes using a mould	♦ simple, single stitch crocheting/ knit ♦ simple machine quilting ♦ freehand shaped felting	♦ two or more crochet/knit stitches used ♦ hand-joined patchwork (simple shapes)	♦ multiple crochet/knit stitches used ♦ detailed tie-dye ♦ detailed quilting ♦ detailed patchwork with multiple pieces	♦ complex patchwork including curves ♦ complex multi-technique knitting/crochet
Disposal of fullness		♦ darts ♦ unpressed pleats	♦ gathers ♦ tucks ♦ pin tucks ♦ elastic in a casing	♦ elastic with three-step zig zag	♦ darts – shaped/ double pointed ♦ pressed/box pleats	♦ princess seams ♦ shirring elastic

Technique	1 mark	2 marks	3 marks	4 marks	5 marks	6 marks
Edge finishes	♦ pinking scissors/shears	♦ over locker/zig zag		♦ straight bias binding ♦ Hong Kong finish	♦ machine-rolled hem ♦ mitred corners	♦ bias binding on curve ♦ hand-rolled edges
Embellishments	♦ iron-on appliqué ♦ single beads/sequins ♦ hammer-on studs ♦ computerised machine embroidery motifs	♦ iron-on appliqué with machined satin stitch ♦ machined appliqué – basic shape ♦ single-colour free machine embroidery motif/pattern ♦ couched lines of beads/yarns	♦ machined straightforward shape ♦ traditional hand-stitched appliqué ♦ a group (3) of singular embroidery stitches ♦ attaching a trim	♦ hand-turned appliqué ♦ multiple-colour free machine embroidery motif(s)/pattern ♦ basic top stitching	♦ multiple beads/sequins forming detailed patterns ♦ multiple hand embroidery stitches forming a detailed pattern ♦ detailed top stitching	♦ multiple (5) technique embellishment, eg appliqué highlighted with embroidery and beads/sequins ♦ complex patchwork with curves
Facings	♦ simple facing, eg neck/waist	♦ simple facing understitched or topstitched to secure		♦ shaped facing, eg v-neck, scalloped, sweetheart		♦ combination facing, eg neck and armholes
Fastenings other than buttons and zips	♦ ties ♦ velcro ♦ dungaree buckle with hammer-on button	♦ hand-stitched press studs ♦ hooks and eyes ♦ popper tape	♦ pre-made buckle and strap attached ♦ magnetic clip attached	♦ hook and eye with hand-worked loops ♦ single eyelet	♦ multiple eyelets	♦ buckle and strap with eyelets created by candidate
Hand sewing	♦ tacking ♦ basting ♦ running stitch	♦ back stitch ♦ ladder stitch	♦ hemming ♦ chain stitch ♦ blanket stitch	♦ slip stitch	♦ herringbone	

Technique	1 mark	2 marks	3 marks	4 marks	5 marks	6 marks
Hems	♦ plain single-machined hem	♦ machined hem with lay or finished edge	♦ hand-stitched hem	♦ machine blind-stitched hem	♦ bound hem	
Insertions and openings			♦ slit with hemmed edges	♦ faced slits	♦ vents ♦ backed pleats ♦ godets	♦ plackets
Linings and interlinings	♦ fusible interlining	♦ simple loose lining, such as skirt	♦ sew-in interlining	♦ fitted linings such as a straight-edged bag	♦ fitted linings, such as a bag with curved shaping	♦ complex shape including pockets/zips
Pockets		♦ side seam pocket ♦ patch pocket	♦ lined pocket	♦ shaped patch pocket ♦ extension side seam pocket	♦ welted pocket	♦ jetted pocket with flap ♦ jetted pocket
Seams	♦ plain seam	♦ plain seam with finished edges ♦ overlocked/ zig zag stitched together	♦ single-felled seam ♦ French seam	♦ fully-felled seam	♦ bound seam ♦ double stitch seam ♦ lapped seam ♦ welt seam ♦ princess seam	♦ piped seam
Sleeves		♦ simple cap sleeve	♦ raglan sleeve ♦ drop-head sleeve		♦ sleeve with band ♦ sleeves set into an armhole	♦ multiple-piece sleeve inserted into armhole
Transferring pattern markings	♦ tailor's chalk/pens ♦ pin marking	♦ tracing paper/tracing wheel	♦ tailor's tacking			

Technique	1 mark	2 marks	3 marks	4 marks	5 marks	6 marks
Waistbands and cuffs		♦ petersham waistband ♦ simple faced waistband/ cuff	♦ separate, single piece waistband ♦ shaped faced cuff	♦ multiple-piece waistband/ cuff ♦ applied pre-ribbed fabric waistband/ cuff	♦ topstitched waistband/ cuff	
Working with fabrics and patterns	♦ simple modification, eg lengthening/ shortening	♦ placing and cutting out of one-way fabrics such as pile	♦ laying out matching patterns/ stripes/ checks ♦ complex modification to a commercial pattern			
Yokes		♦ single	♦ shaped single	♦ composite shape ♦ double layered	♦ composite with felled seams	
Zips			♦ plain zip, no turnings ♦ fashion (decorative)	♦ semi-concealed zip ♦ skirt (lapped, in seam)	♦ offset	♦ concealed zip ♦ fly front zip

Part 3: overall standard of completed fashion/textile item

Award marks **holistically** for the standard of the completed textile item, taking into consideration all the criteria, up to a maximum of 5 marks. You should use professional judgement when awarding these marks.

Recording documentation

You must use the following recording documents to record the marks awarded to candidates.

Higher Fashion and Textile Technology practical activity assessment record

Making the complex fashion/textile item

You should identify the eight construction techniques to be assessed **before starting marking**. You should list these on the assessment record sheet in the 'Construction technique planned' column.

List the construction technique with the highest tariff first, followed by the next highest tariff technique and so on. Candidates may choose to incorporate more than eight techniques in their item, but **do not mark** any techniques carried out beyond the eight required for assessment.

- ◆ If the maximum of 30 marks has been reached, do not enter any further marks in the 'Mark available' column as subsequent techniques will not count towards the mark allocation.
- ◆ Enter a comment to show clearly the basis on which each judgement has been made.

Quality of construction techniques recording grid

Candidate name: _____ Class/group: _____

Candidate number: _____ Centre: _____

Fashion/textile item: _____	Construction technique planned (highest tariff first)	Mark available	Mark awarded	Marker comments on standard of technique
Award up to 30 marks for the quality of construction techniques demonstrated. Allocate marks in descending order, ie construction techniques which carry the highest tariffs first. ♦ Award no more than 21 marks if the candidate demonstrates fewer than eight textile construction techniques. ♦ To be awarded the full mark allocation, candidates must attempt at least 2 construction techniques from the 5 marks or 6 marks columns. Award a maximum of 18 marks to candidates who do not carry out two construction techniques from the 5 marks or 6 marks columns.	Technique 1: (from 5/6 mark tariff)			
	Technique 2: (from 5/6 mark tariff)			
	Technique 3:			

♦ Award a maximum of 2 marks if candidates demonstrate construction techniques from the 1 mark column. ♦ Award a maximum of 4 marks if candidates demonstrate construction techniques from the 2 marks column.	Technique 4:			
	Technique 5:			
	Technique 6:			
	Technique 7:			
	Technique 8:			
Subtotal		30 marks		

Overall standard of completed fashion/textile item

Consider the following quality aspects:	Marks available	Mark awarded	Marker comments on overall standard of finish
♦ accurate shape and fit ♦ correct use of grain ♦ good drape and lack of distortion ♦ pressing for final finish ♦ trimming all threads ♦ fitness for purpose ♦ aesthetic appeal ♦ appropriate textile(s) used	5		
Subtotal	5 marks		
Total	35 marks		

Instructions for candidates

This assessment applies to the practical activity for Higher Fashion and Textile Technology.

The practical activity has 35 marks out of a total of 116 marks available for the course assessment, which is 35% of your final mark.

There are three course assessment components. The other components are a question paper worth 45 marks, which is 35% of the total and an assignment worth 36 marks, which is 30% of the total.

It assesses the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ a range of practical skills related to the production of a complex fashion/textile item to meet specified textile and consumer requirements
- ◆ a range of textile construction techniques to make a complex fashion/textile item to an appropriate standard of quality

The practical activity assessment task is making a complex fashion/textile item.

Your teacher or lecturer will let you know if there are any specific conditions for doing this assessment.

Making the complex fashion/textile item (35 marks)

You will gain marks for making and finishing a complex fashion/textile item using at least eight appropriate textile construction techniques, to an appropriate standard of quality.

The evidence you provide for this stage must include:

- ◆ evidence of the process of making the item, for example photographs or videos
- ◆ your completed fashion/textile item

When you have completed your practical activity, you must submit your work for marking by your teacher or lecturer, who will tell you the submission date. Your item will be returned to you when the marking process is completed.

Administrative information

Published: August 2026 (version 3.0)

History of changes

Version	Description of change	Date
2.0	The assignment and practical activity have been changed to separate assessments; they are no longer interlinked. The coursework assessment task has been updated to reflect this change.	August 2023
3.0	◆ We've reduced the practical activity from 36 marks to 35 marks. ◆ We've reduced the marks for the standard of quality of the finished item from 8 marks to 4 marks. ◆ We've clarified and simplified the marking instructions. ◆ On page 1 we've clarified that the practical activity is about practical skills rather than technological skills. ◆ We've clarified the construction techniques marking tariff. Some content in these sections has been amended in line with the new mark allocations for the practical activity: ◆ introduction ◆ practical activity: assessment record ◆ construction techniques recording grid (simplified) ◆ detailed marking instructions for the practical activity ◆ instructions for candidates We've changed references to 'SQA' to 'Qualifications Scotland' throughout. We've updated the title to include the SCQF level. We've made changes to the format and layout of the document to improve accessibility. What you need to do differently ◆ familiarise yourself with the revised specimen coursework assessment task for the practical activity and new mark allocations	August 2026

Note: you are advised to check Qualifications Scotland's website to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of this document.

Security and confidentiality

This document can be used by Qualifications Scotland approved centres for the assessment of National Courses and not for any other purpose.

Copyright © Qualifications Scotland 2026