

WorldSkills UK SkillWeld National competitions 2021 Competitors Technical Handbook

SkillWeld 2021 is Part of:



SkillWeld 2021 is supported by:



Competition Information Pack

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1.Entry to WorldSkills UK SkillWeld Competition

Please read section 7 below for the Competition Eligibility and Rules

1. Once registration commences, competitors will be put through to the passive stage. This stage will involve an online based activity in order to test knowledge. The passive assessment must be submitted before the deadline and will be assessed to confirm whether you will have entry to the next competition stage. Competitors will need to score 80% and above to get through to the next round.
2. Entry to the national qualifier is by invitation only. The national qualifiers will assess the technical skillset of each competitor and take place at local colleges and venues across the country.
3. The top 10 competitors from the national qualifier round across the nation will then be invited to compete at the SkillWeld national finals in November. WorldSkills UK will announce the national qualifier results in July 2021
4. Finalists are selected from the top 10 scoring competitors nationally. So, it is possible that a winner from a national qualifier may not necessarily go through to the SkillWeld national finals. As competitors from other National Qualifiers may have scored significantly higher marks
5. Finalists compete at the WorldSkills UK national final event in November. Details of the event will be confirmed at a later time.

2. Key digital learning resources

In addition to the pre-competition activity resource made available on the WorldSkills UK website, Engineering Skill's competitions also has a website that relays crucial information pertaining to the SkillWeld competition.

From learning materials, to updates regarding related events as well as crucial information pertaining to the competition cycle, please visit the [Engineering Skill Competitions SkillWeld webpage](#) for further information when preparing for your journey into the competitions.

3. Welder Career overview

What is a Welder?

A welder is a skilled tradesman who joins metal together or fills and repairs holes on metal constructions through the use of intense heat and gas. Welders work on all types of industrial, manufacturing, and construction applications; some even work underwater to repair oil rig foundations, ship hulls and other types of subaquatic structures. Due to the almost universal need for their skills, welders are in high demand worldwide.

What does a Welder do?

The specific job duties of a welder vary depending on the skill of the welder and the industry in which they work.

Unskilled welders - work on assembly lines, performing repetitive welder tasks. They may employ robots in order to join body panels from a car or truck or perform spot welds during the construction of specialized equipment. They may have little or no knowledge of the properties of metal, or what types of gas, wires, and settings are used to produce a stable, strong weld.

Skilled welders - know the welder specifications of many types of metal. Through either apprenticeship or education, they learn advanced welding techniques and may hand weld or use robots to weld metal components.

While those who use robots are usually confined to working in a factory, those who weld by hand can work in almost any type of application. Construction welders join steel I-beams for high-rise structures, skyscrapers, and any other type of building that uses metal. Welders can also work on a car racing team, repairing the chassis of a damaged car or building an entirely new one. NASA even employs highly skilled welders to work on aerospace applications.

Depending on the project, welders use one of the more than 100 welding methods. In arc welding workers either weld by hand or machine. It is the most common method of welding in which an arc of electric current combines two metal pieces with a special welding rod. Oxy-fuel welding, oxyacetylene welding, or gas welding use gasses and oxygen to produce the heat needed to melt and join pieces of metal. Other types include resistance welding, shielded metal arc welding, submerged arc welding, and the more modern laser beam welding processes. Welders may specialize in one or more of these types, as certain metals will require specific welding methods.

Welders typically work from blueprints or specifications, then use their knowledge of base metals and joining techniques to select the appropriate material for the job. They cut, position, and spot weld the metal in preparation for one of the many welding processes. The difficulty of the job depends on the type of metal and position. Hard metals like titanium and steel tend to warp less and are therefore easier to join together. Malleable, soft materials like aluminum are easily warped and subject to damage if the surface is not thoroughly cleaned; special care must be taken on the part of the welder to prevent imperfections in the weld.

Regardless of the type, welders are exposed to intense and blinding heat and must take special care to ensure their own safety and the safety of those around them. Welders wear special gloves and aprons to prevent sparks and flame from burning their clothes and skin. They also wear a special mask to prevent flash burns, which are much like an ocular sunburn. In addition to taking safety precautions,

welders must monitor the metal they are welding closely. Special care is taken to prevent overheating of the metal which leads to warping, distortion, shrinkage or expansion. Welders also maintain their equipment and work with various power tools, including a grinder, to prepare metal surfaces for welding.

What does a Welder Earn?

The average Welder salary in the United Kingdom is £24,466 per year or £12.55 per hour. Entry-level positions start at £19,500 per year while most experienced workers make up to £37,843 per year this can rise significantly depending on the industry and skill level Welders in the Oil Industry can earn £70,000+ Per year

How to become a welder

You can get into this job through:

- a college course
- an apprenticeship
- a specialist courses run by private training organisations.

College

You could take a welding qualification at college before applying for a job as a trainee welder. Relevant courses include:

- level 2 Award in Welding Skills
- level 2 Certificate in Fabrication and Welding Practice
- level 3 Diploma in Fabrication and Welding Engineering Technology

Entry requirements

You may need:

- 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3 (A* to D), or equivalent, for a level 2 course
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, for a level 3 course

Apprenticeship

You can get into this career through an intermediate or advanced apprenticeship in welding, engineering construction or engineering manufacturing.

Entry requirements You'll usually need: some GCSEs, usually including English and maths, or equivalent, for an intermediate apprenticeship

5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths, for an advanced apprenticeship

Useful Links career link

- [National Careers Service](#)

- [Lincoln Electric](#)
- [Airproducts](#)
- [Institute for Apprenticeships](#)

4.The Competition Tasks

Included in the pack will be drawings of four weld tests covering the three main manual fusion processes. As the following table shows, all test pieces are mandatory.

TEST NO.	PROCESS	TEST PIECE	REQUIREMENT
1	TIG Root MMA Fill & cap	Pipe butt weld H- Lo 45 in carbon steel	Mandatory
2	TIG	Pipe to plate fillet weld in the PB position in Aluminium	Mandatory
3	TIG	Plate fillet weld in the PD position in stainless steel	Mandatory
4	MAG	Plate fillet weld in the PF position in carbon steel	Mandatory

Candidates will have one full set of material for all weld tests.

All test pieces must be completed within four hours.

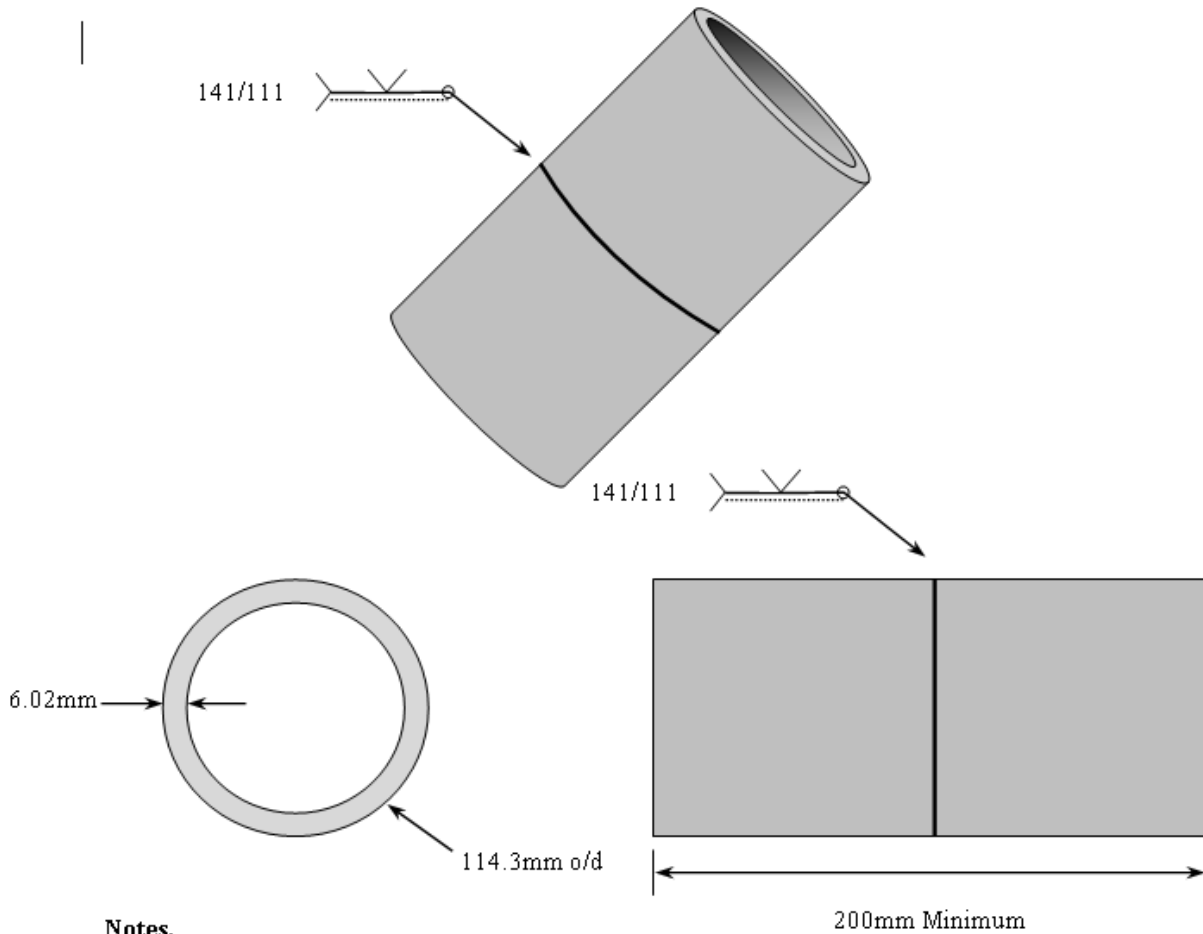
Judging of test pieces will take place during the competition.

SkillWeld 2021 judges will inform the competitors of the results of the local competition on the day (1st 2nd and 3rd Places) and give feed back to the competitors so that they can improve the performance

Test No 1 (Mandatory) TIG/MMA

Weld Specification

Test Specification



Notes,

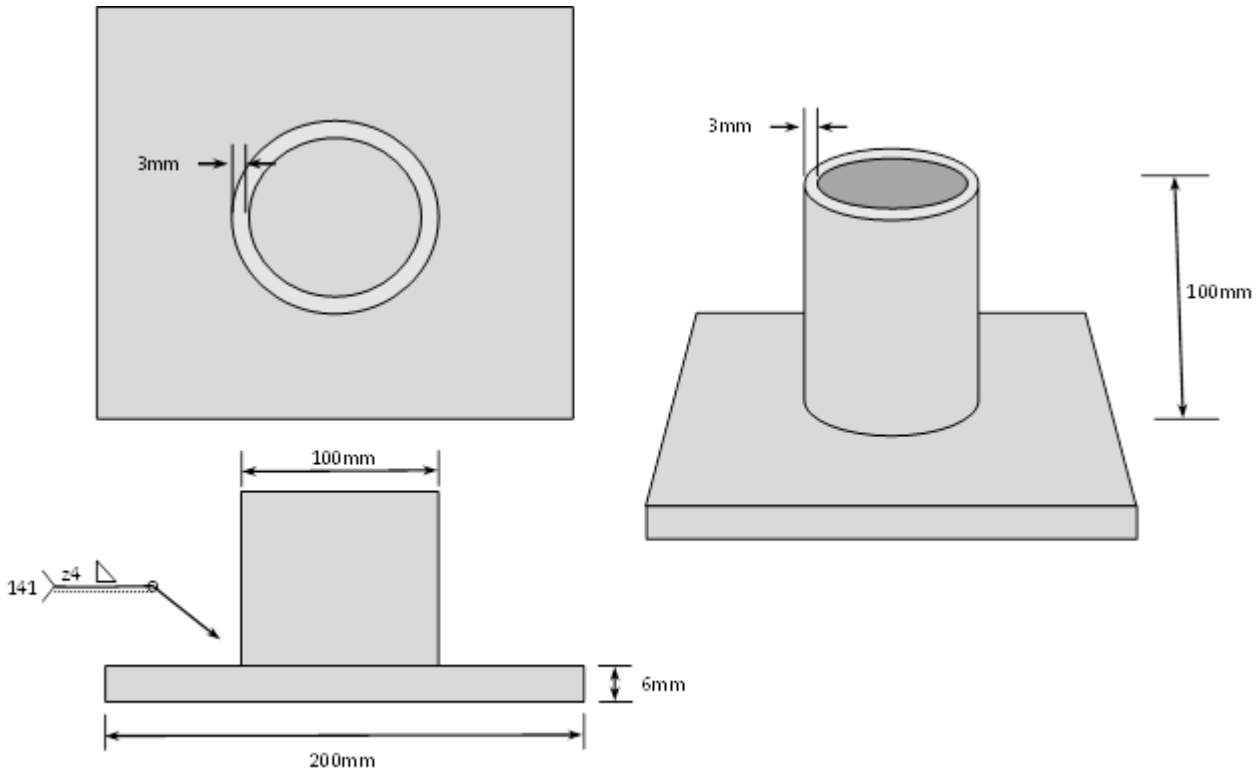
- Maximum reinforcement (Cap) 3mm
- Maximum penetration (Root) 3mm
- Pipe sizes as per 4 inch standard Sch 40
- Drawing symbols as per BS EN ISO 2553

<p>Materials Carbon Steel</p> <p>Weld Prep 37.5° bevel</p> <p>Root Face As required</p> <p>Weld Gap As required</p> <p>Weld Processes Root-TIG Fill & Cap MMA</p> <p>Current Type AC or DC</p> <p>Electrode Type Any</p> <p>Electrode Dia As required</p> <p>Number of Runs As required</p> <p>Weld Position (Fixed) H-Lo 45</p> <p>Stop/Starts may be ground on root only</p>	<p>Visuals</p> <p>12 O'clock pipe position to be marked</p> <p>Root stops and starts to be marked</p> <p>Root to be witnessed before Fill & Cap completed</p> <p>Root Penetration - 2mm (max)</p> <p>Overfill - 3mm (max)</p> <p>All dimensions in millimeters.</p>
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Test No. 2 (Mandatory) TIG

Weld Specification

Test Specification



Notes.

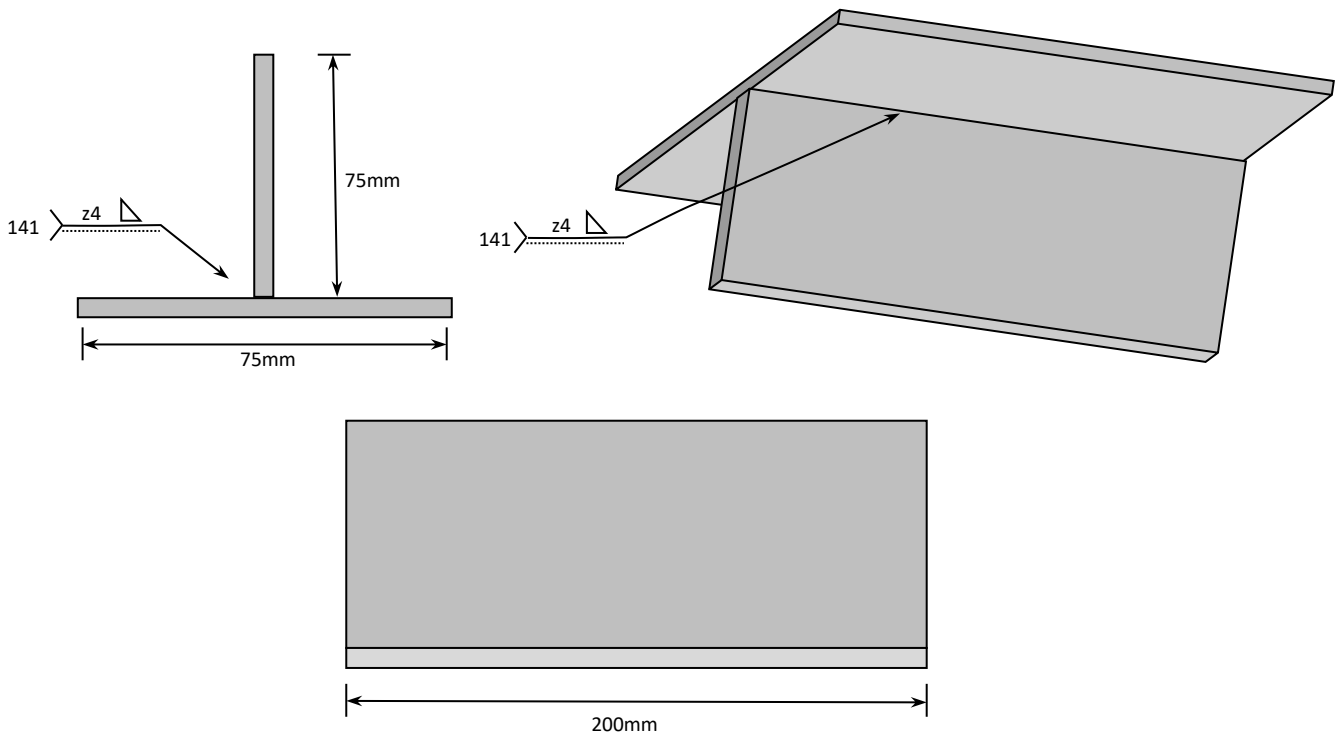
The grade of Aluminum should be 1050A were possible.

Drawing symbols as per BS EN ISO 2553

		<u>Visuals</u>
Materials	Aluminium Grade 1050A	Weld stop and starts to be marked
Weld Process	TIG	
Current Type	AC	No grinding of re-starts.
Electrode Dia	As required	Stops maybe ground as long as the grind marks are welded over on the re-start.
Filler Dia	As required	All dimensions in millimeters
Shielding Gas	Pure Argon	
Weld Position	PB	
Number of Runs	1	

Test No. 3 (Mandatory) TIG

<u>Weld Specification</u>	<u>Test Specification</u>
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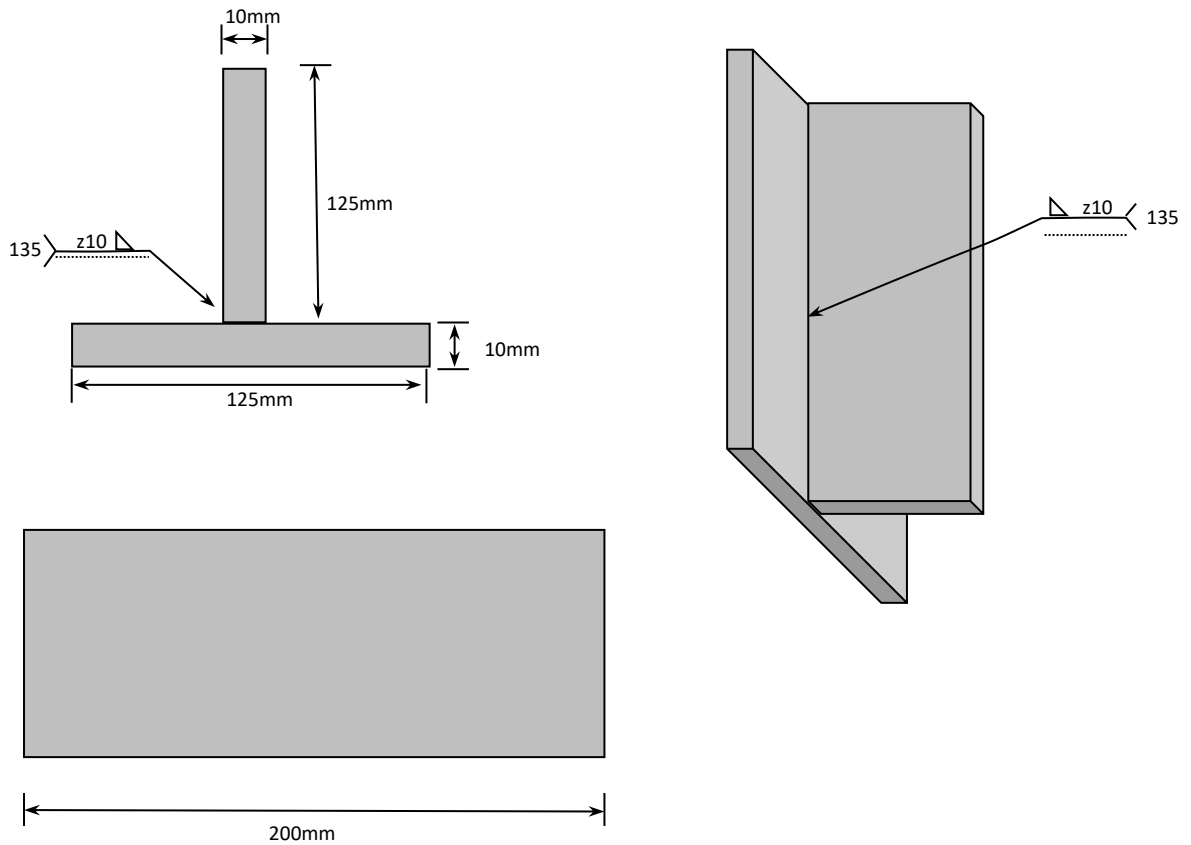


Notes,

Drawing symbols as per BS EN ISO 2553

		<u>Visuals</u>
Materials	Stainless Steel	Weld stop and starts to be made at Weld mid-point and marked
Weld Process	TIG	
Electrode Dia.	As required	
Filler Dia.	As required	
Shielding Gas	Pure Argon	
Current Type	DC	
Number of Runs	1	
Weld Position	PD	
No Grinding of Stop/Starts		All dimensions in millimetres

Test No.4 (Mandatory) MIG/MAG



Notes,

Drawing symbols as per BS EN ISO 2553

Material	Carbon Steel	<p><u>Visuals</u></p> <p>Weld stops and starts to be made at weld mid-point and marked</p> <p>The Root Run must be witnessed by the Shop master</p> <p>All dimensions in millimetres</p>
Weld Process	MIG/MAG	
Electrode Dia.	0.8 mm	
Shielding Gas	Argon/Co2	
Number of Runs	2	
Weld Position	PE	
<p>Stop/starts may be ground.</p>		

5) Test Piece Marking (Based on BS EN 25817)

Butt Welds

1.1. Penetration (max 15 marks)

This is required over the full length of the weld. Full marks will be given where the penetration is completely made but does not exceed 3mm. Penetration, which exceeds this value, will lose 1 mark for every 2mm length over penetration. The same rule will apply where evidence of lack of penetration is observed.

1.2. Stop Start Positions (max 10 marks)

Full marks will be given where clear evidence of good stop start fusion is obtained.

1.3 Overfill (max 10 marks)

The overfill should not be higher than 3 mm above the plate surface. Of the 10 marks apportioned for this section 1 mark will be lost where overfill exceeds this dimension over each 5mm of weld length where this is evident.

1.4. Undercut (max 10 marks)

The toes of the weld should blend with the plate surface with no high re-entry angle. Undercut should be absent. Of the 10 marks allocated 1 mark will be lost for every 5mm of undercut or poor toe blending present.

1.5. Weldface Appearance (max 15 marks)

The bead ripple should be regular on the weld face and weld penetration. Marks will be lost where the ripple is marked, irregular or weld profile uneven.

Fillet Welds

1.1. Leg Length (max 15 marks)

The leg length must be that stated in the drawing. Marks will be lost where there is evidence of failure to achieve this requirement as shown either by direct measurement or unequal leg length.

1.2. Stop Start Marks (max 10 marks)

Full marks will be given where clear evidence of good stop start fusion is obtained.

1.3. Weld Overfill (max 10 marks)

This must not exceed 2mm (test 2 and 3) and 4mm (test 4). 1 mark will be lost for every 5mm of weld length where this is in evidence.

1.4. Weld Undercut (max 10 marks).

Weld undercut on either plate will lose marks – 1 mark for every 5mm of weld length on either plate where undercut exceed is identified.

1.5. Weld Appear (max 15 marks)

The ripple should be even on the weld face. The weld `bead width should be regular throughout its length.

6) A further look at the competition brief's

Introduction

The below is an insight into the competition brief's competitors can expect throughout the duration to their competition.

Need

To provide a skilled workforce to meet the needs of UK Industry

Aim

Is to raise the standard of training, to provide multi skilled level 2-3 welders, to increase employability, and productivity

Objective

The objective of the SkillWeld competition is to:

- challenge trainee welders to develop their skills in a competitive environment
- to inspire trainee welders to be ambitious to develop their careers
- to assess an individual's knowledge, practical skills against a set of strict criteria.
- to assist employers and training providers to benchmark their own apprenticeship and training programmes.

Method

The SkillWeld competition has 3 progressive stages; each stage builds on the last to challenge the competitor to develop their weld skills. At each stage the competitors SkillWeld test pieces are marked against a set criteria in accordance with BS EN ISO 5817 criteria D

Pre-competition Activity

The pre-competition activity is a taster activity intended to provide competitors an insight into how a SkillWeld competition could take form. The training provider can decide on the most appropriate method to deliver the pre-competition activity, to suit their local needs. All competitors should aim to complete the welding geometry listed below. Either these can be completed, as individual test coupons or as a single fabricated structure which ever is the most appropriate method of delivery that will challenge the competitor and bring more purpose to their learning experience.

Training providers should aim to hold pre-competition activity as a competition as this will be more challenging for the competitor when they are being judged against their peers

Single test coupons can be used as part of the competitor's assessment for external awarding bodies. The minimum length of competed weld must be 200mm and a minimum plate thickness of 6mm.

Test piece No	Welding process	Welding position	Description	Welding position
WJ 1	MMA	PF	Lap Joint	Vertical-UP

WJ 2	MAG	PF	Lap Joint	Vertical Up
WJ 3	MMA	PF	Tee Fillet	Vertical
WJ 4	MAG	PF	Open Corner	Vertical
WJ 5	TIG	PB	Pipe to Plate	Horizontal/vertical
WJ 6	MAG	PB	Pipe to Plate	Horizontal/vertical
WJ 7	TIG	PD	90° Tee Fillet	Overhead
WJ 8	MMA	PE	Butt Weld	Overhead

-2-

Welding test piece can be marked to a set criteria, this available to the Training provider on request

Stage 1 Passive Stage

The competitor will be required to complete an on-line knowledge-based test, all competitor scoring over 80% will be invited to compete in stage 2 the national qualifiers.

The competitor will be required complete the on-line knowledge based test, the competitor will have 30 multi-choice questions to complete in 45 minutes the questions will be based on the following subject area:-

- welding defects
- shielding gases and gas cylinder safety
- welding symbols and welding positions
- welding consumables
- general welding principals

Stage 2 – National Qualifiers

National Qualifiers are held between May and July. Competitors scoring 80% and above in the passive stage can elect to compete at a regional competition that meets their personal circumstance. The competition is held over 1 day. All competitors are allowed a familiarization session at the start of the day.

The competitors must complete the following test pieces in 4hrs

Test piece No	Welding process	Welding position	Description	Material
1	MMA	HLO 45	Pipe Butt weld	Carbon Steel
2	TIG	PB	Pipe to plate fillet weld	Aluminium
3	TIG	PD	Tee Fillet weld	Stainless Steel
4	MAG	PF	Tee Fillet Weld	Carbon Steel

Independent judges will mark the welding test pieces, the marking is carried out by visual inspection and is based on BS EN ISO 5817

The 1st three places will be announced on the day. Competitors will be given feedback by the judges to assist them in improving their welding skills

All competitors who meet the required standard in WTP No 4 Tee fillet will be given to opportunity to gain a Welder Qualification to BS EN ISO 9606-1: 2017. The test is carried out by a recognised third-party organization (RTPO) Code A Weld, who offer this free of charge to the competitor

The national qualifier will be held locally and run by the Competitors College/ training provider under competition conditions. The welding test pieces will be collected and assessed nationally.

Stage 3 National Finals

The SkillWeld national final is held in November, details to be confirmed at a later date. The top 10 competitors overall will be invited to compete.

The competition is spread over 3 days and the competitors will have to complete the following WTP's over 19 hours

Test piece No	Welding process	Welding position	Description	Material
1	TIG root/MMA fill and cap	HLO 45	Pipe Butt weld	Carbon Steel
2	MAG root/MAG fill and cap	PB	Plate Butt weld	10mm carbon steel
3	MAG root/FCAW fill and cap	PB	Plate Butt weld	16mm Carbon Steel
4	All	All	Fabricated pressure vessel	Carbon Steel
5	TIG	All	Fabricated Structure	Aluminium
6	TIG	All	Fabricated Structure	Stainless Steel

The welding test pieces will be marked by a team of independent judges to strict criteria and involve NDT, pressure testing and visual inspection.

Full details of the welding test pieces will be made available to all training providers and competitors so that they can prepare for the competition. All competitors will have a familiarization session at the beginning of the competition

1st 2nd 3rd Place and medallion of excellence will be announced at a presentation ceremony

Competitor who meet the skills and age profile may be invite to join the World Skill UK Squad for selection to compete at International level.

7.Competition Eligibility & Rules

The WorldSkills UK Competition Rules should be read in conjunction with the WorldSkills UK Terms and Conditions and the competition-specific rules, if applicable. The competition-specific rules can be found within each competition brief or on the competition web page. In the event of a conflict, the competition-specific rules are overridden by the WorldSkills UK Competition Rules.

1. Conditions of entry

- a. To be eligible to enter a WorldSkills UK competition, competitors must meet the following criteria:
 - Competitors must be at least 16 years of age on 1st September 2020 to be eligible to compete during the 2021 competition cycle.
 - Employed, studying or an apprentice at the specified level of the competition.
 - Educated and/or trained in a UK education, or training establishment, and hold or be working towards a related UK qualification.
- b. Past competitors may enter WorldSkills UK competitions in subsequent years provided they meet the entry criteria as above.
- c. The following are not eligible to compete:
 - Gold medal winners, who may not compete in the same competition and level in subsequent years.
 - Squad and Team UK members, who forfeit their right to participate in WorldSkills UK national competitions.
- d. Competitors may only enter one competition at one level in any given competition year.
- e. Competitors should have the support of their college, university, training provider and/or employer to participate in a WorldSkills UK competition. This support must extend to the competitor being free to attend all relevant competition events and includes any competition preparation.
- f. By entering into a WorldSkills UK competition, competitors and their representatives are declaring that they will abide by the WorldSkills UK and competition specific rules.
- g. Representatives and Competitors must ensure that all competition materials are read thoroughly and that they are confident with all aspects of the requirements of the competition including the competition overview and joining instructions. They should also be familiar with the procedures for being invited to qualifying events and the UK finals at WorldSkills UK –LIVE in November 2021.
- h. Representatives and Competitors are responsible for covering any travel, subsistence or accommodation expenses incurred in participating in WorldSkills UK competitions, unless they are informed otherwise. Accommodation for LIVE will be covered.
- i. Special dispensation may be granted by the Competition Organiser for those that have declared a physical, sensory or learning difficulty prior to the competition. They will also endeavor to provide reasonable adjustments, where possible, for competitors who declare a physical, sensory or learning difficulty at any stage of the competition.
- j. Representatives and Competitors should understand the process for selecting competitors for international competitions. By agreeing to the competition registration Terms and Conditions, each Competitor confirms that they have read and understood the process. Please refer to the WorldSkills UK website.
- k. Representatives and Competitors should be aware that not all WorldSkills UK competitions lead to WorldSkills International competitions.
- l. By agreeing to the Terms and Conditions, each Competitor gives permission to WorldSkills UK and the Competition Organising Partner (COP) to use non-confidential information from the competition registration, relevant photographs and video film for any publicity purposes in relation to vocational

education, training and the competition.

2. Overall responsibility

- a) Responsibility for the overall conduct of the competition; passive stage, qualifiers and the UK final rests with the Competition Organising Partner (COP) approved in this role by WorldSkills UK.

3. Code of conduct for Supporters

- a) Supporters (employers, teachers, trainers or parents) must not make any form of contact or communication with competitors during the competition (applies to qualifier and UK Final). Supporters will be in breach of the competition rules and run the risk of competitors being disqualified or penalty points deducted from their overall score.
- b) If a supporter needs to make contact with a competitor during the competition, please speak to the Competition Organising Partner (COP) or a Competition Judge.

4. During the competition

- a) Competitors who arrive late for the competition will not automatically receive additional time. However, this may be granted in exceptional circumstances by the COP.
- b) Unless otherwise stated there must be no communication between fellow competitors, the audience, your representatives or competition staff during the competition itself.
- c) Competitors must start and finish work when instructed to do so by the judges or COP.
- d) Competitors may be allowed a familiarisation period before the start of the competition. Additional information may be distributed/circulated in advance by COP. Competitors may ask questions during this defined period.
- e) Competitors wishing to leave the competition area while the competition is in progress must obtain the permission of the judges or COP.
- f) Competitors may leave before the competition time has elapsed but will be required to declare that they are finished to the lead judge and may not re-enter the competition area once they have left.
- g) In some competitions at qualifier stage there may be an option to ask the judges to fix a fault or provide a solution that is beyond the capability of the competitor for reasons other than time. Should the competitor choose to do this they will sacrifice all available marks for this criteria but may then be able to gain extra marks later for sequential but dependent tasks. The option to do this will be permitted solely at the discretion of the lead judge. This option will not exist at UK Finals.
- h) Should a Competitor feel unwell at any stage of the competition, he or she should make a judge or COP aware immediately.
- i) Competitors who need to repair their own tools or equipment during the competition will not be given additional time unless agreed by the judges or the COP.
- j) Competitors are not permitted to take any of the following into the competition area unless otherwise instructed: personal electronic devices including mobile phones, electronic cigarettes, tablets, mp3 players, written notes, sketches or special aids.
- k) The COP will ensure that marking is undertaken fairly and will calculate marks to establish places and awards.
- l) Judges are not allowed to discuss marks or provide one to one feedback to Competitors unless it has been built into the competition program. This feedback should be consistent and follow the same format for all competitors.
- m) Should a Competitor feel at a disadvantage for any reason before or during the competition, he or she should bring it to the COP attention immediately, following the complaints and appeals procedure.

5. Health and Safety

Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) legislation applying to the competition and event derives from The

Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and all applicable regulations included under this legislation.

All activities must comply with the relevant national regulation and proven best practices. Any breaches of Health, Safety and Welfare must be reported to a responsible person.

- a) The COP and/or the Nominated Competitions Agent will carry out a safety check of the competition site prior to the competition.
- b) All Competitors, Representatives, and Judges will receive a health and safety briefing before the start of the competition.
- c) Competitors must wear appropriate clothing and safety equipment in accordance with health and safety regulations for the skill, such as safety glasses, gloves and ear defenders.
- d) All electrical equipment brought by Competitors or Representatives should be PAT tested within the last 12 months and used at the competitors' own risk.
- e) Adhering to health and safety practices is the responsibility of each competitor. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from the competition and being asked to leave the competition venue.
- f) Safe work practices of the relevant industry and the venue must be adhered to at all times.

6. After each SkillWeld National Qualifier

- a) SkillWeld 2021 judges will inform the competitors of the results of the local competition on the day (1st 2nd and 3rd Places) and give feed back to the competitors so that they can improve the performance

7. Entry to SkillWeld 2021 National Finals

- a) The top 10 competitor nationally will be invited to compete at the SkillWeld 2021 national Finals in November. Worldskills UK will announce the results in July 2021
- b) Finalist are selected from the top 10 scoring competitors nationally. So it is possible that a winners from a National Qualifier may not necessarily go through to the SkillWeld 2021 national finals. As competitors from other National Qualifiers may have scored significantly higher marks

8. After the National Final

- a) Gold, Silver, Bronze and Highly Commended medals are awarded at the UK Final.
- b) WorldSkills UK will verify the results, and awards will be announced at the end of the National Final at WorldSkills UK Medal ceremony
- c) Complaints are to be made through the competition Complaints Procedure, as described in see section 9.0 and in accordance with the WorldSkills UK complaints procedure
- d) The following describes the procedure for awarding medals at UK Finals:
 - Competitors/Teams achieving the highest score will receive a Gold medal
 - Competitors/Teams achieving the 2nd highest score will receive a Silver medal
 - Competitors/Teams achieving the 3rd highest score will receive a Bronze medal
 - If Competitors/Teams scores are equal, joint Gold, Silver or Bronze medals will be awarded
 - Competitors/Teams achieving above the average score will receive Highly Commended
 - Competitors/Teams achieving below the average score and who have not won a medal will receive a Participation Certificate.
- e) The completed project work is the property of the Competition Organisers who may pass it back to Competitors, where possible and at their own discretion.
- f) Competitors at UK Finals will receive a summary of their marks by email after the competition has taken place. Gold, Silver and Bronze winners will receive a medal for their achievement at the competition once marks have been verified by WorldSkills UK, where possible.
- g) If results cannot be announced after the competition, medals will be sent by post after the competition to the address entered at the point of registration. Certificates for medal winners will also be sent at this

time.

9. Eligibility criteria for selection to WorldSkills Lyon 2024

Please note: 2021 national competitions will not be considered a selection year for the international competitions. Those who are age eligible and have achieved the benchmark score will be invited to opt into Squad UK 12 months later, at the start of the WorldSkills Lyon 2024 journey

To be eligible to be a member of Squad UK or Team UK for WorldSkills Lyon 2024, you must meet the following criteria:

Age

WorldSkills International eligibility criteria states that competitors for the WorldSkills Lyon 2024, must be born on or after 1 January 2002 for all skills apart from Mechatronics, Engineering Team Challenge and Aeronautical Engineering where competitors must be born on or after 1 January 1999.

Residency and education

For selection to Squad UK competitors must:

- have been continuously resident in the UK for at least 2 years
- have been educated and trained in a UK education or training establishment, and
- hold one or more related UK qualifications.

Performance criteria at the National Finals

For each skill the UK represents at WorldSkills International, the top three competitors/teams at LIVE in 2021 will be considered for a place in Squad Selection, providing they;

- Meet the eligibility criteria
- Meet a minimum score of 65%

10. Complaints and Appeals Procedure for WorldSkills UK National Competitions

This procedure is in accordance with the general principles and practices that apply specifically to WorldSkills UK, whether regional, national or international.

We aim to handle complaints quickly, effectively and in a fair and honest way. We take all complaints seriously and use valuable information from investigating to help us improve the service we provide. We treat all complaints in confidence.

WorldSkills UK assures competitors and their representative that by making a complaint, the competitor would not be disadvantaged in any way, due to a complaint being made in good faith.

Who can raise a complaint?

A competitor or their representative affected by the way WorldSkills UK provides its services can make a complaint. A representative may raise a complaint for the affected person if they:

- Cannot or do not wish to make a complaint themselves, or
- Have given consent for the representative to act on their behalf, (which must be evidenced as part of the submission).

If you are not happy about raising a complaint yourself and you do not know someone who can talk or write on your behalf, we will be happy to find someone from an independent organisation to act as an advocate for you. Please contact us by emailing competitions@worldskillsuk.org

Stage 1 of the procedure

In the first instance, we encourage you seek to early resolution at the competition or training activity with the relevant personnel i.e. Competition Organising Partner, Lead Judge or Training Manager.

This could mean an on-the-spot acknowledgment and explanation if something has gone wrong, and immediate action to resolve the problem

Stage 2 of the procedure

A complaint is defined as an expression of dissatisfaction about matters that affect the quality of the competitors' experience, or about a standard of service provided by or on behalf of WorldSkills UK.

The progression of individuals to the next stage of their competition journey i.e. national qualifier to national final or from national final to Squad or Squad to Team UK is not subject to an appeal. However, a complaint can be made against the conduct of those implementing the competition or training activity, or against the processes involved if any of the following are present:

- evidence of unfair practice negatively or positively impacting a competitor and their performance
- evidence of prejudice or of bias on the part of the WorldSkills UK Training Manager/Competition Organising Partner
- evidence in the breach of the Competition Rules and Code of Ethics

Time limits

The complaint must be sent within five working days after the incident in writing, addressing the issue with sufficient evidence to competitions@worldskillsuk.org. WorldSkills UK will acknowledge, by email, receipt of your communication within two working days and aim to resolve within 20 working days, unless agreed otherwise.

10. Terms of reference

Within the WorldSkills UK Competition rules the following terms shall mean:

Term Definition

Awards refer to the Gold, Silver, Bronze and Highly Commended medals allocated to Competitors or Teams at UK Finals.

Competition Organiser is a person or organisation responsible for the design and delivery of individual or clusters of WorldSkills UK competitions.

Competitors are those who will compete in a WorldSkills UK competition. This may also include teams of competitors for some competitions.

Nominated Competitions Agent is a member of staff from the organisation leading on the competition or a representative acting on behalf of WorldSkills UK.

Places are allocated to those who have achieved first, second or third in a competition qualifier.

Representative is either an individual or organisation representing the competitor and/or team.

Conclusion

Entering the SkillWeld Competition will enhance your students learning experience and prepare them to enter the workplace as multi-skilled welders.

We hope that this handbook has provided you with a valuable insight into the SkillWeld competition.