



NQ Practical Woodworking Qualification Verification Summary Report 2024–25

Section 1: verification group information

Verification group name:	Practical Woodworking
Verification activity:	Visit
Round:	2
Date published:	June 2025

National Units verified

Unit code	Unit level	Unit title
C862 75	National 5	Practical Woodworking Practical Activity assessment task

Section 2: comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

All centres used the practical activity for session 2024–25, held on SQA’s secure website, which was the only valid assessment this session.

Instructions for teachers and lecturers are provided every year within the practical activity assessment task, and centres are reminded to read these carefully, as they may change from task to task.

Centres must provide candidates working drawings without any alterations (except where changes to thickness are necessary), and they cannot give candidates additional drawings, dimensions or information.

A few centres used material of a different thickness than in the original working drawings. Where possible, centres should source the material thickness specified in the assessment task. Changes to thickness are allowed by exception, but centres must amend the working drawings to take account of this. If the working drawings are not amended, then candidates cannot get any marks for ‘measuring and marking’, as all the sizes will be wrong relative to the thickness of the material used.

It is important to remember that under **no** circumstances can centres alter the **lengths** or **widths** of material.

Centres must assess ‘measuring and marking’ before candidates cut joints. This allows candidates to carry out any remedial action, and to cut correctly measured and marked-out joints.

Candidates **cannot** be reissued with replacement parts or material for the practical activity when they have made a cutting error, as this cutting error should be assessed. Some joints are more complex in order to differentiate candidates.

In addition, candidates must not apply any wood filler to joints or apply a finish which could obscure joints prior to internal and external verification, as this may affect the ability to make judgements on assessor decisions. This filler may need to be removed to allow external verification to take place.

Centres are reminded that split turnery and bases must be attached for a project to be fully assembled. Marks awarded for assembly should take this into account.

The quality of the practical element of the assessment task was completed to a very high standard, however the candidate logbook was often incomplete or inadequate, and not to National 5 standard. Centres should devote time and consideration to this, as the first two areas of the logbook provide up to 10 marks of the overall mark for the practical activity. The assessor completes the third area, 'Safe working procedures', which provides another 5 marks.

Statements used in the logbook must be the candidates own work, and cohorts of candidates cannot provide the same statements or copy statements straight from exemplar logbooks. The use of comment banks is not allowed. All tools described in these statements must be taken from the course specification.

It is recommended that candidates do not use the same tool to cover two different procedures within the logbook.

We encourage all centres to continue to make use of [SQA's Understanding Standards website](#). This invaluable resource provides exemplification and supporting commentary of completed logbooks. Videos are also available on how to apply the marking instructions for the practical activity.

Assessment judgements

The majority of centres made assessment judgements that were accurate, consistent, reliable, and in line with the national standard.

Centres are reminded to include detailed commentary when awarding marks, as this supports both internal and external verification activity.

There were some instances where centres awarded full marks for ‘independence of work’ when the activity was incomplete. The mark a candidate receives must reflect both the quantity and the quality of the work produced. Full marks cannot be awarded for incomplete work.

Candidates are free to choose any of the finishes listed in the National 5 Practical Woodworking course specification. Regardless of the finish chosen, candidates must ensure that they apply their finish to all components of the finished product, with no blemishes, to achieve full marks.

Centres are reminded that where the marking instruction states ‘All...’, this refers to everything the candidate is required to do, and not everything that the candidate has done.

Section 3: general comments

Centres engaged well with external verification and found the process supportive and transparent.

Most centres recorded their assessment judgements clearly using the candidate assessment record. In some instances, however, no assessment judgements were given, or there were no comments to justify or explain assessment judgements. This is an integral part of both the assessment and verification processes, and centres should record this in a suitable format.

The majority of centres demonstrated clear evidence of effective internal verification policies. Some new centres presenting candidates for this course chose to work with colleagues from other centres to help the internal verification process. Centres are reminded that they must have an internal verification policy, as it is a condition of approval to offer SQA qualifications. The [NQ internal verification toolkit](#) on SQA's website provides more information and support.

Session 2025–26

The practical activity document, 'Parts and materials: storage box', is on the [National 5 Practical Woodworking subject page](#).

The National 5 practical activity changes every session. A new practical activity will be published by the end of October 2025. This is the only valid assessment for session 2025–26.

The question paper has been removed for session 2025–26. The practical activity will be expanded to include a case study, worth 10 marks. The case study ensures that all course content can continue to be sampled in the course assessment. The updated practical activity is worth 80 marks and is 100% of the course assessment. The National 5 Practical Woodworking course specification and specimen coursework assessment task has been updated to reflect these changes.

In the course specification, 'string and block' has been removed from the cramping section of the 'Skills, knowledge, and understanding for the course assessment' table. In addition, the 'Further information' section has been updated with links to recent research.

In the specimen coursework assessment task, information on completing the logbook has been added to the 'Specific information for teachers and lecturers' section.

You can find more information on the changes in the 'History of changes' section at the back of each document.