

NQ Practical Woodworking Verification Summary 2025–26

Verification information

Subject	Practical Woodworking
Verification activity	Visit
Round	2
Date published	September 2026

National Course components verified

Course code	Course level	Component title
C883 75	National 5	Practical Activity Assessment Task: Storage Box

You can find the [grade boundary statistics](#) for this course on our website.

Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

All verified centres used the mandatory National 5 Practical Woodworking Practical Activity Assessment Task: Storage Box for session 2025–26.

This year, the practical activity featured a case study for the first time. The case study replaces the question paper and samples from the full range of skills, knowledge and understanding from the course. Responses were generally clear and well-structured, with many candidates effectively using annotations to support and enhance their answers. Almost all centres applied the marking instructions to standard.

For manufacturing the product, centres must give candidates working drawings without any alterations (except where changes to thickness are necessary). Centres cannot give candidates additional drawings, dimensions or information. 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 centres do not amend the working drawings, candidates cannot achieve full marks for measuring and marking, as all the sizes will be wrong. Centres must not 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. Centres should not reissue candidates with replacement parts or material if they make a cutting error. Assessors must assess cutting errors. Some joints are more complex to differentiate between candidates.

Assessors can judge overall assembly before the lid is attached to the carcass. However, the lid, carcass and tray must all be fully assembled for candidates to access all the marks available.

Candidates can complete the log book and case study before or after they start manufacturing the product.

Candidates complete the log book and case study in open-book assessment conditions so they can access learning and teaching materials and notes.

Assessment judgements

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

Centres should continue to use our Understanding Standards materials, which include candidate examples and assessor commentaries for the log book, and videos on how to apply each section of the marking instructions for manufacturing the product. We will publish new material about the case study in session 2026–27.

Centres should include detailed commentary when awarding marks, as this supports both internal and external verification.

Some centres awarded full marks for independence of work to candidates who did not produce a completed product. The mark a candidate receives must reflect the quantity and quality of the work they produce. Assessors must not award full marks for incomplete work.

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

General comments

Candidates manufactured the storage box to a very high standard. However, many candidates did not fully complete their log books or did not complete them to National 5 standard. Centres should give time and consideration to the log book as the first two areas of the log book are worth 10 marks of the overall mark for the practical activity.

Candidates must write all log book statements in their own words. They must not use comment banks. The tools candidates describe in the log book must be from the course specification.

In the log book, if candidates do not get the opportunity to fix a naturally occurring issue with a machine tool or power tool, centres can give them scenarios to work with.

Candidates must not apply any wood filler or a finish that obscures joints until internal and external verification are complete.

Candidates can choose any of the finishes listed in the *National 5 Practical Woodworking Course Specification*. To achieve full marks, they must apply their finish to all components of the finished product with no blemishes.

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. Some centres, however, did not record assessment judgements, or did not provide commentary to justify or explain assessment judgements. This is integral to the assessment and verification processes and centres should record assessment judgements in a suitable format.

To avoid arithmetical errors, centres must check every mark awarded, as well as the totals, before completing the Verification Sampling Form. Centres must include this checking process in their internal verification procedures.

Most centres had clear evidence of effective internal verification policies. Some centres worked with colleagues from other centres to help the internal verification process. Centres must have an internal verification policy, as this is a condition of approval to offer the qualification. The [NQ internal verification toolkit](#) on our website has more information and support.

We have updated the Practical Activity Parts and Materials: Storage Box document on the [National 5 Practical Woodworking subject page](#). This will be valid for sessions 2026–27, 2027–28 and 2028–29.

We will publish a new practical activity assessment task by the end of October 2026, which will be the only valid assessment for session 2026–27.