



## The Foundation Certificate in Spinning – Syllabus

This document should be read in conjunction with the 'The Foundation Certificate in Spinning' available from the organiser.

The Syllabus comprises modules 1,2,3 and 4.

The modules are to be completed in the order they are given below.

When completed, each module should be sent to your Mentor before attempting the next one.

The last section contains information you may find helpful.

There's nothing to prevent you from working together in a group, but the work you submit must be yours.

### Module 1 – Spinning Technology

You may send in your answers to this module by email

- 1. Including the spinning wheel briefly list as many of the different methods of hand-spinning that you know**

*By asking you to list as many ways of spinning you know you are not expected to do more than list them. You are not expected to research any more methods. If for your own interest you wish to add a brief description of each, then please do, but keep it brief.*

- 2. Describe and explain how each of the two main types of spinning wheel work.**

*There are two principal designs of spinning wheel found in common use - the Single and the Double drive band wheels. In this section you are asked to describe how each type works. Imagine you are explaining to someone you know. You may wish to start by, for each type,*

- *name their parts,*
- *describe how the flyer is driven,*
- *explain how the bobbin is made to wind up the spun yarn*
- *show how being able to change the tension is helpful when spinning*
- *describe the care needed for each type of wheel on a day to day basis*

- 3. You may have noticed that some spinning wheels use a different size of driving wheel from others. What is the significance of this difference for the spinner?**

*Imagine that the driving wheel on the spinning wheel you use is twice the size that it is. How would this affect the speed you would have to treadle?*

- 4. Describe other equipment you use during your spinning activities, its care including aspects of safety of its use.**

What other equipment do you use while preparing to and spinning yarn? Provide a list and, optionally, add a brief description where you feel this will helpfully answer the question.

When you have completed this module please send it to your Mentor before moving on to module 2. Please make sure you have placed your name on the first page.

## Module 2 – The nature of fibres

You may send in your answers to this module by email

**1. While the production of wool has been the historic basis of England's past economic fortune, today spinners can choose to spin from a large range of fibres that are now available. In this section we would like you to compare, in writing accompanied with pictures as necessary, the characteristics of spinning wool, linen and one other fibre of your choice.**

*In your answer you should briefly*

- name the fibre of your choice and why you chose it
- describe the characteristic of all wool fibres that come into play when spun and to compare this with those of linen and the fibre of your choice
- show how these characteristics may determine the method by which each can be spun
- describe how fibre length can determine the method of spinning used to spin yarn.
- describe the difference between longdraw and worsted methods of spinning

**When you have completed this module please send it to your Mentor, Please make sure you have placed your name on the first page.**

**Please note. You may not start Module 3 until your submissions of Modules 1 and 2 have been marked and you have scored 8 or more marks for each one.**

## Module 3 – Spinning in practice - Longdraw

*You should prepare for the assessment by recording your progress in the form of a notebook with examples, diagrams, photographs and illustrations as appropriate. You are required to prepare and submit a skein. The notebook, examples and your skein will be the means of assessment.*

**You should complete Sections 1 and 2**

### **1 Materials**

Please describe briefly in writing with diagrams and photos as required. The:

- characteristics of wool and other fibres suitable for longdraw spinning.
- way to prepare and store wool, linen and the fibre of your choice, for spinning.
- tools and methods used to prepare fibres for spinning long-draw.
- significance of twist while spinning.
- use of Z and S twist.

## 2 Manipulation

In order to complete this section, you are required to use hand carders to prepare rolags and to use these to spin yarn. You may use a spinning wheel or a drop spindle to spin and ply your yarn. You should:

- prepare and write a plan to spin a skein using long-draw from an appropriate fleece of your choice.
- prepare the fleece for longdraw spinning.
- Follow the plan you have outlined above, to spin the wool selected using the longdraw method. *You may use either a spinning wheel or a drop spindle.*
- 2-ply the yarn produced, and make a skein of not less than 25.grams weight for submission.

**When you have completed this module please send it to your Mentor before moving on to the next module. Please make sure you have placed your name on the first page**

## Module 4 – Spinning in practice - Worsted

You should prepare for the assessment by recording your progress in the form of a notebook with examples, diagrams, photographs and illustrations as appropriate. You are required to prepare and submit a skein. The notebook, examples and your skein will be the means of assessment.

**You should complete Sections 1 and 2**

### Section 1 – Materials.

Please describe:-

- the preparation of fibres suitable for worsted spinning
- the tools and methods used to prepare fibres for worsted spinning
- the significance of twist while spinning

### Section 2 – Manipulation

Please

- prepare and write a plan to spin worsted and ply a skein from fleece of their choice.
- prepare the fleece for worsted spinning.
- spin the prepared fibre to the plan outlined above, using worsted method
- 2-ply the yarn produced, and make a skein of not less than 25 grams in weight for submission.

**When you have completed this module please send it to your Mentor. Please make sure you have placed your name on the first page**

## Questions & queries

If you are having a difficulty, then in the first case please contact your Mentor or failing that, the Organiser

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## Sources of information

If you need more information do ask around, someone in your Guild or your Mentor may have the answer you are looking for or can tell you where to look.

There are many books on spinning and your Guild may have a good library. While not implying that the books listed below are the only or the best books around, you may find them helpful.

*The Craft of Hand Spinning, Eileen Chadwick, B T Batsford 1980. ISBN 07134-1012-4.*

*The Essentials of Yarn Design, Mabel Ross, Self published 1986 ISBN 0-909507-292-13 This book is out of print and used copies are available, but at a high price. So borrowing may be an option.*

*The Complete Guide to Spinning Yarn, Brenda Gibson, Quarto Publishing, 2011. ISBN 1-4081-3939-4*

*In Sheep's Clothing, Nola Fournier & Jane Fournier, Interweave Press, 1995, ISBN 879-1-931499-38-5*

*Spinning wool. Beyond the Basics, Anne Field, Trafalgar Square, 2010. ISBN [9781570764646](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/9781570764646)*