

SKILL-BUILD

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PRACTICE AND PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

Plastering

Interpret drawings

Read all drawings thoroughly and calculate the amounts of run moulding required to complete the project. Drawings should be read in conjunction with the project briefing, all the information required will be on these documents. If you have any questions, ask during the judges briefing.

Understand basic geometry

Competitors should have a working knowledge of geometry to allow them to set out accurately. A knowledge of basic geometrical symbols is also needed.

Be able to time your work accurately

It is crucial to enable you to maximise your marks that you complete the task within the allocated six hours. You should be able to work out how long each process takes and strive to stick to your timings. You will have previously used all the setting material before (standard bonding undercoat, finish plaster and fine casting plaster). Remember the setting times as this will help to sequence your operations.

Plan for and provide the required tools for the task

Work with your tutor to prepare and pack your tools for the competition using the provided tool list. Each year we witness competitors looking for tools that aren't in the box. If **you** pack it, you'll know where it is! Don't blame your tutor. All tools should be clean, sharp and fit for purpose.

Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) appropriately

Make sure you have packed the required PPE and that it fits properly and provides the appropriate levels of protection. Last year many competitors complained about ill-fitting glasses that continually steamed up. Test them first!

Fix and coat to both thin coat and undercoat metal beads

Last year, timings for fixing the beads took anywhere from 20 minutes to one hour twenty. Needless to say, those competitors that took over 45 minutes did not get the project completed. Practice coating and fixing beads to build up your speed. When skimming always coat your beads first to ensure that your finishing is left flat and smooth.

Mix and apply plasters with minimal wastage

Try not to mix more materials than required. You will be penalised for waste and will lose time mixing extra material. There will always be some waste but try to keep it to a minimum. 1 mark will be lost for each element of additional material.

Set out for, run and position fibrous panel moulds accurately

This year you will be required to run two straights and a circle (allow for a little extra but do not go "over board" as the additional time required to run extra moulding may be crucial. These will all require cutting fixing, mitering and stopping in. You are working to tolerances of +/- 2mm, so accuracy is very important. Double check all mould lengths before cutting. Radius work takes practice, this year you will be running a small tight curve, make sure you are comfortable setting up and running with a gig stick/shoe/upstand. You must also use the materials available at the competition to fix with, so get lots of practice fixing with fine casting plaster.

Keep the work area clean and tidy

Messy work areas are hazardous and will incur a penalty, try to work in a tidy manner at all times.

Work in a safe manner

Always consider your safety and the safety of those around you. You will be asked to sign the risk assessment on the day so make sure you understand what is expected of you.