CITY & GUILDS NPTC LEVEL 2 AWARD IN BRANCH REMOVAL AND CROWN BREAKDOWN USING A CHAINSAW



QAN 600/6303/8

QUALIFICATION GUIDANCE

Independently Assessed

Essential Qualification Information

Not to be used by the Candidate during Assessment

You will require some of this information to accurately complete the Record of Assessment (ROA)

Qualification Group No	0 0 2 0	Forestry & Arboriculture Level 2
Qualification Programme No	0 0 2 0 - 0 5	Award In Branch Removal and Crown Breakdown using a Chainsaw
Unit(s)	2 0 4	Remove branches and breakdown of crowns using a chainsaw
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	2 0 4	GLH 15 (Credit Value 2)
Total Qualification Time		20 Hours
Recommended Assessment Duration		2.0 – 3.0 hours per Candidate
Pre-Requisite Units	2 0 1	Carry out maintenance of chainsaw and cutting system Cross-cut timber using a chainsaw

Version and date	Change detail	Section
1.2 November 2017	Added TQT details	Qualification at a glance, Structure
		Throughout

City and Guilds NPTC Level 2 Award in Branch Removal and Crown Breakdown using a Chainsaw

Qualification guidance

Introduction

The scheme will be administered by City & Guilds

City & Guilds will:

Publish - Scheme regulations - Qualification guidance - Training material - Trainers support material Approve centres to co-ordinate and administer the scheme Set standards for the training of verifiers and assessors Recruit, train and deploy verifiers Manage verification Issue certificates to successful Candidates

The Qualification

The qualification will be awarded to candidates who achieve the required level of competence in the units to which their certificate relates.

Instruction

Attendance at a course of instruction is not a pre-requisite for an application for an assessment but potential Candidates are strongly advised to ensure that they are up to the standards that will be expected of them when they are assessed.

Total Qualification Time

Total Qualification Time (TQT) is the total amount of time, in hours, expected to be spent by a Learner to achieve a qualification. It includes both guided learning hours (which are listed separately) and hours spent in preparation, study and assessment.

Access to Assessment

Assessment centres will be responsible for arranging assessment on behalf of the Candidate.

The minimum age limit for Candidates taking Certificates of Competence is 16 years. There is no upper age limit.

The assessment is one Mandatory unit:

Unit 204

- Remove branches and breakdown of crowns using a chainsaw
 - Outcomes: 1. Be able to work safely (1) (Criteria 1.1 – 1.5)
 - Be able to remove branches and breakdown crowns using a chainsaw (2) (Criteria 2.1 2.5)
 - Know relevant health and safety legislation and industry good practice (3) (Criteria 3.1 3.5)
 - 4. Know how to remove branches and breakdown crowns using a chainsaw (4) (Criteria 4.1 4.9)

Candidates must successfully achieve all assessment activities in the above unit.

Quality Assurance

Verification is a process of monitoring assessment; it is an essential check to confirm that the assessment procedures are being carried out in the way City & Guilds has laid down. The overall aim of verification is to establish a system of quality assurance that is acceptable in terms of both credibility and cost effectiveness.

Approved Assessors will be subject to a regular visit by the verifier at a time when assessments are being undertaken.

A selection of assessment reports completed by the Assessor will be evaluated by a City & Guilds approved verifier.

Compliance with the verification requirements is a pre-requisite for Assessors remaining on the list of approved Assessors.

After assessment has been completed the Qualification Guidance is to be forwarded to the centre and retained by the centre until after the annual centre visit has taken place by a Quality Systems Consultant (QSC).

Performance Evaluation

The result of each assessment activity is evaluated against the following criteria:

- M = Met Meets or exceeds the assessment criteria by displaying a level of practical performance and/or underpinning knowledge. If the Criterion has been MET, a tick ☑ is to be put in the box provided in the left-hand column.
- NM = Not Met Does not satisfy the requirements of the assessment criteria, being unable to perform the practical task satisfactorily or safely or being deficient in underpinning knowledge. If the Criterion is NOT MET, a cross ⊠ is to be put in the box provided in the left-hand column.

Appeals and Equal Opportunities

Centres must have their own auditable, appeals procedures. If a Candidate is not satisfied with the examination conditions or a Candidate feels the opportunity for examination is being denied, the Centre Manager should, in the first instance, address the problem. If, however the problem cannot be resolved, City & Guilds will arbitrate and an external verifier may be approached to offer independent advice. All appeals must be clearly documented by the Centre Manager and made available to the external verifier or City & Guilds if advice is required.

Should occasions arise when centres are not satisfied with any aspect of the external verification process, they should contact Verification Services at City & Guilds.

Access to the qualification is open to all, irrespective of gender, race, creed, age or special needs. The Centre Manager should ensure that no learner is subjected to unfair discrimination on any grounds in relation to access to assessment and to the fairness of the assessment. QCA requires City & Guilds to monitor centres to check whether equal opportunities policies are being adhered to.

Additional Information

May be sought from the relevant manufacturer's operator manuals or any other appropriate training or safety publication.

Questions should be related to the background or employment aspirations of the candidate and, where possible, product labels used should be representative of products typically used in that sector or industry.

Candidates who undertake this assessment and have met the requirements are reminded of their legal obligation to receive/undertake appropriate additional training in the use of any equipment that differs from that used during the assessment, but which they are nevertheless qualified to use.

Assessment Guidance for the Assessor

This qualification can only be assessed by an Assessor who is suitably qualified and meets the requirements of the awarding body. The Assessor must be independent **and cannot have been involved with the training of the Candidate**. Please see City & Guilds Centre Manual for guidance.

The Candidate is to be notified of the place and time of assessment and when formal assessment commences and ceases.

Assessors are reminded that assessment is a formal process and that assessment must be carried out using this Qualification Guidance. All relevant assessment criteria must be assessed against the criterion as specified in the Qualification Guidance. Assessment will be carried out by direct observation and by oral questioning of the Candidate. Where a specific number of responses are required theses may include other suitable answers not specified if they are deemed to be correct by the Assessor. The performance of the Candidate is to be recorded on the Qualification Guidance as directed by completing the tick boxes. Space has been provided on the Qualification Guidance for the person assessing to record relevant information which can be utilised to provide feedback to the Candidate. After assessment has been completed the Qualification Guidance document is to be retained by the assessor and provided if required by a Quality Systems consultant (QSC).

Assessment Guidance for Candidate

A list of registered assessment centres is available from City & Guilds Land Based Services. (www.nptc.org.uk)

Assessment is a process by which it is confirmed that the candidate is competent in the unit(s) within the award to which the assessment relates. It is the process of collecting evidence about his/her capabilities and judging whether that evidence is sufficient to attribute competence.

The Candidate must be registered through the City & Guilds approved assessment centre for this qualification prior to the assessment.

The results of the assessment will be recorded on the Record of Assessment form (ROA).

The qualification guidance contains criteria relating to:

- Observation of practical performance
- Assessment of underpinning knowledge

Assessment and Site Requirements

Trees may be conifer or broadleaved. Trees between 200mm and 380mm: minimum 1, maximum 2 All branches to be removed Sections of stem (length/diameter in accordance with specification): minimum 2, maximum 6 Guide bar as appropriate to timber diameter

Trees over 560mm: minimum 1, maximum 2 Open spreading crowns with branches and/or stem under tension and compression Branches/limbs removal: minimum 20, maximum 30 Sections of stem (length/diameter in accordance with specification): minimum 2, maximum 6 A winch is to be used to restrain or turn a stem Guide bar as appropriate to timber diameter

Chainsaw Safe Practice

At all times during the assessment, equipment must be used in accordance with industry good practice, whatever the task being carried out.

- 1. Assessors must hold a current 'First Aid at Work' Certificate.
- 2. All chainsaws used in assessments must comply with relevant Arboriculture and Forestry Advisory Group (AFAG) guidance and HSE Chainsaws at Work INDG317(rev1), in terms of safety features, and be a model and size suited to the task(s) required.
- Recommended guide bar lengths should be observed, although variations may be accepted at the discretion of the assessor where this is appropriate to the task.
- 5. Candidates should be familiar with the machinery, equipment and tools that they are going to use.
- 6. During chainsaw based assessments a spare working chainsaw must be available.
- 7. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn at all times by both the candidate and the assessor. All PPE used must comply with relevant AFAG guidance, industry good practice, Health and Safety Executive publications and current legal requirements in terms of specification and use.
- 8. A First Aid kit meeting current regulations, of the appropriate size for the number of persons on site, must be available, along with appropriate fire fighting and suitable welfare facilities e.g. hand cleansing wipes.
- 9. The use of personal first aid kits must be line with current industry good practice.
- 10. The assessor must ensure a site specific risk assessment has been carried out, sufficient control measures implemented and appropriate emergency procedures recorded. All recorded risk assessment information should be clearly legible and accessible to candidates and completed for all locations where assessment activities are scheduled to take place.
- 11. Manual handling techniques must comply with current legislation and industry good practice.
- 12. Any necessary permission must have been granted, and notifications made as appropriate.
- 13. All equipment being used for this assessment must comply with relevant legislative requirements.
- 14. Information may be sought from the relevant operator manuals or any other appropriate training or safety publication.
- 15. The current regulations for transport, handling and storage of fuel and oils must be complied with.
- 16. Provision must be made to avoid the risk of environmental pollution.
- 17. It is the responsibility of the assessor and the candidate to ensure that any additional requirements and provisions are met as relevant to this qualification.
- 18. At all times during the assessment, candidates must act in a way so as not to endanger themselves, the assessor or any other person or equipment. Work must be carried out to achieve the requirements of the assessment criteria in accordance with all relevant and current legislation and good practice guidance.
- 19. If required, relevant records must be accurately kept.
- 20. Appropriate steps should be taken to maintain effective teamwork in respect of other persons on site during the assessment.
- 21. Any appropriate item of machinery complying with current legal requirements is acceptable for the assessment, provided it is suitably equipped for **all** assessment activities to be carried out.
- 22. All equipment being used for this assessment must comply with the relevant requirements of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998.
- 23. A breach of Health and Safety that puts any person at risk during the assessment process will result in the assessment being terminated and the Candidate not meeting the required standard.

This may include taking steps to ensure effective communication and safety precautions.

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Candidate	Candidate AName:Candidate BName:			Da	te:	Start Time:	Dura	ation:				
Candidate			Date:		Start Time:	Duration:						
Candidate	C	Name:		Da	te:	: Start Time: Duration			ו:			
Candidate	D	Name:		Da	te:	Start Time:	Dura	atior	ו:			
CRITERIA NUMBER		ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	ASSESSOR GUIDANCE			SSESSMENT ACTIVITIES		C. A	AND B	IDA [.]	TE D	
1.1 1	risk wor	ntify the hazards and s associated with the king area and the bosed work	Three hazards and risks w the working area Three hazards and risks w the proposed work		Identify hazards (anyl harm) and risks (who relevant to: • the work area • the work to be d	thing with the potential to cau might be harmed and how), one Met√ Not N						
3.2 3	plar	line the emergency ning and procedures vant to the working a	Five emergency procedure	es	 include: location name grid reference designated mee site location nam nearest access street name/dist type of access (wheel drive) suitable helicopt phone number of location of neare hospital and pho works manager 	ne point rict public road/light vehicles, fou er landing area of nearest doctor est accident and emergency one number						
3.1 3	safe	line the key health and ty legislation and, ıstry good practice	Two points Health and Safety at Work Act 1974		good practice listed b Health and Safety at general duties fo maintain safe pla	Work Act (HSWA) – or employers and employees	у					
			Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 19 (PUWER 98)		 other Provision and Use of (PUWER) – operators adequ equipment fit for other 	•	IS					
			One purpose of Arboriculture Forestry Advisory Group (AFAG)		information	/ Advisory Group (AFAG) Istrial good practice						
						Met ✓ Not M	/let X					
3.4 3 Continued	env	cribe how ironmental damage can ninimised	One cause		Environmental damag incorrect storage defective machin poor work practi other	hery						

CRITERIA NUMBER	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	ASSESSOR GUIDANCE	ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES	C.	AND B	IDA C	TE D
Cont 3.4 3		One prevention	Environmental damage may be prevented by: • following principles of industry good practice • good housekeeping • appropriately trained operators • other				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
3.3 3	Describe how to use and maintain tools, equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE)	Describe two Equipment not to include the candidates chainsaw or maintenance tools	Uses of equipment may include: lifting rolling protect the operator other 				
			Maintenance of tools and equipment and PPE may include: cleaning inspection other				
	Use appropriate tools,	Assessor to observe and risk	Met ✓ Not Met X				
1.2	equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE)	assess	 All tools, equipment and Personal Protective Equipment are used in line with industry good practice e.g. AFAG/INDG 				
1	Original and any start should	A	Met ✓ Not Met X				
2.1 2	Carry out pre-start checks and setting of the machine for use	Assessor to observe	 Pre start checks and setting of the machine to include: chain tension and condition checked for safe and effective use safety features checked for condition and function external nuts and bolts checked for security chainsaw contains sufficient fuel and chain oil for operations 				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
2.2	Demonstrate safe starting of the chainsaw	Assessor to observe If any of the post start checks identify the chainsaw as unfit for use, it must not be used for the assessment	 The safe starting procedure of a chainsaw should include: ensuring appropriate safe working distances from both fuel and other operators is maintained correct PPE worn remove guidebar cover place saw on ground, where appropriate, ensuring no debris can catch the chain secure rear handle controls set as recommended by the manufacturer ensure chain brake set according to manufacturer's recommendations adopt safe stance find compression pulling starter cord sharply and firmly choke released when engine fires half throttle released when engine runs Post starting checks of a chainsaw should include: ensuring the saw chain stops when the engine revs return to idle ensuring the chain brake functions according to the manufacturer's specification 				
			 ensuring the stop switch works correctly ensuring lubrication to the guide bar and chain is working properly Met ✓ Not Met X 				
	Describe how to identify	Candidate to describe all	Identification of tension and compression in branches		⊢	⊢	╞
4.2 4	tension and compression in branches		may be completed: • visually • manually Met ✓ Not Met X				

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CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT	ASSESSOR	ASSESSMENT	С	AND		
NUMBER	CRITERIA	GUIDANCE	ACTIVITIES	Α	В	С	D
4.3	Outline the implications on choice of severing method	Two implications	Implications on choice of severing method may include:				
4.5	choice of sevening method		• safe				
4			effective				
-			productive				
			• other				
			 Met ✓ Not Met X				
	Describe how to deal with	One method	Small diameter timber under severe tension/				\vdash
4.4	small diameter timber		compression is dealt with:				
	under severe		using multiple tension cuts				
4	tension/compression		using multiple compression cuts				
-			• other				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
	State how and when to	Two how	How:				
4.8	deal with trapped branches	Two when	• lever				
4			sever, using appropriate method				
4			When:				
			as they arise				
			when it is safe				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
4.1	Describe how the method of removing branches will	Two methods	Method of removing branches in conifers and broadleaves may include:				
4.1	vary with tree species,		 snedding 				
4	form and condition		delimbing				
4			 other 				
		Two differences					
			Differences in conifers and broadleaves may include:				
			 remove the whole branch 				
			 remove the whole branch remove branch in sections 				
			 other 				
			• other				
			 Met ✓ Not Met X				
	Describe process for	State one	The process for removing branches/limbs to include:				⊢
4.6	removing branches/limbs		 roll the tree 				
	above shoulder height		• use of a pole saw				
4			• other				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
_	Work in a way which	Assessor to observe	all activities must be completed in a way which				1
1.3	maintains health and safety and is consistent		protects the operator and those around him or her				
	with relevant legislation		Met ✓ Not Met X	\square			
1	and industry good practice						
	Carry out work to minimise	Assessor to observe	it is ensured that any possible environmental				1
1.4	environmental damage		damage is minimised at all times during branch				1
			removal activities				

CRITERIA NUMBER	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	ASSESSOR GUIDANCE	ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES	C. A	AND B	TE D
	Remove branches from	Trees may be conifer or	Branch removal techniques should account for:			
2.3	felled trees using a recognised method	broadleaved.	 correct stance and support of the saw on tree or right leg 			
2	U U	Trees between 200mm and	 left thumb around the front handle 			
2		380mm: minimum 1, maximum 2	 neither handle released while the chain is moving 			
		All branches to be removed	apply chain brake if reaching across bar			
		Trees over 560mm: minimum	 apply chain brake when negotiating obstacles 			
		1, maximum 2 Open spreading crowns with branches and/or stem under	 not walking when the saw is on the same side of the tree as the operator without applying the chainbrake 			
		tension and compression	• avoid working on lower side of tree on side slopes			
		Branches/limbs removal: minimum 20, maximum 30 A hand operated winch must	• operator not reaching too far round with saw on far side of tree			
		be used to restrain or turn a	operator not cutting towards legs or body			
		stem	 avoiding the use of the tip of guidebar avoiding overreaching with chainsaw 			
			 not straddling the stem 			
			 compression and tension forces assessed and 			
			appropriate cuts used			
			 using an under-sweep technique if applicable 			
			 winch used as appropriate to restrain stem 			
			Choice of work method should account for:			
			 a systematic sequence of cuts and position of the saw to remove branches as appropriate for the branching habit 			
			the top cut at an appropriate diameter			
			 top removed with a safe method of cutting 			
			Met ✓ Not Met X			
2.4	Turn tree and remove under branches using	A hand operated winch must be used to restrain or turn a	Tree turned and under branches removed taking account of:			
2.4	appropriate aid tools and method(s) where appropriate	stem over 560mm	 the stem turned using appropriate aid tools/ techniques 			
_	αρριοριιαι ο		 using the stem for protection when removing remaining branches as appropriate using a safe and effective method to sever 			
			 using a safe and effective method to sever remaining branches 			
			all branches being removed flush with the stem			
			Met ✔ Not Met X			
4.5	State how and when to use winches to assist with the	State all	How to use a winch to assist with snedding/de-limbing may include:			
_	snedding/de-limbing of		select direction			
4	trees		identify anchor points			
			 select appropriate equipment 			
			assemble winching system			
			operate winching system			
			When to use a winch to assist with snedding may include:			
			 restrain roll 			
			move			
		Seven required, first five are to be stated	Factors and Precautions to consider when winching should include:			
			capacity of the winch			
			communication method between operators			
			security of anchor points			
			• compatibility of components/strength loss of equipment in certain configurations			
			serviceability and inspection of all components			
			PPE required for winching operations			
			 competency of operators roles and responsibilities understood by all parties 			
			 roles and responsibilities understood by all parties danger zones including during off-set winching 			
				1 1 1	I	\square

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CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT	ASSESSOR	ASSESSMENT	C	AND	IDA ⁻	ΓE
NUMBER	CRITERIA	GUIDANCE	ACTIVITIES	Α	В	С	D
4.7	Explain the advantages of leaving a clean stem after	Three advantages	Advantages of a clean stem may include:				
4./	de-branching		 reducing possible injury to the person moving the timber 				
4			• reduce friction/collecting debris when pulling timber along the ground				
			 prevent damage to other trees when extracting timber 				
			 allowing timber to easily enter machines (e.g. chipper, peeler or saw bench) 				
			• easier stacking or loading				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
	State how to deal with	State two	Brash and branches may be dealt with by:				
4.9	brash and branches after snedding/de-limbing		chipping				
	shedding/de-imbing		stacking				
4			windrowing				
			• baling				
			• other				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
	Clean and tidy working		A clean and tidy working area should be left ensuring:				
2.5	area		 no branches are left on fences, paths, roads, timber stacks, young trees etc or in ditches, ponds, 			_	
2			waterways etc				
			brash left as per site specification				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
3.5	Describe the correct methods for disposing	Two methods	Disposal of waste from maintenance activities may include:				
	waste		 use of designated waste/recycle bins 				
3			 waste oils placed in approved containers for disposal 				
			• other				
			 Met ✓ Not Met X				
1.5	Dispose of waste safely in line with legislation	Assessor to observe	All waste produced from maintenance activities is disposed of in line with legislation, good practice and/or site requirements				
1			Met ✓ Not Met X				

Candidate A	Candidate has met all of the assessment criteria	Tick ✓	The Candidate has not met all of the assessment criteria; (<i>state reason(s))</i>	Tick ✓						
	Signed: E	Date:								
Candidate B	Candidate has met all of the assessment criteria	Tick ✓	The Candidate has not met all of the assessment criteria; (<i>state reason(s))</i>	Tick ✓						
	Signed: C	Date:								
Candidate C	Candidate has met all of the assessment criteria	Tick ✓	The Candidate has not met all of the assessment criteria; (state reason(s))	Tick ✓						
	Signed: C	Date:								
Candidate D	Candidate has met all of the assessment criteria	Tick ✓	The Candidate has not met all of the assessment criteria; (state reason(s))	Tick ✓						
	Signed:	Date:		1						
Foi (Ini	For use by Internal Verifier ONLY if the assessment process was internally verified (Internal Verifier to complete ONE of the boxes below)									

I observed an assessment process taking place and I am satisfied that the assessment was conducted in line with the qualification requirements and that the judgement of the Assessor was appropriate.	Tick ✓
I observed an assessment process taking place. The following were noted as areas of concern.	Tick ✓
Signed: Date:	

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