

Additional information for Level 4 Tutors

The Level 4 course in Floral Art and Design is characterised by the following:

- It is an experimental course and very personal to the learner
- It is DIRECTED not TAUGHT
- Learners require self-motivation to succeed at this level
- Designs will not be demonstrated by the tutor/leader so that each design is personal to the learner who has gone through the whole design process to get there
- The finished design is entirely the learners own and NOT a copy of another design
- Portfolios need to be of a more visible nature rather than written – note number of words required for some assessments

The design development unit:

- Learners should have a 'one day box' (one day I will find a use for this) as a reservoir for source material. In the box should be all the thoughts, ideas and inspirations the learner has come across. The box should not be restrictive but should be full of excitement
- A note book should be kept to record anything to do with the design mistakes, trial runs with mechanics, things that worked, things that did not work and why
- The learners needs to start on Day 1 with the design development unit and record every step of the way to the final design
- The final design may be one from the handbook or it may be a completely different design which will be used in an end of course exhibition, etc.

All design should be completed recording the thought processes to get to the finished product

Assessments:

Some courses are now being run as Self Help Groups and the absence of a tutor means a differing way of assessing work. Suggestions for this are peer assessments based on the RHS system of judging. Each learner has a red and a blue card and also a check list of what is being looked for:

Practical assessment check list:

- Follows the criteria for assessment
- Exhibits good use of principles and elements of design

The above points must be satisfied completely together with a majority of the following points before a piece of practical work can be signed off.

- Immaculate staging
- Plant material in pristine condition
- Learners own work
- Design development clearly recorded
- Self evaluation
- Use of innovative materials and experimentation

These points are not in any order of importance

It is important to remember that the assessor is not looking at a flower arrangement and although the assessor may not like what she sees the design has to be assessed fairly looking at the points above. It may be useful for an experienced assessor to go through all of this with the class first. If a learner receives a red card the giver of the red card must be able to explain why they have done this e.g. there must be accountability.

Further notes:

- A practical piece may be done many times as the learner develops the design and then finally settles on the finished piece. All attempts need to be recorded
- Check the credit value of each unit to see how much time should be spend on that unit
- Definitions need not necessarily be as per the Competitions Manual – provided the learner can justify the definition, then it is valid. Also for the purpose of this course plant material may not necessarily predominate
- Photographs may be taken of a design as it evolves
- Although learners may not be studying all of the units they can stage a practical piece of work but not write it up
- Designs can be crossed over e.g. an example of torsion within a shop window