



National 5 Practical Metalworking Practical activity Assessment task: specimen

Specimen — valid from session 2025-26 and until further notice.

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Introduction

This document contains marking instructions and instructions for candidates for the National 5 Practical Metalworking practical activity. It must be read in conjunction with the course specification.

This practical activity is worth 80 marks. This is 100% of the overall marks for the course assessment.

This practical activity has three sections:

- The case study has 10 marks.
- The log book has 15 marks.
- ♦ Manufacturing the product has 55 marks.

Instructions for teachers and lecturers

This is a specimen assessment task.

SQA will publish a new assessment task on the secure website each academic year. The task is valid for that year only. Once complete, the practical activity is marked internally, and marks are submitted to SQA.

The practical activity is issued in two stages:

- Stage 1: The parts and materials document, which contains an initial simplified drawing and a cutting list of the required materials. At this stage, no details of the construction or methods of joining are provided, only the overall sizes to assist with preparing the materials. This document is available on the subject webpage. A blank log book is also available on the subject webpage.
- Stage 2: The practical activity assessment task, which contains the complete working drawings for the product, detailing the construction and dimensions of the component parts. It also includes the case study. The practical activity assessment task is published on the secure site every October.

Although the overall practical activity is conducted under some supervision and control, for health and safety reasons, a high degree of supervision is required while candidates are manufacturing the product.

The manufacturing the product section of the practical activity must be carried out:

- without interruption by periods of learning and teaching
- in a workshop environment
- in time to meet the mark submission date set by SQA
- on an individual basis by the candidate (no group work is permitted)
- under supervision to ensure that work presented is the candidate's own
- under supervision to ensure a safe and controlled environment

Time

Candidates can complete the case study section of the practical activity before or after they have manufactured the product.

Candidates can complete the log book section of the practical activity at any point in the course.

The manufacturing the product section of the practical activity is carried out over a period of time, starting at an appropriate point in the course, once all content has been delivered.

Resources

The practical activity is undertaken in open-book conditions and, as such, candidates can have access to learning and teaching materials, the internet, notes, exemplar materials, resources on classroom walls or anything similar while it is being undertaken.

The practical activity will include instructions for teachers, lecturers and candidates; this will detail any materials that they will need.

Reasonable assistance

Candidates are expected to progress through each stage of the practical activity independently, having acquired the skills earlier in the course. Assessors will only intervene during the practical activity to ensure the safe running of the workshop environment. Where this happens, it must be recorded and reflected in the marks awarded, in line with the marking instructions.

The practical activity is designed to discriminate between candidates. Once the manufacturing the product section of the practical activity has been completed, the product cannot be returned to a candidate for further work.

Reasonable assistance may be provided to ensure that:

- candidates have all the materials and equipment required to manufacture the product
- candidates understand the information outlined in the instructions
- candidates' ongoing work is stored and distributed securely
- tools and equipment required by candidates are made available

Assessors must not give instructions on how to answer the questions in the case study, manufacture the product, or complete an entry in a log book. They must not help to manufacture joints or component parts, or assist with setting up machinery or hand tools to carry out a process.

Evidence

Evidence for the practical activity assessment task includes:

- the completed case study
- the completed product (and any jigs created by the candidate)
- a record of any intervention relating to independence of work
- a record of any intervention relating to safe working
- ♦ the completed log book

All candidate evidence must be internally assessed.

Alteration or adaptation

The case study includes space for candidates to answer. Candidates with additional support needs can use an alternative format, such as slide show software. However, the content of the case study must remain unchanged.

The practical activity product must not be altered, adapted or modified in any way. This includes moving the content of the practical activity into a different format or re-drawing or producing additional working drawings. The only exception to this is the thickness of the material used.

As it is sometimes difficult for centres to obtain specific thicknesses of material, teachers and lecturers are allowed to adjust the thicknesses relative to their situation. Any changes are subject to professional judgement, for example, a 15mm thickness could be changed to 18mm or 12mm; however, changing it to 5mm would not be appropriate, as it would change the difficulty of the assessment.

Note: if centres do adjust the thickness, they **must** adjust the working drawings to reflect this.

Submission

Internally assessed marks must be submitted in line with SQA submission dates.

Volume

One completed case study, log book and product is required for each candidate. The log book is provided to centres as a separate file.

Specific instructions for teachers and lecturers

Teachers and lecturers must ensure that these specific instructions are followed. Candidates must be made aware of the assessment conditions and know what they should do to complete the practical activity.

Candidates can complete the log book at any point during the course. If candidates do not get the opportunity to fix naturally occurring machine tool, power tool, or tool care and maintenance issues, assessors can present them with scenarios. For example, they could give a candidate a working drawing of a basic metalworking project to mark out and ask them to do this with properly-set oddleg calipers. The oddleg calpiers the assessor gives the candidate could have an issue (such as the scribe point being blunt or at the wrong height, a faulty nut, or the pivot nut being loose) that the candidate needs to resolve before marking out the project. Assessors can also present candidates with a hand tool, such as a hacksaw, and ask them to rectify issues (for example a blunt blade, loose wingnut or loose handle).

Candidates must prepare their product for a finish to be applied. The finish must be appropriate to the practical activity. Any finish applied before external verification must not affect the verifier's ability to make judgements on assessor decisions.

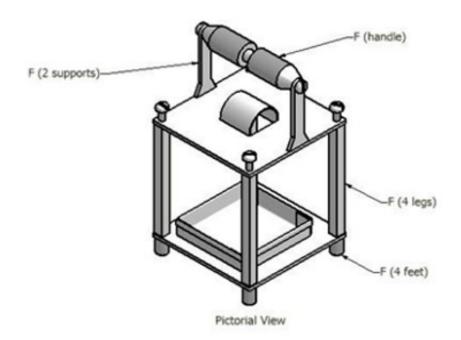
While manufacturing the product, candidates must adhere to recognised safe working practices as well as those stipulated within their centre.

Practical activity product: garden lantern

The table below specifies areas in this practical activity where the functional sizes are assessed.

Candidates must be assessed using **five** of the suggested sizes in the table below, selecting at least **one** from **each** area. Assessors must indicate on the assessment record, which functional sizes have been selected for assessment.

Part	Functional sizes may be drawn from:
Handle	Overall length or drilling and internal threading of the hole (one example)
Supports	Distance from of the lowest edge of the support bracket to the centre of the handle mount hole or the centrality of the mount hole (one example)
Legs	Overall length or position and centrality of the hole or drilling and internal threading of the hole or dimension between legs (one example)
Feet	Overall length or centrality of the hole or drilling and internal threading of the hole (one example)



Recording documentation

The following document must be used by assessors to record the marks awarded to candidates.

National 5 Practical Metalworking: practical activity Assessment record

Candidate name:	Class/group:
Candidate number:	Centre:

Section	Max	Mark	Assessor comments or explanation
	marks	given	The state of the s
Case study	10		
Log book:	_		
 machine care and maintenance 	5		
• tool care and maintenance	5		
 ◆ safe working procedures)		
v sare working procedures	5		
Bench work:	<u> </u>		
measuring and marking			
• cutting, shaping and	4		
forming (not machine	4		
parts)	4		
 independence of work 	3		
AA Line in the incidence of the inci	,		
Machining:	_		
 lathe work (accuracy of dimensions) 	4		
• lathe work (quality of	4		
work)			
• machine drilling (lathe and	4		
pedestal or pillar drill)			
♦ independence of work	3		
Fabrication:			
♦ mechanical joints			
(riveting, threads, fold	4		
joints)			
◆ fusion joints (welding,	4		
brazing, soldering)			
◆ independence of work	3		
Finishing:			
◆ preparation	5		
independence of work	3		
Overall assembly:	_		
• assembly	5		
◆ functional dimensions	5		

Total marks	80	
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ssessment judgen	nent. You may a	attach additio	nal pages if	required.	
ssessor				Date	
ignature	1			Date	

Marking instructions

The following marking instructions are applicable to this specimen assessment task and are helpful for those preparing candidates for course assessment.

Candidate evidence is internally assessed in line with SQA's marking instructions. Marking instructions are provided along with the annual practical activity assessment task.

General marking principles

This information is provided to help you understand the general principles that must be applied when marking candidate responses in this practical activity. These principles must be read in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidate responses.

- a Marks for each candidate response must **always** be assigned in line with these general marking principles and the detailed marking instructions for this assessment.
- b Marking should always be positive. This means that, for each candidate response, marks are accumulated for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding: they are not deducted from a maximum on the basis of errors or omissions.

Detailed marking instructions

Case study: door latch

Question	estion Expected response		Additional guidance
1(a)	Mild steel		
1(b)	Property: ductile malleable tough	1	Any one for 1 mark.
1(c)	Any two of the following: • does not rust or is corrosion resistant • requires no finish • lightweight • easy to turn (on a metal lathe) or is easily machined Any one of the following:	2	Any two for 1 mark each. Any one for 1 mark.
	 use eye protection use ear protection wear an apron tie long hair back remove jewellery no loose clothing Or any other appropriate answer.		Do not accept responses based on machine health and safety.
3	 Any two of the following: recycled metals can be made into something useful saves finite resources or stops metal ore running out less damage to the environment by mining landfill sites will not fill up as quickly so fewer landfills needed 	2	1 mark for each unique point (for example cannot be two points about mining).

Question	Expected response	Max mark	Additional guidance
4	Heat metal (to correct temperature). Quench into used engine oil or graphite powder or suitable alternative (to allow the carbon to coat the outside).	2	1 mark for each description.
5	Milling machine (CNC) or Plasma cutter (CNC)	1	Also accept laser cutter. Candidates can gain the mark for giving another type of CNC machine that is not included in the course specification (for example oxy fuel or water jet), showing knowledge above this level.

Log book

The log book must be completed by all candidates and is worth a total of 15 marks. The log book consists of three areas, each worth 5 marks:

- machine or power tool care and maintenance
- ♦ tool care and maintenance
- safe working procedures

Machine care and maintenance (up to 5 marks)

Machine care and maintenance focuses on the procedure checks that are carried out on machine and power tools prior to, and following, their use. It also covers the procedures involved in setting up machinery to carry out specific tasks.

Each procedure check must cover all areas associated with that procedure. Checks must be carried out on machinery or power tools to an acceptable standard and accurately recorded in the log book.

1 mark is available for each procedure check carried out, up to a maximum of 5 marks.

Example procedure checks are given below:

- setting up the pedestal drill for safe use (1 mark)
- setting the height of a cutting tool for safe use (1 mark)
- preparing the spot welder for safe use (1 mark)
- preparing the welding plant for safe use (1 mark)
- preparing the forge for safe use (1 mark)

These examples are not prescriptive. Centres are free to select any appropriate procedure checks on machinery or power tools that they carry out.

Tool care and maintenance (up to 5 marks)

Tool care and maintenance focuses on the procedures of repairing and setting of various hand tools. Each procedure must specify the issue, whether there is a repair required or the tool has to be set. These scenarios are open to centres to devise, but where possible, they should sit alongside learning and teaching.

Procedures must be carried out on tools to an acceptable standard and accurately recorded in the log book.

1 mark is available for each procedure carried out, up to a maximum of 5 marks. Example procedures are given below:

- replacing a hacksaw blade (1 mark)
- ♦ cleaning a flat file (1 mark)
- replacing a file blade (1 mark)
- securing a loose jaw in an engineer's vice (1 mark)
- ♦ storing tools (1 mark)

Safe working procedures (up to 5 marks)

Safe working procedures focuses on candidates' behaviour within a workshop, and their ability to adhere to general and centre-specific health and safety procedures and rules.

Assessors must note any interventions or reminders during the practical activity, and apply marks as outlined in the marking instructions.

These interventions or reminders could include:

- stopping unsafe use of a machine or power tool
- preventing unsafe use of hand tools
- unacceptable behaviour
- any breach of health and safety regulations
- any breach of the centre's procedures or rules

Candidate has adhered to safe working procedures, without any need for reminders or interventions	5
Candidate has adhered to safe working procedures, with one reminder or intervention	4
Candidate has adhered to safe working procedures, with two reminders or interventions	3
Candidate has adhered to safe working procedures, with three or four reminders or interventions	2
Candidate has adhered to safe working procedures, with regular reminders or interventions	1
Candidate has adhered to safe working procedures, with constant reminders or interventions	0

Total marks available	15 marks
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Manufacturing the product: garden lantern

Bench work

Measuring and marking (up to 4 marks)

When making assessment judgements, assessors must consider how the component parts associated with bench work were measured and marked.

Accurate use of measuring and marking tools has ensured that all instances of marking are within tolerance	4
Accurate use of measuring and marking tools has ensured that most instances of marking are within tolerance	3
Accurate use of measuring and marking tools has ensured that some instances of marking are within tolerance	2
Accurate use of measuring and marking tools has ensured that few instances of marking are within tolerance	1
There is no evidence of accurate use of measuring and marking tools	0

Cutting, shaping and forming — not machined parts (up to 4 marks)

When making assessment judgements, assessors must consider how the component parts were cut, shaped and formed.

All cutting, shaping and forming of component parts are within tolerance	4
Most cutting, shaping and forming of component parts are within tolerance	3
Some cutting, shaping and forming of component parts are within tolerance	2
The cutting, shaping and forming of few of the component parts are within tolerance	1
There is no evidence that components have been cut, shaped or formed	0

Independence of work (up to 3 marks)

For guidance on reasonable assistance, assessors must refer to the 'Instructions for teachers and lecturers' section.

In general, additional assistance would likely be where assessors have to demonstrate or describe a procedure.

All bench work has been carried out independently, with no additional assistance required	3
Bench work has been carried out independently, with one or two instances of assistance required	2
Bench work has been carried out, with regular assistance required	1
Bench work has been carried out, with constant assistance required	0

Total marks available	11 marks
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Machining

Lathe work — accuracy of dimensions (up to 4 marks)

When making assessment judgements, assessors must refer to the tolerances given in the assessment task, for all the component parts manufactured on lathe.

All linear and radial dimensions are within tolerance	4
Most linear and radial dimensions are within tolerance	3
Some linear and radial dimensions are within tolerance	2
Few linear and radial dimensions are within tolerance	1
There is no evidence of linear or radial dimensions being within tolerance	0

Lathe work — quality of work (up to 4 marks)

When making assessment judgements, assessors must relate to the standard expected at National 5 level:

- parallel cuts should be parallel
- ♦ taper turning should be consistent in cut
- step shoulders should be sharp
- ♦ knurling should be of a good standard
- facing work should be of good quality

All aspects of lathe work meet the standard	4
Most aspects of lathe work meet the standard	3
Some aspects of lathe work meet the standard	2
Few aspects of lathe work meet the standard	1
There is no evidence of lathe work	0

Machine drilling — lathe and pedestal or pillar drill (up to 4 marks)

When making assessment judgements for machine drilling, assessors must consider:

- the positioning of centres for drilling
- ♦ the depth of holes
- ♦ deburring
- the alignment of holes, where appropriate
- countersinking, if required

All drilling on lathe or pedestal or pillar drill is within tolerance and, where applicable, aligned	4
Most drilling is within tolerance and, where applicable, aligned	3
Some drilling is within tolerance and, where applicable, aligned	2
Few instances of drilling are within tolerance	1
There is no evidence of drilling within tolerance	0

Independence of work (up to 3 marks)

For guidance on reasonable assistance, assessors must refer to the 'Instructions for teachers and lecturers' section.

In general, additional assistance is where assessors have to demonstrate or describe a procedure.

All machining work has been carried out independently, with no additional assistance required	3
Machining work has been carried out independently, with one or two instances of assistance required	2
Machining work has been carried out, with regular assistance required	1
Machining work has been carried out, with constant assistance required	0

Total marks available	15 marks
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Fabrication

Mechanical joints — riveting, internal and external threads, fold joints (up to 4 marks)

When making assessment judgements for mechanical joints, assessors must relate to the standard expected at National 5 level:

- snapheads are properly formed
- ♦ countersink wells are filled
- external threads are smooth, with no breaks
- internal threads have been finished appropriately
- no evidence of drunken threads
- folded joints are crease-free
- folds are consistent and parallel

All mechanical joints meet the standard	4
Most mechanical joints meet the standard	3
Some mechanical joints meet the standard	2
Few mechanical joints meet the standard	1
There is no evidence of mechanical jointing	0

Fusion joints — welding, brazing, soldering (up to 4 marks)

When making assessment judgements for fusion joints, assessors must check:

- ♦ the consistency of run over length of joint
- ♦ lack of splatter is evident
- ♦ there is no evidence of burning
- ♦ that joints are square or in line
- ♦ that slag has been removed
- ♦ that there is no grinding of joints

All aspects of fusion joints meet the standard	4
Most aspects of fusion joints meet the standard	3
Some aspects of fusion joints meet the standard	2
Few aspects of fusion joints meet the standard	1
There is no evidence of fusion joints	0

Independence of work (up to 3 marks)

For guidance on what is considered additional assistance, assessors must refer to the 'Guidance on conditions of assessment for coursework' document.

In general, additional assistance is where assessors have demonstrated or described a procedure.

All fabrication work has been carried out independently, with no additional assistance required	3
Fabrication work has been carried out independently, with one or two instances of assistance required	2
Fabrication work has been carried out, with regular assistance required	1
Fabrication work has been carried out, with constant assistance required	0

Total marks available	11 marks
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Finishing

Preparation (up to 5 marks)

Marks are only allocated for preparing the component parts for a finish. Candidates must not apply any finish that obscures their work, such as paint or dip coating. A clear lacquer can be applied.

A well-prepared finish will have:

- no scratches
- no evidence of reference lines
- no burrs on edges
- no uneven surfaces
- ♦ all marks from processing removed

All component parts have been well prepared for finish	5
All component parts have been well prepared for finish, with minor blemishes in one component part	4
Most component parts have been well prepared for finish	3
Some component parts have been well prepared for finish	2
Few component parts have been well prepared for finish	1
There is no evidence of preparation for finish	0

Independence of work (up to 3 marks)

For guidance on reasonable assistance, assessors must refer to the 'Instructions for teachers and lecturers' section.

In general, additional assistance would likely be where assessors have to demonstrate or describe a procedure.

All finishing work has been carried out independently, with no additional assistance required	3
Finishing work has been carried out independently, with one or two instances of assistance required	2
Finishing work has been carried out, with regular assistance required	1
Finishing work has been carried out, with constant assistance required	0

Total marks available	8 marks
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Overall assembly

Assembly (up to 5 marks)

When making assessment judgements, assessors must consider the assembly of component parts in conjunction with the overall assembly dimensions provided in the working drawing.

To achieve a mark of 5, the product must be **fully** assembled and meet the assembly tolerances required. If not, then a mark should be awarded based on the quality and functionality of the **partially** assembled product.

All component parts have been accurately assembled and the product is functional	5
All component parts, with the exception of one, have been accurately assembled and the product is functional	4
Most component parts have been accurately assembled	3
Some component parts have been assembled	2
Few component parts have been assembled	1
There is no evidence of assembly	0

Functional dimensions (up to 5 marks)

Functional sizes are given in the assessment task. Assessors should ensure they are familiar with which five functional sizes they will be selecting for assessment purposes.

These functional sizes must be consistent for all candidates within the group and candidates must be made aware of them prior to starting the assessment task.

All five identified functional dimensions are within tolerance	5
Four identified functional dimensions are within tolerance	4
Three identified functional dimensions are within tolerance	3
Two identified functional dimensions are within tolerance	2
One identified functional dimension is within tolerance 1	
There is no evidence of any functional dimensions	0

Total marks available	10 marks
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Instructions for candidates

This assessment applies to the practical activity for National 5 Practical Metalworking.

This practical activity is worth 80 marks. This is 100% of the overall marks for the course assessment.

It assesses the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- selecting and using a range of metalworking tools, equipment and materials
- reading, interpreting and following given working drawings, outline specification information and cutting lists
- marking out, cutting and shaping component parts
- fabricating and joining metalwork components
- manufacturing a finished product to given drawings and standards
- working and using tools and equipment in accordance with recognised procedures and safe working practices

This practical activity has three sections:

- ♦ The case study has 10 marks.
- ♦ The log book has 15 marks.
- ♦ Manufacturing the product has 55 marks.

This is an open-book assessment. Your teacher or lecturer will let you know how the assessment will be carried out and any required conditions for doing it.

In this practical activity, you have to:

- complete the case study issued by your teacher or lecturer
- complete the log book issued by your teacher or lecturer
- demonstrate skills and apply knowledge gained from the course
- use power, machine and hand tools, as specified, to manufacture a product
- prepare the product ready to apply a finish, although you will not be required to apply one
- adhere to recognised safe working practices, as well as those stipulated within your centre

You are provided with:

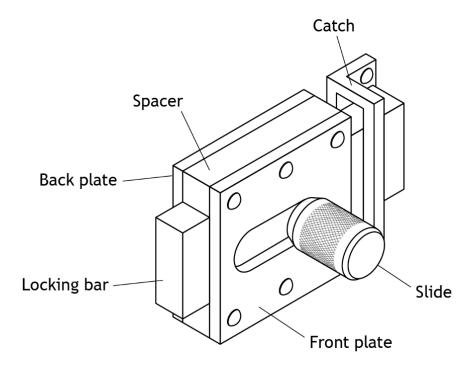
- ♦ a case study
- ♦ a log book
- all working drawings required to manufacture the product
- materials required to manufacture the product
- all necessary machine, power and hand tools

Submitting your work

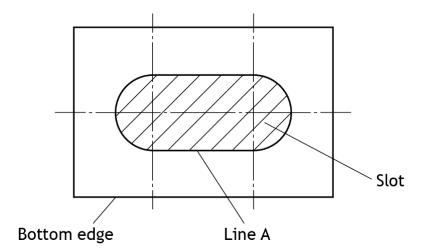
Your teacher or lecturer will let you know the time you have available to complete the case study, manufacture the product and complete your log book.

Case study: door latch

This case study is based on the door latch shown below.



The front plate of the door latch has a slot. The diagram below shows the slot marked out on the front plate, ready for cutting.



1 Materials

(a)	Identify an appropriate ferrous material that could be used to make the front plate of the door latch.	(1 mark)
		J
(b)	Identify one property this material should have.	(1 mark)
(c)	The slide will be made from aluminium.	
(0)		
	Describe two properties of aluminium that make it a good choice for the slide.	
		(2 marks)
De	escription 1:	
De	escription 2:	

2 Safe working practices

Describe a personal health and safety practice that must be followed when carrying out a turning process.	(1 mark)
	` <i>´</i> 1
3 Sustainability and recycling	
Cutting the slot from the front plate produces waste material, which is recycled	l.
Explain why it is important to recycle metal. Give two reasons.	(2 marks)
Reason 1:	
Reason 1: Reason 2:	

4 Finishing

Some parts of the door latch will be finished by bluing.		
Describe the process of bluing.	(2 marks)	
5 Machine processes		
The door latch will be mass-produced industrially. More than 10,000 units will be manufactured.	e	
State the name of a CNC machine that could be used to cut out the slot in the front plate.		
F	(1 mark)	

Manufacturing the product: garden lantern

You will have the opportunity to demonstrate practical creativity in shaping the handle and assembly of the candle tray, however, this is not mandatory.

Jigs or templates created to manufacture the garden lantern must be included with your work, as they are used to inform assessment judgements.

You must complete the log book, as this attracts specific marks.

The following tolerances apply to manufacturing the product in this practical activity:

Individual components

Operation	Tolerance
Marking out	± 0.5mm
Fitting work	± 0.5mm
Sheet metal work (cutting)	± 1mm
Bending work — sheet metal	± 2mm
Bending work — metal strip or bar	± 5mm
Forge processes (twisting, drawing down and flattening)	± 3mm

Assembly, joining and fitting

Operation	Tolerance
Functional sizes	± 0.5mm linear
Thermal joining	Minimum length of 20mm consistent in width

Machine drill (pedestal or pillar drill)

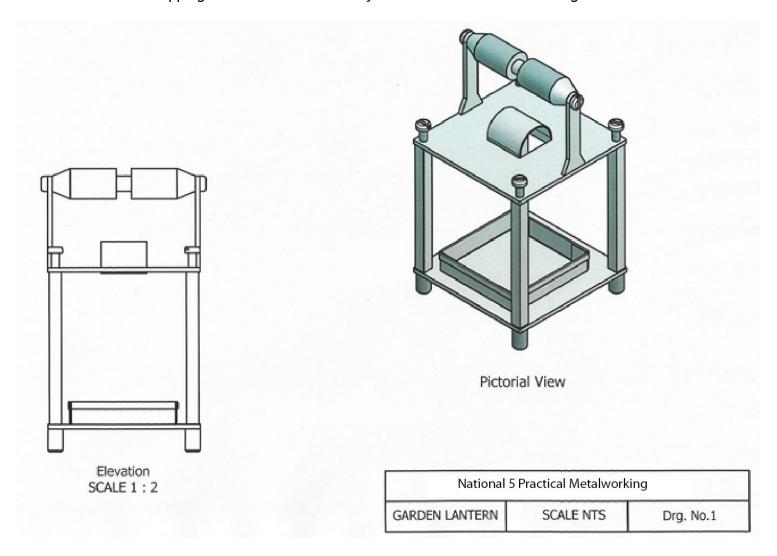
Operation	Tolerance
Drilling and countersinking	± 0.5mm

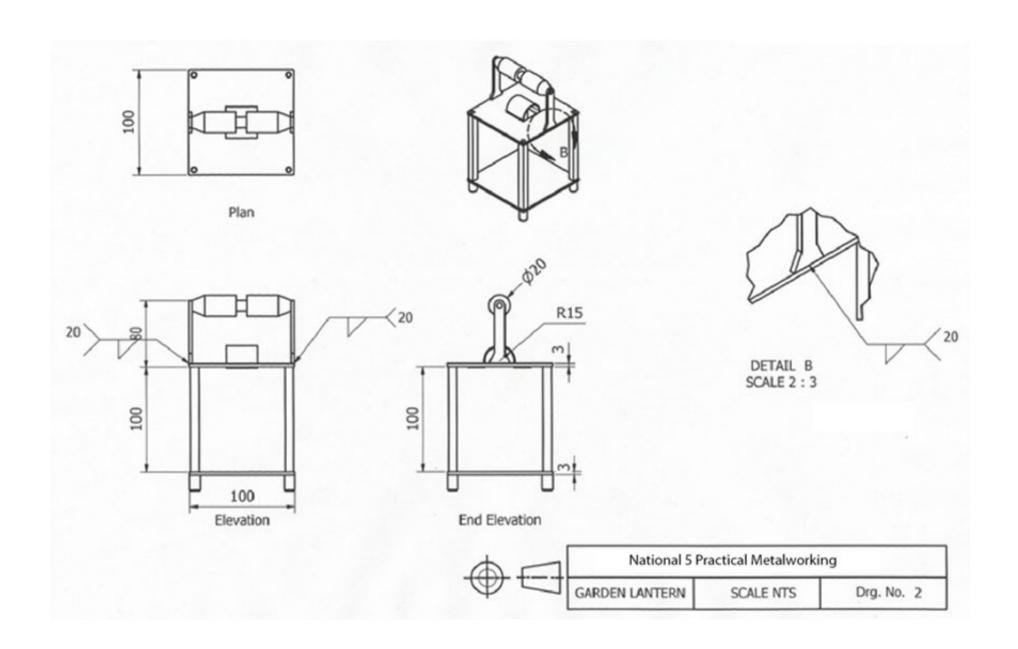
Centre lathe

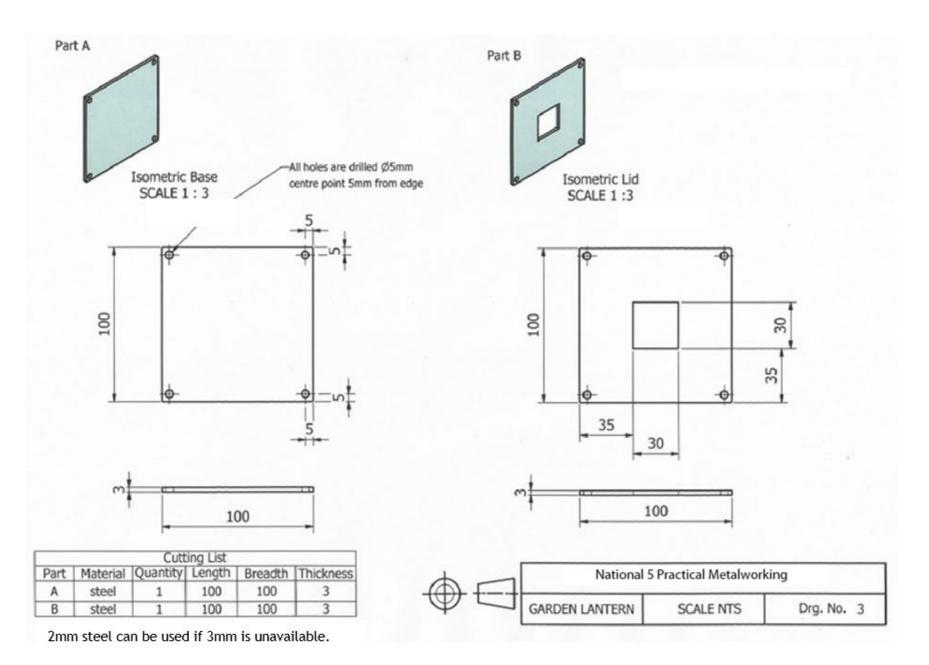
Operation	Tolerance
Parallel turning, facing and chamfering	± 0.5mm linear ± 0.2mm diameter

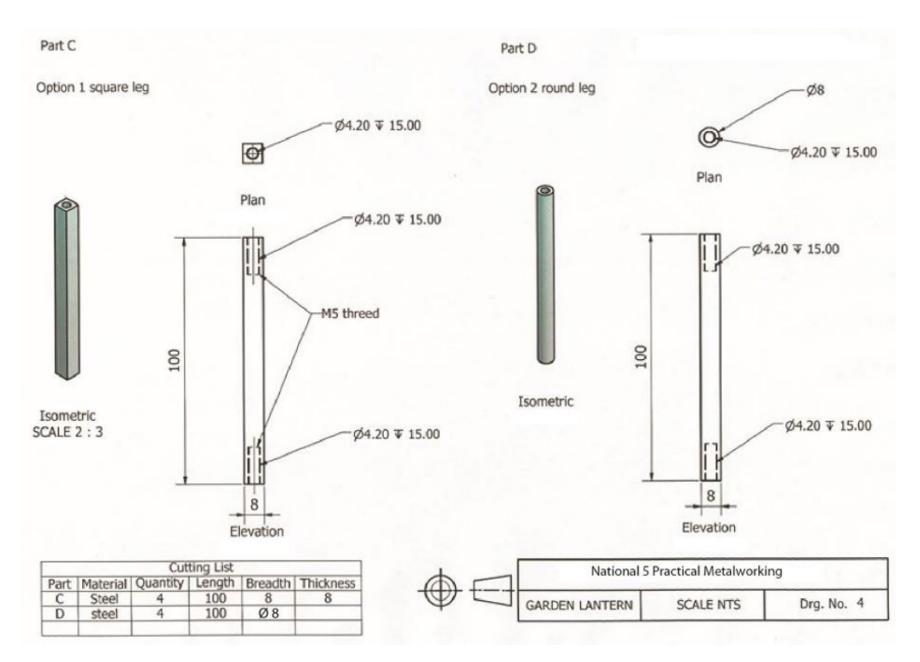
Garden lantern

The garden lantern shown consists of two main parts. The main body has feet, an air vent and a handle with a grip. A sheet tray is required to hold the candle and collect the dripping wax - details of the tray are shown in the final drawing.

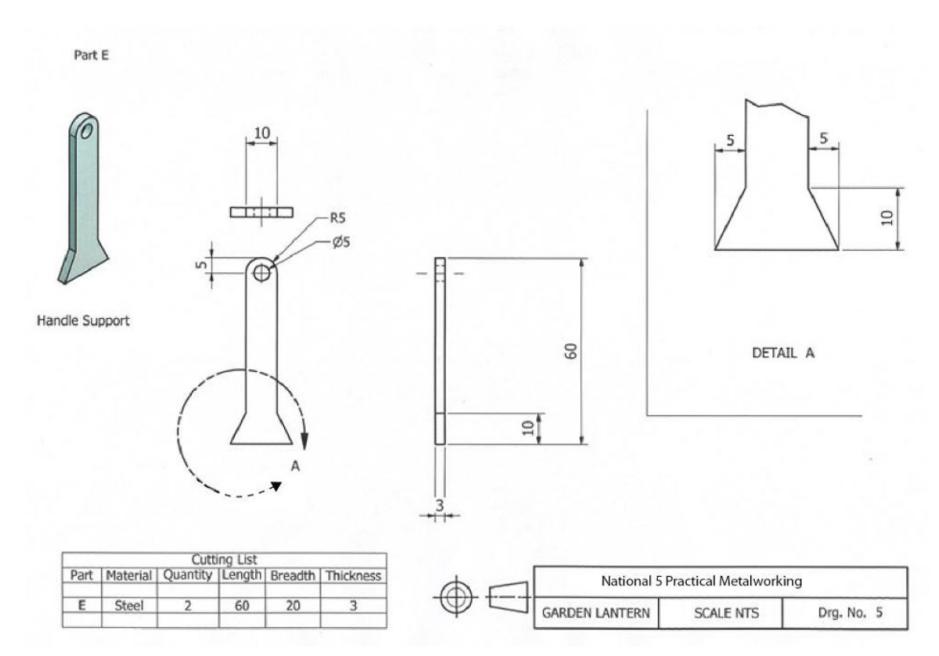




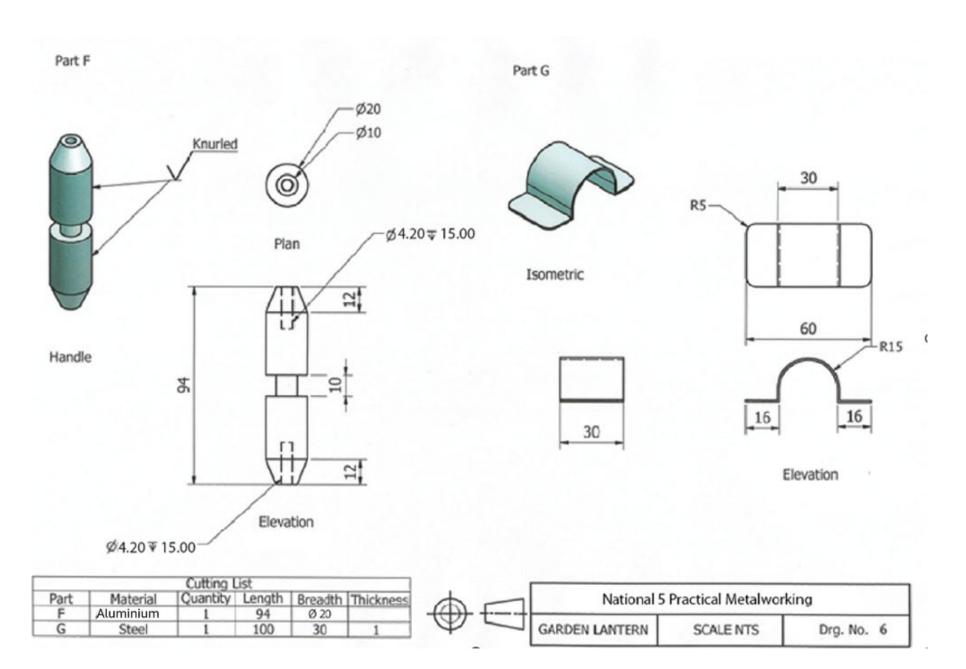


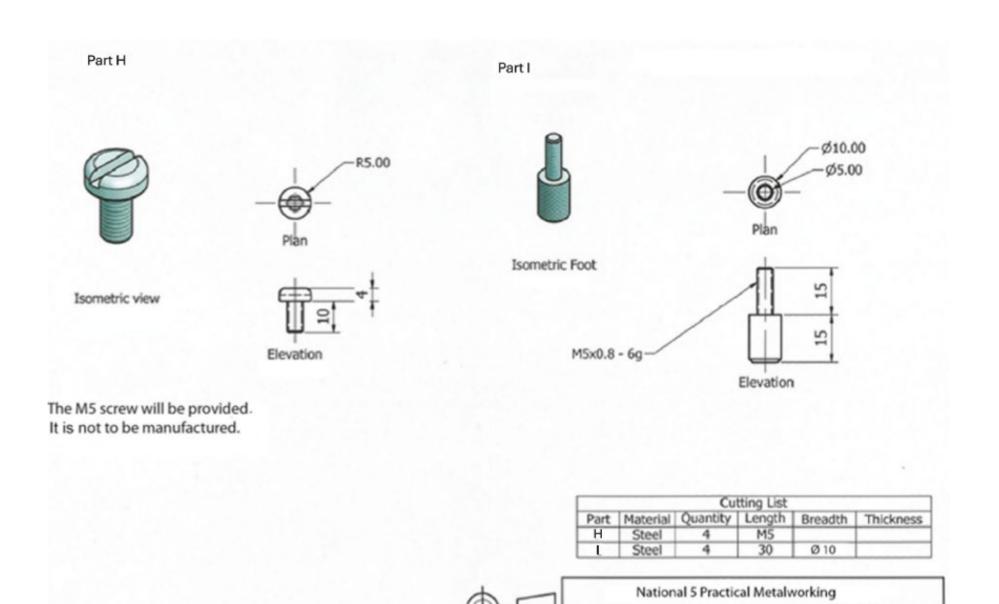


Version 2.0



Version 2.0

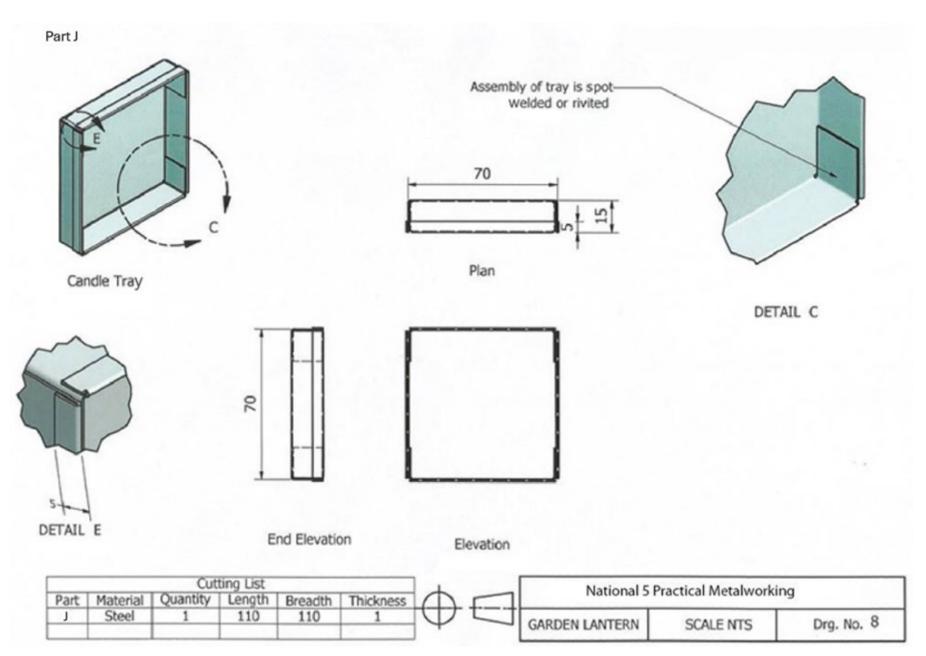




GARDEN LANTERN

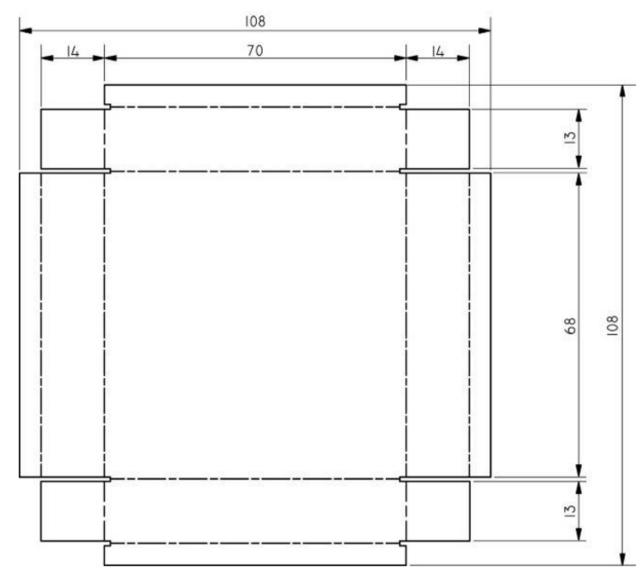
SCALE NTS

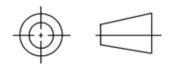
Drg. No. 7



Version 2.0

Sheet tray





Copyright acknowledgements

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Administrative information

Published: April 2025 (version 2.0)

History of changes

Version	Description of change	Date
2.0	Coursework assessment task updated to add the case study. Marks for the practical activity increased from 70 to 80.	April 2025
	'Specific information for teachers and lecturers' section: information about completing the log book added.	
	Marking instructions for 'Benchwork' section of manufacturing the product: 'Independence of work (up to 3 marks)' wording standardised to match independence of work description in 'Fabrication' and 'Finishing' sections.	
	Marking instructions for 'Fabrication' section of manufacturing the product: 'Fusion joints — welding, brazing, soldering (up to 4 marks)' updated to make more straightforward to apply.	
	Marking instructions for 'Overall assembly' section of manufacturing the product: 'Assembly (up to 5 marks)' updated to make more straightforward to apply. 'Correctly assembled' changed to 'accurately assemble'.	
	Incorrectly labelled parts in diagrams relabelled as Parts H, I and J.	
	Copyright acknowledgements page added.	
	Changes to the format and layout of the document to improve accessibility.	
	What you need to do differently Make sure candidates are aware of the changes to the course assessment.	
	Update your teaching notes and approach to assessment to reflect the addition of the case study to the practical activity.	
	Make sure you are familiar and comfortable with how to apply marks for the case study and for 'Fusion joints' and 'Assembly' in the manufacturing the product section before you start marking.	

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