

Scottish Women's Institutes



HANDCRAFTS

PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATE SCHEDULE

RULES FOR CANDIDATES

Revised and Updated 2021

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our National Proficiency Certificate Programme. We are delighted that you are considering sitting a Certificate. We hope this booklet will give you all the answers to any queries you may have.

The guidelines are in no way intended to be specific, they are written in order to give some help in selecting the items presented for certificates. Candidates must carefully read the schedule, **including the rules** as this is an important part of any certificate or competition.

Always allow plenty of time to plan, prepare and carefully make the articles to be submitted for judging.

Pre-certificate schools are helpful and can be arranged within Federations, where members holding relevant bars can give advice and pass on information on various subjects.

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Some subjects may need to be judged out with the certificate venue

GUIDELINES

Relevant to all certificates- Please read this schedule very carefully

1. To gain a real knowledge of materials and processes in any subject takes time and infinite patience. Members are therefore encouraged to submit work for a certificate in order to learn from judge's critique.
2. A candidate must be a member of her Federation. Members are not obliged to attend a class before entering a certificate. **Candidates are required to submit their membership number on all applications. If no membership number is supplied the candidate cannot take part.**
3. The Handcrafts & Homeskills Committee will arrange in Federations within the Tour Scheme rota. Certificates may be held out with the rota, by arrangement.
4. The maximum mark in each certificate is 100. An Honours Certificate is awarded if 95 marks or above are obtained, a First Class if 85 marks or above are obtained, a Second Class if 75 marks or above are obtained and a Third Class if 60 marks or above are obtained.

A candidate gaining an Honours or First-Class Certificate is entitled to purchase the SWI Proficiency - Badges and appropriate Bar.

5. Articles submitted for a certificate must be the candidate's own work.

Please note the new ruling:

If a candidate is not able to submit all of the sections by the date of the certificates. Please inform the Handcrafts & Homeskills Events Co-ordinator at Headquarters as soon as is possible in advance of the date agreed. Please also indicate which section or sections will be presented. A candidate may present the other section(s) at a later date by arrangement. Please inform your Federation Handcrafts secretary and also the Handcrafts & Homeskills Events Co-ordinator at Headquarters as soon as possible.

A candidate who gains a Second Class or Third Class Certificate but obtained First Class marks for one or more articles, need only present the mark sheet for that article, along with the new items required for resitting the certificate.

Where the article required is left to 'Candidate's Own Choice' this should always be a different article from the others in the certificate.

It should always be stated whether designs are original, adapted or copied.

If desired, washable articles may be laundered before they are submitted for a certificate, but this must be stated.

6. A non-returnable fee is charged to each candidate per certificates entered. If for any reason the certificates have to be cancelled by Headquarters, then this will be refunded.

Intending candidates should complete the form (printing forename and surname in block letters) and return it to the Federation/Handcrafts & Homeskills Secretary.

The form should not be sent directly to Headquarters.

Closing dates for the receipt of entry forms at Headquarters are 1st October for spring certificates and 1st March for autumn certificates.

7. Numbered labels will be sent to each candidate through the Federation and or Handcrafts & Homeskills Secretary and should be fixed to each item in such a way as not to interfere with judging.
8. They can be joined by other members who wish to sit certificates in the future, again with the prior agreement of the participating candidates. Candidates will see their own mark sheet briefly prior to post certificate discussion. Mark sheets will be collected by the National Judge and returned to Headquarters.
9. Candidates will receive their mark sheets with critique from headquarters as soon as possible after they have sat their certificates with certificate cards awarded to follow.
10. ***Demonstrators' and Judges' Certificates.*** Full details on these can be found on pages 40 and 41.

Points to be judged

15	Design & Use of Colour
10	Suitability of material
65	Workmanship, Techniques & Finish
10	Degree of Difficulty

100

THE JUDGE'S DECISION IS FINAL. NO CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE ENTERED INTO WITH THE JUDGE.

APPLIQUE

Three articles to be submitted:

1. Sampler to show at least five different ways of applying material (machine stitchery to be included).
2. An article, not a picture/panel, with machine appliqué.
3. An article in one technique – named. Different to item 2.

Points to be judged:

Designs	Colour balance
Stitches and workmanship	Suitability of material, thread etc.
General finish	

Hints

1. This may be presented as a hanging, sampler or picture/panel. Different fabrics suitable to the types of appliqué should be used. Fusible web may be used and wadding if required to give another dimension.
2. There are many articles suitable for this including cushions, bags or garments.
3. Examples of technique include reverse, sans blas, Hawaiian, shadow, bias/stained glass, inlaid, needleturn. Again many suitable articles, fabrics should be suitable for the chosen technique.

NOTES

BAG MAKING

Three different bags to be presented, each for a different purpose.

Points to be judged

Suitability of materials
Design for purpose

Workmanship
Finishing

Note: the following should be shown in any or all items: A flap, made straps, lining, zip insertion either internally or externally (both if liked) internal sectioning, topstitching and a pocket.

Suggestions: Tote, evening, messenger, clutch, weekend, baby bag, beach

Hints

Purchased clasps, frames, feet, buckles, d rings etc may be used depending on chosen item and these fitted well will help give a professional finish.

Use a variety of materials to suit the work, it is not compulsory but leather is a good medium for a messenger bag, however if you are not experienced in working with leather it would be wise not to use your certificate as practice.

Items such as the evening or clutch would be ideal to showcase other skills such as appliqué, beadwork, embroidery, patchwork etc.

If using a metal frame, take extra care with the insertion. Glue should not be seen.

Knitting and crochet are not appropriate for this certificate.

BASIC PLAIN SEWING

Two articles to be submitted

1. Set of Clothing for a Doll or Toy or a Book of Samples
2. Cushion Cover or Apron

Note – All items for this certificate should be well finished and show neatly sewn seams. Items may be machined, hand sewn or a combination

1. A set of clothing would include an undergarment, a dress or skirt or trousers or dungarees and top. Clothing should include neat hems and seams appropriate to size, show the attaching lace or trim, show suitable fastenings to include buttons and buttonholes, hook and eye or snap fasteners. If shown on a doll or toy – which need not be made by the candidate – the clothes should be of a reasonable fit and removeable. A small area of hand embroidered decoration or trim would be a nice touch and show additional skill. If presenting a book of samples, as a minimum, all the techniques named for the clothing should be shown. This is an ideal opportunity to practice many techniques before making your selection for your book. In addition to those named, binding, topstitching and insertion of a zip could also be considered.
2. If presenting a cushion cover, the inside should have neatened seams or be lined. Any closure is acceptable, zip, button or envelope. Covered piping would show skill. An apron, would have handmade straps with top stitching and the edges neatly hemmed. A curved edge would have binding cut on the bias.

Candidates should contact SWI Headquarters if they have any queries prior to making their items

BEADWORK

Four articles to be submitted

1. A minimum of six separate braids, minimum length 12 cm, showing Square Stitch, Netting, Brick Stitch, Beadweaving using a Loom and 2 Own Choice. (Braids may be shown as samples or as bracelets, bookmarks etc.) Stitches to be identified.
2. Tassel with head in Peyote Stitch. Minimum length of neck should be 5 cm (2") Neck Own choice.
3. Amulet or Bag, with fringe in any technique
4. Article – Own Choice – different from above.
(This could be Needlecase, Neckpiece, Tree Decoration, etc and can include beaded wirework and knitted or crocheted beadwork).

NB. Embroidery with beads (i.e. beads attached to fabric) is not appropriate for this certificate

Points to be judged

Design/Colour Balance
Tension
Stitches and Workmanship

Suitability of materials
General Finish

Hints

This item has enormous scope for the creative beader. Tension is very important. Good quality beads will give the best results.

NOTES

BOBBIN LACE

Two articles to be submitted:

1. Handkerchief edging with worked corner, to be sewn on to handkerchief (which need not be handmade).
2. Candidates own choice other than 1.

NOTE: Coloured thread may be used.

Points to be judged:

Suitability of thread
Evenness of tension

Workmanship (joins, straightness of edge)
General finish

Hints

Suitability of thread is important, and should be correct weight for design chosen, and also complimentary to material to which it will be attached. Tension should be very even.

It is important that joins should be firm and neat.

NOTES

CANVAS WORK

Three articles to be submitted:

1. Sampler or Article showing **minimum** of 20 Canvas Work named stitches.
2. Candidate's own choice, not less than 10" square.
3. Candidates own choice worked in different stitches from item 2.

NOTE: Trimming must be used in part of item 1.

Points to be judged:

Design	Suitability of material, thread etc.
Colour balance	General finish
Stitches and workmanship	

Hints

Apart from tapestry wool, a wide range of silks, cotton, stranded cotton and other threads can be used with care, knitting yarns may be used and combined with stitches, these create texture.

1. Use stitches, with which you are familiar, and which cover canvas well. If presented on cards, or in a book, each stitch should be clearly labelled. A design chart of named stitches should be presented with a sampler or article.
2. Own choice of article in Canvas Work, not less than 10" square.
3. Own choice article should be different in shape, size and purpose and worked in different stitches from item 2.

NOTES

COLOUR AND DESIGN

Three Designs to be submitted:

1. One Original Design for named craft.
2. One Original Design for a craft different from above.
3. Adapted Design. The original design on which the adaptation is based should be submitted where possible. If not available a rough copy may be sent and the source stated.

State crafts for which these designs are intended, materials used and method of work. Colours to be shown in at least two sections. Drawn designs plus indications of how they are worked is all that is required, articles do not have to be submitted.

Points to be judged:

Design	Suitability of design for the craft indicated
Colour balance	General finish

Hints

A folio, in which this certificate would be presented, is suggested.

- 1 & 2. Two original designs 1 and 2 worked on separate large sheets showing development of design from source of inspiration to line drawing and colouring; also shown should be samples of materials to be used in working of design, with threads, templates, graph paper etc alongside, and a brief explanation of craft for which designs are intended. These should be for different crafts.

N.B. A well-designed article has a practical use, as well as an intrinsic beauty.

3. Adaptation should be submitted. Source of inspiration in this case could come from a china plate or ornament, wallpaper, carpet, painting, section of a photograph or illustration in a magazine. A sample or photograph of original should accompany this section, but presentation is as in 1.

Folio presented on a large sheet (A1 or A2 size), but booklet form is acceptable although not as easy to follow. Each of the presentation options have their good and bad points. It is easier to follow the flow of the design process if presented as 1 set as everything can be seen in one go, however it is bulky to transport and show, a booklet is easier to transport and more detail can be included within the folio, but it does require constant referring back to the source or original drawing as you move through the folio to see how the design process evolved. A combination of both the sheet and booklet would be acceptable. If only a sheet or a booklet presented, the candidate would not be marked down, the combination is not a requirement, however the sheet can be a synopsis of the more complete booklet, if both are presented.

A nice addition is small tester samples from the materials used, this helps to show why you chose the selected materials or photographs taken during the working of the article (if already completed) showing the different stages of the work. Computer graphic programmes acceptable.

This certificate or part of it could be used by the candidate as a basis for the Coloured Embroidery certificate. This is worth bearing in mind when planning ahead.

NOTES

COLOURED EMBROIDERY (Contemporary or Traditional)

Three articles to be submitted: Each article must show a different use or purpose

1. Embroidered Picture or panel
2. Own choice but in a different technique from items 1 & 3
3. Own choice but in a different technique from items 1 & 2

NOTE: Wool embroidery to be used in one article. A neutral-coloured background to be used in one article. Items can include free form machine embroidery and/or hand embroidery. Programmed machine embroidery is not acceptable for this certificate.

Source of design inspiration must be submitted along with drawings in colour and samples of fabrics and threads used in the execution of the finished work for at least one article.

Points to be judged:

Design
Colour balance

Workmanship and variety of Stitches
General finish

Hints

1. This certificate is an opportunity to show off your embroidery skills. It is also an opportunity to show texture, fabric manipulation can be included along with any addition of 3 dimensional elements or beads, the items do not have to be "Flat". There is such a wide range of threads and fabrics on the market these days which can give different effects.
2. Embroidered Picture or Panel showing the candidates ability to interpret designs with good use of threads, stitches and colour.
3. Designing for a purpose – articles or garments reflecting suitability of design in relation to garment. Items can be such as a cushion, waistcoat, bolero or jacket for child or adult, lampshade, book-cover, evening bag, belt this is not an exclusive list but shows the type of items the judge is looking for.
4. Any of the above articles could be used in conjunction with the colour and design certificate.

NOTES

CORE SKILLS

Three items to be submitted, **each in a different craft**, chosen from the categories in this schedule.

Please state on the entry form which crafts will be entered

This certificate is intended to encourage members new to entering for certificates, to put their work forward to be judged and to receive comments from a National Judge

This is a good way to gauge standards required for the other more specific certificates.

The mark sheets for items receiving good marks may be presented, with other relevant items for that specified certificate at a later date.

Candidates are encouraged to read the full schedule for requirements regarding items.

Please contact SWI Headquarters with any questions you may have regarding this certificate.

COUNTED THREAD

Articles to be submitted:

1. Sampler or Article showing a **minimum** of 20 named counted thread stitches, to include 5 drawn fabric; 3 hardanger fillings; 3 types of hem stitch including mitred corner; 3 blackwork patterns, the remaining 6 free choice.
2. Own choice article in counted thread.
3. Own choice of article different from above.

Points to be judged:

Design	Suitability of material, thread, etc
Stitches and workmanship	

Hints

1. This is a challenging certificate and, while offering tremendous scope to the candidate, considerable thought must be given to design and preparation. A minimum of 20 named stitches may be submitted on cards or between film in an album.
Another presentation is in the form of a sampler, which should be carefully thought out and a sketch plan showing stitches used, submitted. If a sampler is worked, take care that certain areas of pulled thread are not worked too close to each other, as material could become distorted when worked alongside blackwork and drawn thread work. These samples can be shown separately.
2. Suggestions for this could be a Cushion cover, Table runner/centre or picture.
3. A Lampshade, Top of a Box (Minimum size 6"/15cm), Coffee or Tea Cosy are suggestions for a different article. Cross-stitch and Assissi work can be incorporated but must be on evenweave fabric.

NOTES

CROCHET

Three articles to be submitted:

1. Article in fine crochet, maximum 20 weight thread
2. A garment, any size
3. Own choice in any thread or yarn

Points to be judged:

Tension
Design

Workmanship, mounting
General finish

NOTE: Patterns to be submitted. Working instructions should be given if own design is used.

Hints

Both traditional and modern designs are suitable. Smooth yarn is easier to work with.

1. This should be of a reasonable size, no smaller than 12 inches and shaping should be shown.
2. The garment should show at least two different stitches, A shawl is not acceptable for item 2 but would be allowed for item 3.
3. Suggestions for this would be a bag, cushion or toy. If a set of coasters is chosen these must all be the same size.

NOTES

DOLLS

Three articles to be submitted:

1. Rag doll for a child.
2. Model - Handmade (Character Doll).
Modelling clay may be used instead of fabric, if desired
3. Own choice

Points to be judged:

Shape	Appearance
Workmanship	Suitability of materials
Suitability of purpose.	

Hints

1. This should be very well made, the clothes should fit and be able to be removed. The clothes for all dolls would be well designed and constructed,
2. A decorative doll (not for playing with). This doll may be completely fashioned in cloth; well stuffed and shaped, with extra special feature made of nose, mouth, eyes, hair etc.

or

The type of doll with porcelain head, hands etc bought complete with pattern for body, which has to be constructed, applied and dressed. Workmanship is very important in dressing of doll and skilful attention to detail is essential.
3. Papier-mâché, wire or chicken wire accepted. The hand-made model is a challenge, and if not fashioned in clay, it may be in cloth, shaped by fabric manipulation to give detail, but entirely different from 1 and 2. Everything used in making of model should be in relation to dolls size i.e. buttons, trimmings, shoes (weight of leather or felt) important garments and accessories e.g. parasol, hat, tray, basket etc.

NOTES

DRESSMAKING

Three Garments to be submitted:

1. Shirt Blouse or Shirt- Dress.
2. Dress, lined with zip or a skirt, lined with a zip. Trousers, part lined with zip.
3. An article of sleepwear or tunic, minimum size chest 75 – 80cm

NOTE: Any of these items could be suitable to fit an adult or child aged over five years. Patterns to be submitted.

Points to be judged:

Suitability of Materials
General finish

Stitching (correct seams and processes,
etc)

Hints

Select patterns and material with care. Think of how many skills you can show with your pattern choice.

Buttons should compliment the materials used in weight and can be either matching or contrasting colour. Pocket may be of any type and shown on either garment. A continuous opening is preferable in this certificate, but a well finished faced opening will be accepted, if according to pattern. Facings should show use of interfacing and these would be edge stitched by machine.

Modern machines can accomplish so many things, when used by a skilful worker. Use your machine for buttonholes and inside finishes, if wished.

Sleepwear can be items such as nightdress, camisole with shorts, pyjamas or robe. Think of showing more than basic skills, show skills such as spaghetti straps, insert fine piping or ribbon, attachment of lace or French seams. Tunic can be classic or boho style. If a dress is chosen as item 2, a classic tunic would not be suitable for item 3 as similar skills would be on show.

NOTES

FABRIC BOXES

Three articles to be submitted:

1. Round Box.
2. Box with corners (square, rectangular, hexagonal, etc).
3. Box with a Hinged Lid.

NOTE: Boxes must be constructed by the candidate and at least one must have either a tray or a drawer.

Points to be judged:

Workmanship
Suitability for Purpose

Design
Interior fit

Hints

Accuracy is most important, when handling card, to ensure a good fit.

All drawers and trays should be removable. Fabric should be laced onto the card. Glue should not be used.

Drawers should open and close easily and the lid should fit well. Inside of box is just as important as outside, so design wisely. Choice of material e.g. weight and texture is very important. Avoid sheer or very light weight materials and pattern, if any, should be in relation to size of box. Consider purpose of box i.e. jewellery or trinket, stationery, needlework or general work box and design accordingly. The lid provides an excellent means of displaying other crafts: -

Handmade buttons, tassels, cords etc. enhances boxes and show your skill.

NOTES

FABRIC COLOURING

Three articles to be submitted:

1. Article decorated by painting.
2. Picture/panel showing colouring by a different method other than in (1).
3. Small samples produced on separate pieces of material to show various means or methods of colouring. Examples should be well presented in a book or on cards, naming the materials used and giving details of method and suggestion for possible uses.

Points to be judged:

Suitability of material
Workmanship

Design
General finish

Hints

Embroidery may be included in this certificate in either item 1 or 2 but not on both. There are numerous methods of colouring fabric and it is interesting to explore both natural and commercial products.

Small samples, minimum 6 and maximum of 12 (13 x 13 cm) should be mounted giving details of fabric, method used and possible uses. In addition to the different fabrics, samples of lace/ribbon/thread could be presented.

NOTES

JEWELLERY

Three pieces of jewellery to be submitted, one with stone inset.

Points to be judged:

Suitability of Design
Overall presentation

Craftmanship
Colour balance

Hints

This is primarily a certificate using a variety of metals but one item in Beadwork is permitted.

The pieces should all have a different use:-

i.e

- Neckpiece
- Bracelet
- Ring
- Brooch
- Pair of earrings

The pieces should be chosen to show variety in technique and skill.

Eg:-

- Metalwork using suitable metals such as copper, silver, gold
- Soldering
- Lapidary
- Enamelling
- Wirework (knitted or crocheted)
- Beadwork (one piece only)

If beadwork is used do not choose the item with "set in" stone

Source of design and techniques should be indicated, in each case, as this is helpful to the examiner.

Stones should be carefully set, with no blemishes or scratches. Jewellery is usually presented as a display, over velvet or in boxes.

Please note this is not a Beadwork certificate

NOTES

KNITTING, HAND

Three articles to be submitted:

1. Pair of mitts, socks or beret worked on at least 4 needles.
2. Cardigan or jacket with buttonholes and pockets. Garment to be minimum chest size of 75 – 80cm'.
3. Child's Garment with motif, OR Shawl in 1 or 2 ply

Points to be judged:

An item showing grafting
Even knitting and tension
Casting on and off
Increasing and decreasing
Seams and joins
Proportion
General finish

Hints

Since tension is so important, practice until a good result is achieved. Wool or wool blends give the best tension. A high percentage of Acrylic yarn seldom gives a good tension result. Avoid mohair or 'fancy' yarn where it is difficult for the examiner to see tension and stitches of pattern. Follow instructions on band, around ball, avoid 'OVER PRESSING' hand knitting. The points to be judged can be in one or more articles.

1. Socks, mitts or berets, well knitted with careful shaping should be submitted. Plain garments well done are acceptable but patterns show more skills. Choices could be Fair Isle, cables, lace, entrelac etc for the beret or any of the articles.
2. A plain garment well done would be acceptable, but an interesting modern design would show skill and understanding of pattern. Buttons should be correct size, weight and colour for garment. Hand-made buttons would add a distinctive touch. Button-holes should be firm, with no slackness at ends. Sewing up can be done in back stitch, ladder stitch or interlacing for open work designs. Avoid "over pressing" hand knitting. Follow instructions on band around ball!
3. a) Child's garment showing several different colour changes i.e. knitted motif (no swiss darning).
b) Shawl using fine wool with centre piece, a circular shawl with a border edge would be acceptable but a border with mitred corners and edging does show more skill.

NOTES

MACRAMÉ

Three articles to be submitted:

Traditional or Modern

1. Sampler showing a minimum of six different sennits (bars), single and double crosses, section of alternating flat knots, section showing horizontal, vertical and diagonal double half hitch (or clove hitch) bars, and whipped tassel.
2. Bag of any type.
3. Completed article of own choice.

NOTE: Hairy jute or hemp not recommended. Modern micro macramé threads are acceptable.

Points to be judged:

Tension
Design

Workmanship, mounting
General finish

Hints

1. Ensure that this is of a reasonable size and includes what is requested. Several small sample pieces would be worked beforehand in order to explore medium being used for tension and also to work out size and string required to work out an effective design. Then, and only then, embark on sampler. Make sure that all lines across sampler are horizontal, accompanied by diagram naming different parts and that sides are kept straight. Tassel or tassels should be well designed, if used to finish at lower edge.
2. Again, consider design before beginning, taking into account gussets, base and handle, as well as main part. Finish on base is important and should be worked to retain design on right side or wrong side. Ends would be knotted and sealed, using PVA Glue or other appropriate method acceptable and perhaps covered by a base. Handles should be attached very securely.
3. Suggestions are, lampshade over white painted frame. if lined, frame would be bound and only very sheer material used for lining. Belt - an interesting design created, as in sampler, with introduction of beads etc. An elaborate plant holder. Bag in silk cord, for evening use, entirely different from 2. Hammock for nursery toys. A screen or divider for room.

NOTES

METAL THREAD EMBROIDERY

Two articles to be submitted:

1. Picture/Panel (minimum finished embroidery 20cm x 20cm or 20cm diameter, before mount and frame)
2. Any article other than above.

Points to be judged:

Design	Choice of background material
Use of thread to give texture	Finish and presentation

Hints

1. The fascination of this embroidery lies in the rich effects achieved by metal thread where the direction of the threads and the play of light alters the tone and makes the surface appear to lie on different levels. Careful thought must be given to the design in order to obtain the maximum effect and a quick and easy design tends not to work. Aim for a striking, bold and rich effect. Background material should complement the design in colour and texture.
2. A variety of techniques and weight of gold should be used.
3. There are many uses for metal thread embroidery not just the traditional use in ecclesiastical articles or box tops or evening bags, but there are many modern uses such as brooches, motif/badges to sew onto a jacket or blazer, set of 6 buttons (identical or different), 3D flowers to just name a few. Occasionally a very small amount of silk embroidery can accentuate the design along with the many coloured purl that is available these days, which can enhance the different stitches and designs.

NOTES

NEEDLE FELTING

(dry felting)

Two articles to be submitted.

- 1 A small needle felted 3d creation (a minimal amount of non-fibre embellishment is permitted) no larger than 8" x 8" x 8".
- 2 A needle felted 2d painting (any subject). Must be entirely made of needle felted fibres on pre-felt. No larger than 12" x 12". No other embellishment permitted. Not to be framed.

Points to be judged

Suitability of fibres and colours

Evenness of felting

Degree of difficulty

Workmanship (Joins, shaping, clarity, blending, balance, detail)

General finish

Hints

It is important to choose the correct fibres and needle types whilst creating your articles. Ensure a good, medium and even felt throughout. Avoid over felting. Needle marks and joins should not be visible on finished articles. The use of a kit would be acceptable.

NOTES

PAPERCRAFT

Three articles to be submitted:

1. Quilling or Parchment Craft.
2. Decoupage or 3-dimensional decoupage.
3. Own choice other than above techniques (papier-mâché, paper sculpture, etc.)

Points to be judged:

Materials
Workmanship

Design
General finish

Hints

This is a certificate where imagination, neatness and accuracy are paramount.

Quilling – glue should not show, a variety of shapes should be used.

- 1 Parchment should include embossing, perforation and cutwork. Inserts for cards may be sewn or tied, avoid glue which shows through the parchment. With decoupage be careful there are no white edges showing on the cut paper edges.
- 2 If submitting 3D decoupage, any petals or leaves should be gently shaped to give life and movement. A box frame is usually the best way to display 3D, being careful not to flatten your work. Foam pads may be used but silicone or a similar medium will enable minor adjustment when layering.
- 3 This section has huge scope for creativity, for example papier-mâché, paper sculpture, paper flowers, Christmas decorations. All these should be well made and show off your skills. Hand-made paper is acceptable, but an item would be required to be made from this. When working with paper it is important to use the weight of paper suitable for the item.

Items should be neat, clean and well finished.

NOTES

PATCHWORK, HAND

Three articles to be submitted:

- 1 Article using at least two different shaped templates.
- 2 Article in Traditional Strip Patchwork, Cathedral Window or Folded
- 3 Own choice with or without templates.

Points to be judged:

Design
Colour balance
Workmanship

Suitability of material
General finish

Note: Templates where used should be provided, or if rotary cutter and ruler or cutting machine is used, a sample of the cut material shape should be provided.

Only final construction only can be by machine, i.e. binding, piping and zips. Neat finishing is important. Choose three items for different uses. **Any quilting must be carried out by the candidate.**

Hints

Item 2 – Traditional Strip Patchwork would include Log Cabin, Courthouse Steps, Rail Fence, Chinese Coins. Any of these techniques will show uniformity of cutting and sewing strips. Cutting with the grain of fabric allows more stability. Choice of material is important, cotton is perhaps the most suitable. Poly cottons and other man-made materials can be difficult to work with.

If at all possible, threads should be matching, or a suitable shade of grey for dark colours or a cream for lighter colours will blend in.

Cushion covers or machine covers or bags etc should be lined to cover raw edges.

NOTES

PATCHWORK, MACHINE

Three articles to be submitted:

1. Article in foundation patchwork.
2. Article using different shaped templates.
- *3. Article in **Traditional Log Cabin***, or any other strip patchwork*.

Points to be judged:

Design	Suitability of material
Colour balance	General finish
Workmanship	

NOTE: Please provide pattern for foundation piecing in item 1 and templates for item 2
All items submitted must be candidates own work.
If in item 2 or 3 a rotary cutter and ruler or cutting machine is used as opposed to solid templates, please provide a cut material sample of the shapes used.

Any quilting must be carried out by the candidate

Hints

Accuracy is important.

One item should show construction.

Suitable materials for foundation piecing include lightweight cotton, interfacing or paper (which is removed after completion). Ideally choose a foundation which is not removed as it gives body and stability to your work. Foundation piecing allows quite intricate blocks to be accurately pieced.

*Strip patchwork would include Traditional log cabin, Courthouse Steps, Rail Fence, Chinese Coins. The reason for this section is to allow the candidate to show accuracy and uniformity in cutting and piecing strips. A piano key border on a quilt or cushion would show additional skill.

Professional quilting carried out by other than the candidate is not permitted.

NOTES

QUILTING, HAND

Two articles to be presented – both must be worked over two or three layers of fabric.

- 1 An article to show traditional wholecloth quilting – minimum 15 in x 15 in
- 2 Own choice, but article and method must be different to item 1

Points to be judged

Design	Suitability of materials
Workmanship	General finish

Note: Tied or button quilting is not appropriate for this certificate. Sashiko, unless worked over at least two layers is not appropriate.

- 1 Suggestions for this item include a cushion cover, panel for a bag, cot or pram cover
- 2 This item could be traditional corded (boutis), padded (trapunto), or a modern interpretation (big stitch or contrast thread) Kantha garment repairs are not suitable for this certificate.

SMOCKING

Two articles to be submitted:

1. Sampler of tubing (gathering without dots) minimum finished size of smocked section to be 6 inches (16 cm) square. Minimum of three stitches should be used, grouped in various ways; tacking threads to be left in.
2. Article incorporating traditional or modern or both techniques of smocking

Points to be judged:

Design
Colour balance
Workmanship

Suitability of material etc
General finish

Hints

1. The finished work should be lightly mounted on suitable card, alongside names of stitches used should be indicated. This is a 'Sampler' to be used for reference and to interest others in craft. When beginning and ending on wrongside make sure that smocking covers small stitches. It is necessary to count pleats, as design in smocking must be 'centred' // \\, so that it is balanced at sides. All smocking should be elastic when gathering threads are removed.
2. Material should drape well and be easily handled, with woven design, should there be one. Spotted material is a bad choice, as often spots are unevenly printed.
Traditional choices are baby's or child's dress, a 'modern' smock for an adult, a nightdress, an elaborate 'full' sleeve set into a cuff, or a blouse, 'Setting in' smocking to yoke: When applying yoke, use a 'setting in stitch' and watch appearance of work. Everything should fit accurately and on no account must it drag.
Standard of work required (methods etc.) is that of the basic plain sewing practical certificate. Avoid flattening smocking when pressing. Steam press, very lightly, over muslin.

NOTES

SOFT FURNISHINGS

Three articles to be submitted:

1. Loose Cover for a chair.
2. Pair of Curtains with attached lining.
3. Candidate's own choice, other than above.

Points to be judged:

Suitability of material	Workmanship
Matching of pattern and placing of material	General finish

Hints

1. Display cover on chair. Material, of a firmly woven non fraying type, pattern on back and seat should be centred. If plain material is used, warp threads in back and seat should be aligned. Piping to match, or contrast, would give a smart finish. Also box pleating, knife pleating, or a frill would add interest, depending on material.
2. Pattern should be continuous when curtains are closed. Sew hem first then finish top. Use covered weights if needed and little pockets at top for ties. Mitre bottom corners.
3. Often a box cover, 'boxed' cushion, padded strip for window seat, garden lounger, or cushion.

NOTES

TATTING

Two articles to be submitted:

1. A book of samples
2. Article of own choice, but **not** a collage.

To be submitted:

Chart or Index for item 1

Pattern or your working for item 2, if own design

Points to be judged:

Evenness of tension
Workmanship

Suitability of thread
General finish

Patterns must be submitted, with certificate articles.

Hints

This is a challenging -certificate, item 1 is an opportunity to build a reference guide for future work.

1. A variety of small samples, mounted on card. Samples should include working with a shuttle, with a ball and shuttle and at least one should include beads. Samples should also show working in the round, a short length of edging. Which can be attached to fabric if desired, split ring, picots. It may be interesting to explore the use of different weights of thread.
2. This could be a handkerchief with tatted edge and worked corner, a set of doilies, a table centre, a Christmas decoration of reasonable size.

Needle Tatting is acceptable.

NOTES

TOYMAKING

Three toys to be submitted:

1. Jointed toy or doll, using discs.
2. Four-legged toy (suitable washable support allowed)
3. Candidate's Own Choice, other than 1 and 2.

NOTE: Knitted toy and wooden toy are acceptable. Patterns, design and method must be submitted. All toys should be washable or at least spongeable. Crochet acceptable.

Points to be judged:

Shape	Workmanship
Appearance	Suitability of material
Suitability for purpose	

Hints

Patterns, or books containing these, must be submitted, so that size and position of limbs may be checked. N.B. Standard safety requirements for toys must be complied with at all times. Advice is available from www.tradingstandards.gov.uk

1. It is important to understand purpose of discs and how they are covered. Paws, arms, legs and head will be turned many times when examined, so make sure that they are secure. Ensure that 'shape' is true to animal chosen. It is wise to allow a few days for stuffing to settle before finally adding extra and ladder-stitching join. Avoid catching in pile when doing this! Leather, chamois or velvet make long-lasting pads. Claws and fingers should be emphasised, using embroidery stitches. Features should give expression to toy. Eyes may be made using felt and embroidery, or safety eyes used.
2. This should stand well on all four legs on a level surface.
3. If a rag doll is submitted clothes and accessories should be very well constructed and should be of a standard suitable for the basic plain sewing certificate. Wooden toy would be of pull along variety i.e. train, tractor, lorry etc. With knitted/crochet toy tension, sewing up of seams and stuffing are important.

NOTES

TRIMMINGS

Samples of 10 Braids, 10 Edgings, 4 different Buttons, 3 Cords and 4 Tassels.
From which 1 Braid and 1 Edging to be attached to a small piece of appropriate material'.

Points to be judged:

Suitability of thread/wool, cord etc.
Workmanship

Evenness of tension

Hints

This certificate can be mounted on individual cards, or in a book, and should show good lettering and presentation. Braids, edgings, buttons, cords, tassels should show a variety of cord, wool, silk threads, etc., with texture suited to purpose. Edgings could include knitting, crochet, hairpin crochet, macramé, lace fringing, and tatting, as well as edging using needle and thread i.e. needle lace.

NOTES

UPHOLSTERY

Two articles to be submitted – traditional or modern

Photographs of before and at various stages of the work must be presented.

One item must use webbing, both may if required.

Items to be considered - Upholstered stool, chair, chair with drop in seat, lid of a box or ottoman.

Points to be judged:

Suitability of material
Matching or placement of material

Workmanship
General finish

Hints

This certificate is ideal for recycling/upcycling old or tired items of furniture. Any painting/polishing/waxing or work needed to stiffen up the item or frame should be carried out prior to fitting the upholstery. Any obvious designs should be centred. Springs in good condition may be reused, but always use new webbing, foam, wadding and calico.

WHITEWORK

Three articles to be submitted: Traditional or Modern designs accepted.

1. Article in either Ayrshire, Broderie Anglaise or Mountmellick work.
2. Article to show any type of 'Cut Work' e.g. Simple Cut Work, Renaissance, Richelieu.
3. Panel or picture (suitable to show a variety of techniques) in white or ecru thread on white or ecru material with a list of techniques used e.g. Ayrshire, Broderie Anglaise, Richelieu etc.

Points to be judged:

Suitability of material
Workmanship

Design
General finish

Hints

1. As the name implies this is white fabric as a background, with stitches worked in white thread.
 - a) Ayrshire Embroidery is used for personal adornment and not for household items.
 - b) Broderie Anglaise may be worked on household items or personal items.

Mountmellick work is shown on household items, bedcovers, mats, etc. Background material is heavier than that used in a) or b).

All of above require careful selection of materials and thread in traditional weights and articles should be selected with care.

2. Simple cut work should have a crisp edge, with careful cutting to the edge, with no fringe or stray threads showing. Renaissance and Richelieu, although fragile to look at, the open work bars and picots should be well worked with a firm edge to withstand frequent use and laundering. Ecru is acceptable here.
3. Panel/picture allows candidates scope to experiment with modern methods. It is possible to have many weights and textures, in white or ecru thread, and the background would be chosen accordingly. 1 and 2 are traditional, 3 is contemporary or experimental. Acceptable are any of the above techniques, also painting with thread, modern needle weaving and needle lace.

NOTES

DEMONSTRATORS' CERTIFICATE

Each candidate will be asked to give a demonstration in the presence of judges and SWI members. The Demonstration would last 45 minutes and this would include setting up and clearing away. Each candidate will be asked to submit a written work schedule before the certificate.

Hints

A title should be chosen and the subject expanded.

Candidates should aim at interesting the members in the craft, so that they may desire to have a course of lessons after seeing the demonstration.

Points which will be taken into consideration:

- Power of interesting the audience in the craft
- Arrangement of different sections of demonstration
- Ability to demonstrate and explain in a simple and clear manner
- Method of delivery
- Knowledge of materials and tools, choice, costs etc.
- Knowledge of actual workmanship, ability to explain methods, defects to be avoided, etc

Institute members are invited to watch the demonstrations and act as audience.

DICTION

Audibility is most important. A monotonous tone of voice and the repetition of the same word or phrase should be avoided.

STAGE PRESENCE

Be confident, with an outgoing approach. Include the audience in all aspects of your Demonstration. Explain what you are doing and why.

CHECK LIST

- Does the Demonstration give pleasure?
- Have you got an interesting or new approach?

COMMON FAULTS

- Dropping voice at the end of a sentence, so losing information.
- Getting too involved in work, so shutting out the audience visually and audibly.
- Addressing the 'front row' only and forgetting to smile.
- Turning away while talking, so breaking 'eye contact'

JUDGES CERTIFICATE

These certificates are open to members who are experienced craftswomen and will be held nationally, at least once during a Triennium.

Before applying for a Handcrafts Judge's certificate candidates are required to hold a minimum of three of **any** of the subjects allowed with Honours or First Class Passes of 85% or over. To gain a judges bar the candidate may only sit certificates she holds proficiency certificates in. Discontinued or merged certificates will still be valid for this application. Please contact SWI headquarters with any queries.

Candidates can apply for and sit a maximum of 4 subjects, each time these certificates are held.

Candidates will be asked to judge two sections in each chosen craft. Each section will be composed of a number of articles (usually 4) to be judged and marked within a time limit.

i.e. eight articles (2 sections of 4 articles each) must each be given a mark out of 20 using the SWI System with a short written comment justifying the marks deducted. Breakdown is as follows –

Design and Use of Colour	4
Suitability of Materials	3
Workmanship Techniques, Finish & Presentation	10
Degree of Difficulty	3

A total of 50 minutes is allowed to judge both sections of the certificate. There will also be a short oral assessment when the candidate's marking is discussed with the National Judge.

A Judge's Bar is awarded when three first class passes have been gained.

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Updated 2021
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