

# Floristry

## Technical handbook 2023

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## WorldSkills UK

WorldSkills UK is an independent charity and a partnership between employers, education and governments. Together, they are raising standards in apprenticeships and technical education to enable more young people get the best start in work and life. They are leading the charge to ensure that all young people have equal access to high quality apprenticeships and technical education, by:

- inspiring young people through their careers advice resources, to choose excellence through apprenticeships and technical education as a prestigious career route on their path to reaching their potential, whatever their background.
- developing excellence in young people by testing and assessing their skills and knowledge against their peers through their national and international competitions programmes, improving their confidence and potential.
- innovating to mainstream global excellence to help improve the standard of teaching, training, and assessment through international benchmarking to help young people, employers and the UK economy succeed.

They are also part of WorldSkills, a global movement supported by over 80 member countries, which celebrates young people achieving world-class standards in the biennial 'skills Olympics.

[This link](#) can be used to access more information about WorldSkills UK and the work it undertakes:

## Sector Overview

The floristry competition encompasses a wide range of skills, standards, and ideas. This guide will provide you with a clear path as to what competitors can expect, from the initial registration period, right up to the national finals.

## Career Pathway

Floristry in the UK has a range of accredited qualifications which can be worked towards to gain the knowledge skills and behaviours which are essential to the floral industry.

From the Level 2 Technical qualification and the L2 Apprenticeship where you will become a competent junior florist through to Level 3 and Level 4 qualifications where you will be regarded as a senior florist and ultimately the Level 5 Master Diploma in Professional Floristry.

## Competition Cycle

Date	Stage
Feb - April	Registration
April -May	Entry Stage
May - July	National Qualifier
July	Announcement finalist
October	Bootcamp
November	National Finals

## Competition Overview

### About the Competition

This competition assesses the skills and abilities of competitors entering the field of Floristry.

This competition consists of three stages: -

**Entry Stage**      Photographic stage – a remote assessment where you complete a task in your own time, submit your photographs for judging by the required date.  
A pass mark of 55% is required to be invited to a National Qualifier

**National Qualifiers:**      Face to face qualifying heat where the competitor will be required to bring the first task ready made to the venue.  
Two further tasks will be made in situ to a given timescale.  
All flowers and sundries for these two designs will be supplied.

**National Final:**      The top eight competitors who have achieved the highest marks across all the national qualifiers will be invited to the National Final.

The eight finalists will design 5 pieces of floristry over two days to a given timescale.  
All flower and sundries will be supplied.

## Core competencies

Competitors taking part in this competition should be able to demonstrate the following.

- identify plant material and the requirements for conditioning them. Handling tools, materials, and equipment safely and in a manner that minimises wastage, damage and contamination.
- the importance of time management and organising workload to ensure that they complete floral designs within the competition timescale.
- create a floral design interpreting a brief using dominance, contrasts, and combinations of colour effectively to create harmony in design.
- understand how to apply principles and elements of floral design to ensure that dominance of botanical material in the design.
- understand wiring, taping, manipulation, tying techniques to a high technical standard.
- incorporate appropriate fixing methods within design to facilitate ease and security of attachment
- how to review and evaluate a design against the specification and make any modifications which are necessary within the terms of the design requirements.

## Qualifications

This competition is mapped out to the following qualifications:

England, Wales, Northern Ireland & Scotland  
- City and Guilds Level 3 Advanced Technical Diploma in Floristry

This competition is mapped out to the following apprenticeship standards:  
Floristry Trailblazer apprenticeship Level 2

## Assessment Criteria

For this competition, the breakdown will help in how you can go from being competent in the skill to excellent and what the judges will be looking for.

Core Competence	Competent	Excellence
The use of glue in bridal work	The flower material is not good quality and marked by the glue	No glue visible with meticulous workmanship and excellent assembly of the design.
Designing a Planter	The technique and construction of the plant material is satisfactory.	All plants used are compatible, quality and condition is excellent, and the design clean & finished
Creating a Table Arrangement	The design uses proportion, movement and rhythm and some aspects of design	The arrangement includes excellent artistic and creative use of all the elements and principles of design
Making a Hand tied bouquet	The bouquet is well constructed but unbalanced.	The bouquet has excellent visual balance, use of space with creative application of principles of design.
Designing a funeral spray	The plant material chosen well and shows the theme of the schedule	Excellent knowledge of the chosen plant material is seen and conveys the theme of the schedule perfectly

## Entry Criteria

This is an individual competition.

There is no limit to the number of entries per organisation.

Whilst there is no stipulation about the level of floristry required to enter, competitors must be familiar with the core competencies at Level 3 and must not have more than 5 years industry experience.

## Digital Badges



As recognition of the participation and achievement of learners who take part in the competition you will be awarded a Digital Badge from WorldSkills UK. This credential has been awarded to those who have participated in our competition-based training programme. In taking part in this programme there has been a commitment to developing technical, employability and personal skills to a high standard using benchmarked assessments, leading to higher skills

development. At each stage of the competition activity there has been personal and professional growth as well as developing skills, knowledge and behaviours in vocational and technical education.

The digital badges are sent via Credly to your email and can be shared on social media platforms and in your email signature. For a short outline of the value of Digital Badges, look at our short video at <https://www.worldskillsuk.org/digital-credentials/> (45 secs).

## Entry Stage

### Entry stage - this is an example of what to expect -

Planning, researching, and creating a design to interpret a customer's requirements are essential components of a florists' skill. Design a table arrangement for the competitors' welcome dinner at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. See the schedule below.

Before the competition make a labelled sketch of the table arrangement. This is an exercise to help with planning your design.

1. Make a table arrangement for the competitors' welcoming dinner at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.  
  
The table is oblong and will seat ten people.  
  
Only fresh flowers, foliage and plant material, may be used.
2. Supply **three** photographs of the arrangement
  - a) Front view with the entire outline of the arrangement displayed.
  - b) a profile/side view of the arrangement
  - c) The back view of the arrangement

**Please mark the photographs clearly with your name, age and college/shop.**

### Schedule:

<b>Theme</b>	The Commonwealth Games 2022
<b>Kind of work</b>	Table arrangement
<b>Description</b>	A table arrangement for the competitors' welcoming dinner at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. The table is oblong and will seat ten people.
<b>Technique</b>	Your choice



<b>Material</b>	All material for this design is to be supplied by the candidate.
<b>Judging</b>	<b>Fresh flower/foilage and/or fresh plant material must be visually dominant.</b> The judges will be looking for a high standard of design and technique skill
<b>Judging Criteria</b>	Judging criteria as used by the UK Floristry Judges Guild.

## Competition specific rules – entry level

All entries must be the entrant’s original work and made unaided by anyone. Disqualification will result if any part of the design is not your own work.

The standard of photography must be of a high quality. The photographs must be high resolution. Photos should be in JPEG format with a high quality.

Images must be minimum file size 2MB (this is in line with most good mobile phones)

- Images must be sent in a jpeg format.
- Images must not have been manipulated.

Your arrangement must be photographed against a plain background.

Entries sent in other ways will not be accepted and will be returned.

The entrants must be the sole owner of the copyright of the photographs, or if using a photographer, their name must be stated, and their permission sorted to use the image.

The decision of the judge is final. A UK Floristry Judges Guild member will judge the competition.

Entries must be received by the closing date that is advertised on the Worldskills UK website.

**By entering the competition, entrants will be deemed to have agreed to be bound by these rules.**

## National Qualifier

### National Qualifier stage – what to expect -

The Floristry national qualifiers will be held at three designated colleges in the UK.

The competition starts at 9.00 am for registration and allocation of your competitor number. You then have 30 minutes to set up Task 1 in the Judging room. During this time, your toolboxes will be checked.

At 9.30 am there will be a briefing of the day by the competition organiser and an introduction to the judges and the host college will give information regarding fire procedures, first aid and domestics.

At 9.45 am the competition will start with one hour to familiarise yourself and condition the fresh materials, check you have all the correct sundries and flowers and substitute any flowers that may be damaged. You have the opportunity to split the flowers into separate buckets for the two different items that you will be making, soak oasis or fill tubes or jugs. You are also encouraged to Sketch during this prep time – you will have already been given the schedule for the competition but now that you know the flowers you will be using it is good practice to sketch your thoughts before you start making your designs.

At 11.00 following a 15-minute comfort break you will start on the Task 2 for the time specified on the schedule. You will be given regular reminders of time during the competition. At the end of the specified time, you will be asked to carry your design into the judge's room and place beside your first Task.

Lunch will follow this task which is normally 1 hour. Generally there are canteen facilities at the college venues but if not you will be advised to bring a packed lunch.

The afternoon session will be similar to the morning session apart from the fact that you will not have any prep time.

Whilst the final task is being judged you will be expected to clear your bench, sweep and tidy your area.

It normally takes approximately 1 hour for the last task to be judged but this is dependent on the number of entries.

Approximately 4.30 pm – Presentation of participation certificates and you will then be invited to discuss your pieces with the judges and get their feedback. You do not get marks at this stage; these are given out when all the heats have been held and marks verified by WorldSkills UK.

The top eight competitors from all the heats will be invited to take part in the National Final.

**Examples** of a competition schedules



## The Competition – Theme – The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

### Task 1: A Tiara to be worn by the organiser at the Big Jubilee Lunch

- To be brought ready made
- Technique – your choice
- Description – A tiara to be worn by the organiser at the Big Jubilee Lunch. Please see the Professional Florists’ Manual for a definition of a tiara.
- All materials to be supplied by candidate.
- Judging – at least two thirds of the finished design must be fresh flower/foilage and or fresh plant material and must be visually dominant. The judges will be looking for a high standard of design and technical skill.

### Task 2: Hand-tied Bouquet

- Time – 1 hour
- Description – A gift hand-tied bouquet to be given to the organiser of a Big Jubilee Lunch
- Technique – Hand-tied
- Size - free
- All materials will be provided. You are not allowed to use any other materials except those from the official toolbox list. Not all materials have to be used.
- Judging – at least two thirds of the finished design must be fresh flower/foilage and or fresh plant material and be visually dominant. The judges will be looking for a high standard of design and technical skill.

### Task 3: Structural Floral arrangement

- Time – 1 ½ hours
- Description – A structural floral arrangement to be placed on a central square table at the entrance to a marquee to welcome guests to a Big Jubilee lunch.  
Please see the Professional Florists Manual page 128 for a definition of structural arrangements.
- Technique – Free
- Size - Free
- All materials will be provided. You are not allowed to use any other materials except those from the official toolbox list. Not all materials have to be used.
- Judging – At least two thirds of the finished design must be fresh flower/foilage and/or fresh plant material and be visually dominant. The judges will be looking for a high standard of design and technique skill.

## Competition specific rules – National qualifiers

**Registration** – setting competition pieces in the judging room, you are allowed to work on your piece during the set-up time but your tutor, employer, friend etc are not allowed in the room at this time.

**Preparation period** - Flower and plant material - you are not allowed during this preparation time to wire, tape, cut to size, remove leaves for wiring etc.

Floral foam - soaking is allowed but not taping into the container or shaping.

**End of specified competition time** - when the Competition organiser calls time up, you **MUST** step away from your design and not touch your bench in any way.

**Judges feedback** – Tutors and supporters are allowed in the room to listen to the judges' remarks but are not allowed to interfere in the discussion.

## National Final

### what to expect.

The top eight (8) competitors in the UK will be invited to compete in the UK National Final which is the pinnacle of the UK national competition cycle.

The finals are usually a larger scale event, and a chance to show off your skills, meet a bunch of industry professionals and other competitors taking part.

At the national final competitors will be conducting 5 tasks over two days with a maximum working time of 2.5 hours per task. Two of the items will be surprise tasks and the schedules will not be given out until the start of each of these competitions. The schedules for the other three tasks will be sent to you when your place at the final is confirmed.

All fresh materials, props and sundries will be supplied throughout the competition. Additional time will be allocated at the start of the competition for conditioning, familiarisation, and preparation of materials.

You will be expected to arrive the day before the competition starts at 3.00 pm at the venue for familiarisation. It's a good opportunity to bring your toolboxes to the venue to save time on the morning of the competition.

**Dress:** You will be provided with WorldSkills UK T shirts and we ask that you wear smart jeans or trousers (comfortable) For health and safety shoes must not be open toed and hair if long should be tied back.

**Accommodation:** is provided including all meals during your stay.

**Example** of a competition schedules

The Competition – Theme – LADIES' DAY AT THE RACES

<b>Task 1: Floor standing structural floral arrangement</b>	
Time:	2 ½ hours
Description:	Floor standing structural floral arrangement for the Royal enclosure on Ladies Day at the races.
Size:	Minimum height for the floral arrangement must be 1 metre high
Technique:	Structural
Material:	All materials are provided. You are not allowed to use any other materials except those from the official toolbox list. Not all materials have to be used.
Working area:	The design will be made and displayed in the area provided. Only the competitor may move the design in the space provided within the time limit of the task.
Judging:	At least two thirds of the finished design must be fresh flower/foilage and or fresh plant material and must be visually dominant. The judges will be looking for a high standard of design and technical skill
<b>Task 2: Bridal Design to be carried</b>	
Time:	1 ½ Hours
Description:	A Bridal design to be carried by a bride at a jockey's wedding held at a racecourse. A picture of the bride's dress is attached
Technique:	Not Handtied
Shape:	Free
Size:	Free
Material:	All materials are provided. You are not allowed to use any other materials except those from the official toolbox list. Not all materials have to be used.
Working area:	The design will be made and displayed in the area provided. Only the competitor may move the design in the space provided within the time limit of the task.
Judging:	At least two thirds of the finished design must be fresh flower/foilage and or fresh plant material and must be visually dominant. The judges will be looking for a high standard of design and technical skill
<b>Task 3: Wired Hat decoration</b>	
Time:	1 ½ hours
Description:	A wired hat decoration for a hat to be worn at ladies' day at the races.
Technique:	Wired no gluing
Shape:	Free
Size:	Use the hat provided
Material:	All materials are provided. You are not allowed to use any other materials except those from the official toolbox list. Not all materials have to be used.



**Working area:** The design will be made and displayed in the area provided. Only the competitor may move the design in the space provided within the time limit of the task.

**Judging:** At least two thirds of the finished design must be fresh flower/foilage and or fresh plant material and must be visually dominant. The judges will be looking for a high standard of design and technical skill

**Task 4: Surprise item unseen schedule: A Handtied Bouquet**

**Time:** 1 hour

**Description:** A handtied bouquet to be given to the owner of a winning racehorse

**Technique:** Handtied

**Shape:** Free

**Size:** Free

**Material:** All materials are provided. You are not allowed to use any other materials except those from the official toolbox list. Not all materials have to be used.

**Working area:** The design will be made and displayed in the area provided. Only the competitor may move the design in the space provided within the time limit of the task.

**Judging:** At least two thirds of the finished design must be fresh flower/foilage and or fresh plant material and must be visually dominant. The judges will be looking for a high standard of design and technical skill

**Task 5: Surprise item unseen schedule: A Floral handbag design**

**Time:** 1 hour

**Description:** A floral handbag design (handbag supplied) to be carried at ladies' day at the races

**Technique:** A floral handbag design (handbag supplied) to be carried at ladies' day at the races

**Size:** Use the handbag provided

**Material:** All materials are provided. You are not allowed to use any other materials except those from the official toolbox list. Not all materials have to be used.

**Working area:** The design will be made and displayed in the area provided. Only the competitor may move the design in the space provided within the time limit of the task.

**Judging:** At least two thirds of the finished design must be fresh flower/foilage and or fresh plant material and must be visually dominant. The judges will be looking for a high standard of design and technical skill

## Competition specific rules – National Final

1. Exemplary and professional conduct at all times, this includes work practices, communication with judges, BFA team and other competitors.
2. Employers, Tutors, family, or friends are not expected to have any dialogue or input during the competition.
3. Personal appearance and conduct are equally as important during the competition times as they are when not at the competition venue. The BFA expect all participants of its skills competitions to behave in accordance with point 1 at all times.
4. BFA and its sponsors/supporters reserve the right to prohibit unauthorised use of promotion material within the competition area.
5. Competitors will be expected to wear the official T shirts at all times during the competition.
6. Competitors will be expected to arrive on each competition day in a fit condition ready to compete and will attend activities to which they are assigned on time.
7. Competitors are liable for any damages or breakages that may occur during the competition (including overnight stays)
8. The misuse of alcohol and or taking of non-prescribed drugs is not allowed at any time during the competition event, any competitor who is believed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be expelled from the competition.
9. Competitors shall observe all health and safety requirements. In the event of a fire drill, competitors should follow the appropriate emergency evacuation procedures of the competition and accommodation venues.
10. Smoking is not permitted within the competition area/building.
11. Mobiles telephones and cameras should not be used during the competition in the competition area. \*See below
12. Competitors may only leave the competition area for designated meal/rest breaks. Any person wishing to leave the stand at any other time should obtain permission from a member of the Competition Delivery Team
13. All work areas must be left clean and tidy at the end of the day of the competition.
14. The decision of the Competition Judge is final.

\*\* Listening through headphones during the competition is allowed (may need mobile phone for this) but should never be so loud as not to hear instructions

## A guide to marking schemes.

The Marking scheme throughout the competition is designed to fairly compare every competitor's work. It is usually split between four main criteria and then is split as per description. Please see below for an example of what the marking scheme for each stage could look like.

### Marking and Assessment

Idea	Description	Max Mark
	Originality, Uniqueness, Creativity, Interpretation	5
	Choice of design with materials	5
	Scale of Endeavour/Degree of difficulty	5
	<b>Total For Idea</b>	<b>20</b>
Colour	Proportion/dominance of colour used expression of idea in colours	5
	Colour-composition (contrasts, harmony)	5
	Value of colours, placement of colours	5
	<b>Total For Colour</b>	<b>15</b>
Composition (harmony/unity)	Shape/Form/Proportion	10
	Movement/Rhythm/Line/Space	10
	Visual Balance/Texture/Harmony/Volume/Dominance/Contrast	10
	<b>Total for Composition</b>	<b>30</b>
Technique Workmanship	Condition of materials Guarantee of durability	10
	Care of materials given	5
	Stability of work/actual physical balance, suitability of technique.	5
	Suitability of technique and method of construction	5
	Finish and workmanship	10
	<b>Total for Technique</b>	<b>35</b>
	<b>Total Marks</b>	<b>100</b>

**Open Judging** – The national qualifiers and final, will involve open judging and the judges will walk around observing you during the day. You will be advised during the briefing by the judges of what they are looking for with regard to good management of your tools and workspace.

## Judges Top Tips

### General tips for competing.

- Study the competition brief carefully, the competition schedules are straightforward instructions that competitors must follow to achieve success.
- Use time wisely, pace yourself so that a completed task is finished perfectly on time.
- Dissect the judges marking scheme. Consider how the marks are allocated and where the most marks can be gained.
- Don't over complicate, keep it simple and try to make something you have already practised.
- Practise, practise, practise, the key to success is being prepared.

### Floristry tips for competing.

- Do not over accessorise. Use the flowers and plant materials to interpret the theme.
- Keep in mind that the finished design must be at least 2/3<sup>rd</sup> fresh flower/foilage and or fresh plant material.
- Only use top quality flowers and foliage. Using dead flowers will result in the loss of valuable points.
- Check each flower and leaf for blemishes, remove any petals that are damage or leaves with imperfections.
- Use your knowledge by incorporating the principles and elements of good design and perfect finish in your work.
- Sketch the design you want to make first and keep a clear picture of the design in your head. Stick to the plan and don't change designs halfway through the competition.