



CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT IN SPINNING SYLLABUS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In setting out the syllabus it was intended to allow candidates complete freedom of interpretation within the requirements of the syllabus and any stated criteria. The purpose of the assessment is to judge how well the candidate has fulfilled the requirements of the syllabus in the light of her/his interpretation.

This syllabus should be read and used in conjunction with the CoA Handbook.

There is a separate Resource List which is regularly reviewed and updated as required.

Candidates must show evidence of successful practice and study of spinning, a broad knowledge and appreciation of fibres, and an understanding of the characteristics of those fibres sufficient to produce a variety of yarns and threads appropriate for a range of textiles. These may be suitable for use in weaving, knitting, crocheting or any other yarn craft. You must show a sound working knowledge of the equipment used in the production of a handspun yarn.

Craftsmanship, design ability, record-keeping, achievement, and presentation will also be taken into consideration in the final assessment. The work submitted for assessment should include a portfolio of samples and a project piece; the requirements for both are set out below.

Neither the name of the candidate nor any identity-revealing photograph may be shown in any of the submitted work.

2.0 PORTFOLIO OF SAMPLES

Preliminary work: Before attempting to spin a full-sized sample you are advised to experiment with your fibres and to make small trial samples. These should be included in your portfolio as evidence of study and practice. You should also include samples which did not meet your intended standards, as these will be useful evidence of progress. It is important to date this work. Make sure that the final samples are clearly identified as such. **Candidates who experiment with and try out different materials before making their portfolio samples will have a fuller experience and emerge with wider knowledge and skills than those who do not do this.**

2.1 PART 1

You must produce a range of yarns in various thicknesses, each yarn appropriate for the fibre you are spinning and for the use to which it will be put. A variety of plies should be shown. At least one skein (hank) should be finished as a singles yarn. Each skein must be at least 100 metres in length. You must make a swatch to accompany each skein, using a technique appropriate to the yarn.

Skeins of each of the following fibres must be spun:

WOOL: At least four different types of raw fleece from sheep must be used. You can consult the British Wool Marketing Board's publication 'British Sheep & Wool', ISBN 978-0-904969-10-8, available from www.britishwool.org.uk, for details of which sheep breeds fall into the following categories. This is a guide to help you to decide which fleeces to use and is not intended to restrict your choice. Non-UK sheep breeds may also be used providing that the wool type falls into the given categories – it is your understanding of the characteristics of the fibre and its suitability for a given project that is important, and not the specific breed.

- **Short wool** – staple length up to 7.5cm (3 inches)
- **Lustre long wool** – staple length from 15cm (6 inches) upwards
- **Mountain or Hill**
- **One other breed or x-breed (cross-breed)** which does not fit any of the categories above

The raw fleece should be scoured clean before spinning. It should be carded, combed or otherwise prepared for spinning as appropriate to the type of fleece. The fleece should be spun woollen or worsted as is appropriate to the type of fleece. You may not use tops or other commercially prepared fleece.

COTTON: Fibres can be either raw cotton or prepared cotton tops and spun in the method most acceptable to you.

FLAX: This must include flax line spun from a strick. Describe fully the method of preparation.

SILK: You may use fibres in any form.

TWO OTHER FIBRES: Choose two fibres, other than wool, cotton, flax and silk, which may be natural or man-made.

You must produce nine skeins of 100 metres or more, continuous length (no knots), together with a swatch of each yarn.

2.2 PART 2

You must also show your ability to design and spin fancy yarns and to blend fibres. The yarns you produce should show an understanding of fibre and yarn characteristics, should illustrate your knowledge of blending on both carders and combs, as appropriate, and should explore multiple plies, fibre blending, and fancy plying techniques. Fancy yarns could include examples of slub, snarl, bouclé, knop, cloud, or tufted. You must produce six skeins of at least 10 metres in length.

Any fibre in any form may be used for your fancy yarns, with the exception of your blended samples where you must start with pure fibres and not commercial blends. No commercially-spun yarns may be used. If you have prepared your fibre from raw and/or dyed it please give brief details of your methods in your notes.

You must also make a swatch from each yarn to show how you would envisage using the yarn.

2.3 REQUIREMENTS FOR BOTH PART 1 AND PART 2

Requirements for samples:

1. All your skeins must be accompanied by full details of the method of fibre preparation or details of the commercial preparation you are starting from and any further preparation undertaken before spinning.
2. You must give the reason for your choice of fibre and suggested uses for the yarn.
3. You should not present any yarns spun in the grease; all raw fleece should be scoured before spinning.
4. You should include a sample of the fibre from which the yarn was spun.
5. You should include a swatch of the envisaged fabric, appropriately finished.
6. Swatches of yarns in Part 1 should measure approximately six inches by eight inches (15 cm x 20 cm) while swatches of yarns in Part 2 may be smaller but should be at least three inches by four inches (7.5 cm x 10 cm).
7. Swatches must be mounted by securing on one edge only for the assessment presentation. The assessor should be able to handle the sample and examine the back.
8. Skeins should be presented so that the assessor can examine all the yarn and should be labelled so that the accompanying notes can easily be identified.

You must make clear notes about the production of your samples.

It is useful to set each sample's notes out in the same manner and ensure that the assessor can easily relate the notes to the sample. For each sample your notes must include:

1. Your original purpose or intention for the sample;
2. Fibre(s) used and preparation method;
3. Equipment used;
4. Measurement of singles and plied yarn diameters (given as *yarns per inch/centimetre [ypi/ypc] and/or as an appropriate count);
5. Direction of twist (given as S – anticlockwise or Z – clockwise);
6. Amount of twist (given as twists per inch/centimetre [tpi/tpc] or angle of twist);
7. Sample(s) of the plied yarn and/or single(s), mounted with the swatch, or with your notes and referenced so that the assessor can find them;
8. Details of finishing;
9. Notes on fancy yarns should include design inspiration, sketches, colour swatches and any other evidence of your design process;
10. Your comments on the sample. Evaluate what you have done.

*Wraps per inch/cm may be a more familiar term to you – it means the same.

Requirements

1. At least one of your wool skeins must be spun in a true woollen technique and one in a true worsted technique. You must show that you understand which fibres are suitable for each technique, how to prepare them for spinning, and how to use the yarns to their best advantage.
2. You must show that you understand how to measure yarn diameter and amount of twist, and how this affects the end use of your yarn.
3. You must show that you understand and can carry out the appropriate finishing processes for each type of yarn and fabric that you make.
4. You are encouraged to create a wide range of yarns in thicknesses and styles suitable for creating a variety of textiles.
5. You must include at least one yarn finished as a single in your portfolio.
6. Wherever possible you are encouraged to work with raw fibres rather than prepared fibres or tops. In some cases it is unavoidable; for instance, if you chose camel as one of your other fibres, there is little or no raw camel down available in this country at present, and it is much more readily available as prepared top. The other main exception would be flax; it requires a specialist set of tools to prepare line flax (strick), if you have these tools all well and good, but if not it is perfectly acceptable to buy ready prepared stricks of flax.

3.0 PROJECT PIECE

You will be required to design and execute a project piece of your own choice demonstrating the use of as many relevant techniques as you wish and which you consider will enhance the work. The piece should be a finished article such as a garment, shawl, jumper or any other item. The spun yarn can be woven, knitted, crocheted or used in any other way to create the piece. You should design yarn(s) that is/are suitable for and which will enhance the final piece. If you submit more than one item the pieces must relate and match to form a set.

You must include a written description of all stages of the design development, preparation and spinning of the fibre(s) used, showing an understanding of the fibre and its suitability for the finished piece. Your notes should include design sources and include the samples you made leading up to the decision for your final choice. Ensure all your records are dated. You should describe the finishing process of both yarn and fabric, such as washing, setting, blocking and/or pressing as is relevant to your piece.

You may have your yarn made up into the finished piece by someone else so long as you make this clear in your notes.

Your spinning is the principal focus of the assessment.

4.0 CHECK LIST FOR PORTFOLIO

	Preliminary Samples	Final Sample(s)
Part 1 - FIBRES		
WOOL		
Short wool		
Lustre long wool		
Mountain and hill		
Other breed or x-breed		
COTTON		
FLAX		
SILK		
OWN CHOICE 1		
OWN CHOICE 2		
Part 2 - FANCY YARNS		
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
Ensure that the above includes: Worsted spun yarn Woollen spun yarn Singles yarn Multiple plies		

USEFUL ADDRESSES

CoA Co-ordinator:

certificate@wsd.org.uk

Heather Seddon, 15 Asby Road, Asby, Workington, Cumbria CA14 4RR
01946 861515

AGWSD website: www.wsd.org.uk

Association Web Information Point: details from your Guild secretary

OTHER CoA DOCUMENTS THAT YOU WILL NEED

- **HANDBOOK**
- **REGISTRATION FORM**

This can be downloaded from the AGWSD website or the Association Web Information Point or can be requested from the Co-ordinator.

- **RESOURCE LIST**
- **LIST OF MENTORS**

These will be sent to you by the Co-ordinator when you have registered.