

## Skill Section

### Preface

Participants, instructors and assessors should take note of the conditions as laid down in the Award Handbook.

This programme is for guidance and is not to be taken as a rigid syllabus. To indicate the content appropriate to young people with varying degrees of knowledge and experience, it is arranged under three headings: **'For beginners'**, **'For those with some knowledge'** and **'For the more advanced'**, and participants are free to select as broad or as restricted an aspect of this skill as they wish, but appropriate social and cultural aspects are to be covered.

## CRAFTS AND TECHNOLOGY

## BASKET MAKING (CANEWORK)

### Introduction

This activity involves the development of a skill through practical application. An understanding of the historical, social and cultural aspects should be developed where appropriate. Local museums and basket makers may be able to help with research and might inspire participants to create their own designs, especially at the more advanced stages. The programme may be undertaken either by a group or on an individual basis.

Before drawing up a specific programme of activity based on the following guidelines, participants should consider joining an appropriate class or group where expert advice and support will be available to them.

**Due regard should always be given to safe working practices. Participants should be instructed in the safe use of materials together with the safety precautions required when using tools and equipment. Precautions should be taken when working with substances requiring face masks and adequate ventilation.**

**For Assessment:** evidence of individual progress, sustained interest and commitment of genuine leisure time should be shown over the required period. This may take the form of sketchbooks, studies, working drawings, photographic records and finished articles. Group activities are to be assessed with regard to each individual's contribution to planning, execution and completion.

### For beginners

Participants should:

- 1 At all levels, develop their knowledge of:
  - a) the history of Basket Making
  - b) tools and equipment
  - c) a variety of techniques for making baskets, e.g. weaving, plaiting, coiling, etc.
  - d) materials used in basket making; how they are harvested and prepared
- 2 Study the different uses for basket making techniques, e.g. carrying, storage, building, decoration, etc. This information should be compiled in a notebook together with illustrations, photographs and sketches.
- 3 Make at least four of the following articles: set of table mats, plant pot holder, wastepaper, round bowl/ dish, shallow tray/ platter or a shopping basket. Any of the following materials can be used, but wooden bases should be used for no more than three items:

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cane, willow, hedgerow and garden prunings, rush, leaves/grasses, straw, man made materials can be used, but wooden bases should be used for no more than three items: cane, willow, hedgerow and garden prunings, rush, leaves/grasses, straw, man-made materials such as paper, cardboard, plastics, wire, yarns etc.

### For those with some knowledge

Participants should:

- 4 Continue to add information on designs and visits to exhibitions, museums etc. to their notebook.
- 5 Have made at least three of the articles in the list in no. 3 above. In addition they should make at least four of the following in no less than two materials: hanging basket, round lidded basket, oval shopping basket, basket with two side handles, basket with square oblong base or an item of their choice. No more than two items may have a wooden base.

### For the more advanced

Participants should:

- 6 Be creative in designing their own items, with particular emphasis on the appropriate choice of material, use of basic and advanced techniques and finishes.
- 7 Have made at least six items from the previous lists of suggestions. In addition, make at least three of the following items, of which only one may have a wooden base:
  - a) large storage basket with lid
  - b) square or oblong shopping basket
  - c) nest of three baskets
  - d) one item which uses basket making techniques but is not a basket, e.g. hat, ball, 3 dimensional sculpture
  - e) two items of their choice and design, one of which should incorporate natural materials from the hedgerow or garden and one using recycled man made materials
- 8 If possible, join a basket-making group and exhibit their work; e.g. at a craft fair or horticultural show.
- 9 Present photographs or sketches of all work undertaken in the notebook for assessment.