

Route map through assessment

Course: Practical Metalworking

Level: National 4

This document is intended to assist staff in planning and delivering the overall vision for Curriculum for Excellence.

The vision for the new national qualifications is to create assessment opportunities that follow and support learning and teaching. This follows the principles laid out in *Building the Curriculum 5* and makes assessment a natural part of learning and teaching.

This route map aims to signpost all of the relevant material that is available to support your subject. Your professional judgement is vital and the documents listed below are intended to support you in deciding the most appropriate ways to generate evidence and assess learners.

Education Scotland has produced a professional focus paper for practical metalworking, and this is a good starting point as it provides support to help develop learning and teaching approaches that take forward the purposes and principles of Curriculum for Excellence through Practical Metalworking National 4.

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nationalqualifications/professionalfocuspapers/index.asp>

Practical Metalworking National 4 course content

This is a new course replacing Practical Craft Skills: Engineering Craft Skills.

The main SQA practical metalworking page is found at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45657.html>, with pages specifically relating to National 4 at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47454.html>. Staff should also regularly check the updates and announcements section of this page.

The course specification can be found at

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseSpec_N4_Technologies_PracticalMetalworking.pdf.

There are three units: Practical Metalworking: Bench Skills, Practical Metalworking: Machine Processes, and Practical Metalworking: Fabrication and Thermal Joining.

Practical Metalworking: Bench Skills: Focuses on developing a range of metalworking hand-tool skills, including bench-fitting work, routine sheet-metal work, and measuring and marking out.

Practical Metalworking: Machine Processes: Focuses on developing measuring and marking out skills and skills in using common metalwork machines, equipment and related processes.

Practical Metalworking: Fabrication and Thermal Joining: Focuses on developing skills in fabrication, forming, thermal joining techniques and joining of metalwork components with some complex features.

To gain an award at National 4 learners must complete all units as well as the Added Value Unit.



Added Value Unit

The Added Value Unit, Making a Finished Product from Metal, introduces challenge and application. The learner will draw on, extend and apply the skills and knowledge they have developed during the course. This will be assessed through a practical activity that involves producing a finished product in metal to a given standard. The task will be sufficiently open and flexible to allow for personalisation and choice and for learners to demonstrate practical creativity.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N4_PracticalMetalworking_MakingaFinishedProductfromMetal_AddedValueUnit.pdf

Verification

The verification process is designed to be supportive and not onerous.

Internal verification is the process of ensuring standards are applied uniformly and consistently within a school in line with national standards. External verification is the process of ensuring that national standards are maintained consistently across all schools.

Quality assurance: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58448.html>.

Prior verification

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Prior%20Verification%20Centre%20Guidance%20FINAL.pdf

Staff who devise their own assessments can send them to SQA for prior verification, free of charge. This is only necessary where significant changes have been made to the unit assessment provided. It gives departments confidence that their proposed assessment is fit for purpose and meets national standards.

Internal verification

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/InternalVerificationGuideforSQAcentres.pdf

As a matter of course staff should be quality assuring their assessments by carrying out activities that they have always done for NABs, for example double marking and blind marking. A sample of learners' work should be marked by more than one staff member in a department, and in single-person departments an arrangement should be made with another local authority school.

External verification

In practical metalworking schools will submit a sample of learners' evidence for scrutiny by subject-specialist qualification verifiers. SQA intend that every school will be verified over the first few years. Verification will take place in November, February and May. Twelve samples will be asked for.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Evidence_required_for_verificationevents.pdf

Schools must retain the evidence until 31 July of each academic year.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/SQA_Evidence_retention_requirements_A3_table.pdf

Key messages from verification will be put up on the SQA website.



Education Scotland support materials

Advice and support for new national qualifications (Glow password required):

[Practical Craft Skills – Advice and Guidance \(N3\)](#)

[Design and Technology – Advice and Guidance \(N3\)](#)

[Skills in Practice](#)

Other useful websites

A quick guide to finding vital information about Curriculum for Excellence:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/keycfesupport/index.asp>

This appears under three headings:

- the latest guidance, updates and plans for embedding Curriculum for Excellence
- information on assessment
- information on the new qualifications.

The BBC has pulled together all its learning content in a new Knowledge and Learning Beta site that includes Class Clips:

www.bbc.co.uk/education