UNIT C Level 2
Application of Clay Plaster

Learning outcomes
Criteria and indicators

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Knowledge

- Different kinds of surfaces to be plastered
- Properties and criteria for assessment of the background: roughness; absorption capacity; stability
- Areas of use for clay plaster
- Function, thickness and principal differences between base coat and finish coat
- The main methods of bonding layers
- Technical details for fixing common services eg for electrical back boxes
- Technical shaping details for corner protection such as rounding; technical finishing details for such as abutment against wood; use of straight cuts where plaster meets flexible building elements; detailing for skirting (boards or tiles)
- Surface finishes and how to create them
- Preparing the background and applying clay plaster:
  - Current legislative workplace requirements
  - Relevant codes of practice and current standards for quality of work and materials
  - Tools, machinery and equipment
  - The order of work
  - Safe and healthy working practices

Skills

- Carry out the principal background preparations following instructions (cleaning; create a rough bonding layer from such as reed mat, hessian, rough paint or scratching; apply a key coat)
- Protect adjoining surfaces
- Prepare common detailing following instructions eg around fixing points, openings and edges
- Prepare and execute straight, rounded inner and outer corners
- Execute all work for joins following instructions
- Manually apply one of the layers in a plaster coat and produce a flat surface
- Execute a common sponged surface finish or a floated surface finish
- Set out materials
- Use the appropriate tools, machinery and equipment for maintenance, repair and surface treatments
- Organise the work place
- Comply with workplace safety requirements at all times

Competence

- Under direct supervision execute appropriate background preparation and manually apply a plaster layer
- Describe the steps taken in applying the layer and finishing the surface
## Criteria for the Evaluation of Skills

### Application of Clay Plaster

#### Criteria

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<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
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| Quality of the plaster layer | • The layer adheres to the background  
• The plaster layer is flat - any unevenness, hollows and high points taken out  
• The floated or sponged surface is fairly homogenous |
| Preparation | • The adjoining surfaces are protected  
• The background has been prepared according to instructions |

Ensure that standards of work and materials comply with relevant codes of practice and to current standards.
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<tr>
<th>SUB-CRITERIA</th>
<th>INDICATOR</th>
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| **Organisation** | The examinee is able to:  
- locate and access tools, equipment and materials  
- check the availability of building materials  
- logically organise the work space and the order of tasks  |
| **Economy of materials and time** | Optimum use of materials and time - no wastage |
| **Use of tools and machines** |  
- Appropriate choice of tools and machines  
- Machines used according to operating instructions  
- Ergonomic handling and use of machines, tools, equipment and materials  
- Skillful and careful handling and use of tools, machines, equipment and materials |
| **Work place** |  
- Tools and material are set out logically for maximum efficiency  
- Tools and machines are cleaned and returned tidily to their correct place  
- Surplus materials are properly collected and stored |
| **Time** | The work is completed within the allocated time in accordance with the programme of work |
| **Safety** | Compliance with Construction site health & safety  
- The equipment is appropriate for purpose and has been risk-assessed  
- All Protective safeguards are in place  
- Erection of ladders and scaffolding according to regulations |
| **Waste** | Waste is appropriately sorted, stored, recycled, removed and disposed of according to regulations |
| **Communication** |  
- Problems during the working process or any deviation from the specifications are reported  
- The finished work is described / explained orally  
- Progress and the various stages of work are discussed with the work team  
- Instructions that are not understood are questioned |