



003.1.2:

Prep it like a Pro!



Painting & Decorating Activity Pack



City &
Guilds

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Intro.

This activity introduces learners to the **core materials used when preparing and painting surfaces** in professional decorating. Learners will explore each material, handle samples, and identify its purpose within the preparation process. This builds foundational knowledge required for safe, effective painting techniques.

Aim:

To help learners **identify and understand the function** of the materials required to prepare and paint surfaces.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the activity, learners will be able to:

- Identify each material used in surface preparation.
- Match materials to their correct purpose.
- Explain when and why each material is used.

Activity Overview

Learners rotate through **six material stations**, each containing one of the required materials:

- Aluminium oxide paper
- Silicon carbide paper
- Cellulose filler
- Ready mixed filler
- Tack cloth
- Masking tape

At each station, learners examine the material, read a short description, and complete a task card that asks them to identify its purpose and typical use.

Why this activity helps!

This hands-on exploration helps learners:

- Build confidence with real decorating materials
- Strengthen recognition and correct selection of materials
- Understand how preparation affects final paint quality
- Meet the assessment criteria through practical engagement

Student Instructions.

- Move around the classroom to each material station.
- Pick up and examine the material carefully.
- Read the information card provided.
- Complete the task card by answering:
 - What is this material called?
 - What is it used for?
 - When would you use it during surface preparation?
- Once all stations are complete, return to your seat and complete the summary sheet.

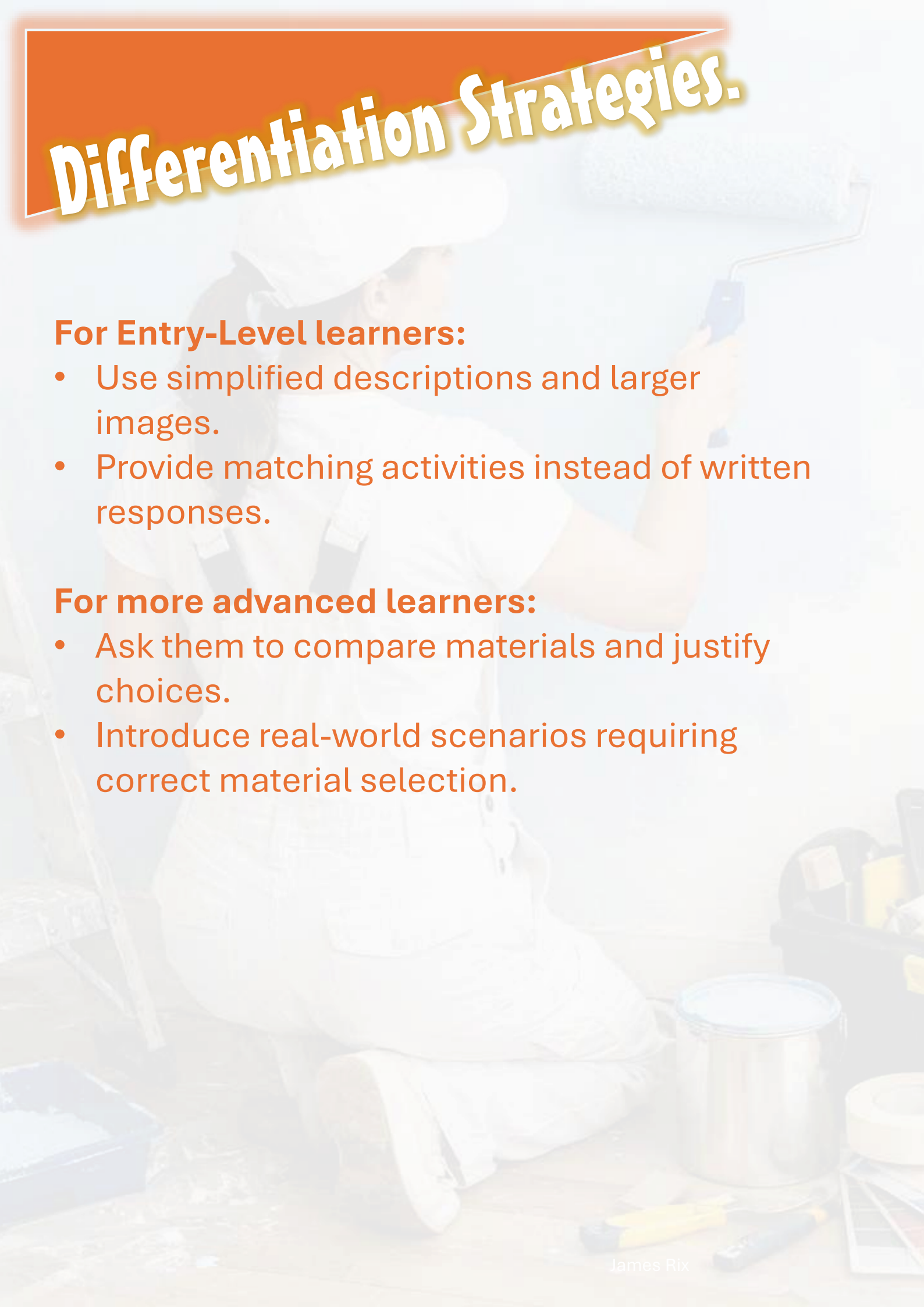
Lecturer Instructions.

- Set up six stations, each with one material and an information card.
- Demonstrate safe handling of fillers, abrasive papers, and tack cloths.
- Circulate during the activity to prompt deeper thinking.
- Facilitate a group discussion at the end:
 - Compare aluminium oxide vs. silicon carbide paper
 - Discuss why fillers differ
 - Explain why masking tape types matter
- Collect task cards and summary sheets for assessment evidence.

Scaffolding Options.

- Provide visual diagrams showing each material in use.
- Offer sentence starters such as “This material is used for...”
- Allow learners to work in pairs for confidence building.

Differentiation Strategies.

A painter in white overalls and a cap is painting a wall with a roller. The background is a light blue wall. The painter is kneeling on a wooden floor. There is a paint can and some tools on the floor next to the painter.

For Entry-Level learners:

- Use simplified descriptions and larger images.
- Provide matching activities instead of written responses.

For more advanced learners:

- Ask them to compare materials and justify choices.
- Introduce real-world scenarios requiring correct material selection.

Qual Mapping Table.

Assessment Criterion	How This Activity Meets It
1.2 Identify the materials required to prepare and paint surfaces	Learners handle, examine, and identify each material listed in the unit range.
Range: Materials	Activity directly uses: aluminium oxide paper, silicon carbide paper, cellulose filler, ready mixed fillers, tack cloth, masking tape.

Task Card 1 – Aluminium Oxide Paper

Material Name: Aluminium Oxide Paper

Description: A durable abrasive paper used for sanding wood, paint, and filler. **Your Task:**

- Write down what this material is used for during surface preparation.
- Identify whether it is coarse, medium, or fine grit.
- Describe one situation where you would choose aluminium oxide paper.

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Task Card



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Task Card 2 – Silicon Carbide Paper

Material Name: Silicon Carbide Abrasive Paper

Description: A sharp, hard abrasive suitable for fine finishing and wet sanding.

Your Task:

Explain why silicon carbide paper is used instead of aluminium oxide paper.
Identify whether this paper is best for dry or wet sanding.
Describe a surface you would prepare using this material.

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Task Card



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Task Card 3 – Cellulose Filler

Material Name: Cellulose Filler **Description:** A flexible filler used to repair small cracks and holes before painting.

Your Task:

Write down what defects cellulose filler is used to repair.

Describe how the filler should look once dry and sanded.

Identify one tool you would use to apply this filler.

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Task Card



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Task Card 4 – Ready Mixed Filler

Material Name: Ready Mixed Filler

Description: A pre-prepared filler used for quick repairs and smooth finishing.

Your Task:

Explain why decorators use ready mixed filler instead of powdered filler.

Identify the type of surfaces it can be applied to.

Describe one advantage of using ready mixed filler.

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Task Card



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Task Card 5 – Tack Cloth

Material Name: Tack Cloth **Description:** A sticky, lint-free cloth used to remove dust before painting.

Your Task:

Write down why removing dust is important before painting.
Describe when you would use a tack cloth in the preparation process.
Identify what might happen if dust is not removed.

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Task Card



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Task Card 6 – Masking Tape

Material Name: Masking Tape (including modern types such as FrogTape) **Description:** A low-tack tape used to protect surfaces and create clean paint lines.

Your Task:

Explain where masking tape is used during painting.
Identify the difference between standard masking tape and FrogTape.
Describe one area you would mask before painting.

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Task Card



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Task Record Sheet.

Student Name

Student Number

Task Number



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Image Card



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Activity

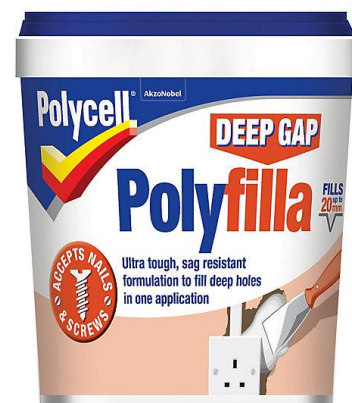
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Image Card



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Image Card



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Description Cards



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A tough abrasive paper used for sanding wood, paint and filler. Available in coarse, medium and fine grits.

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Description Cards



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A sharp, hard abrasive paper ideal for fine finishing and wet sanding. Cuts quickly and leaves a smooth finish.

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Description Cards



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A flexible filler used to repair small cracks and holes before painting. Dries smooth and can be sanded easily.

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A pre-prepared filler used for quick repairs. Ready to use straight from the tub and dries to a hard, paintable finish

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Description Cards



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A sticky, lint-free cloth used to remove dust and sanding residue before painting to ensure a flawless finish.

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Description Cards



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A low-tack tape used to protect surfaces and create clean paint lines. Modern versions like FrogTape prevent paint bleed

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Name Cards



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Aluminium Oxide
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Name Cards



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Silicon Carbide Paper

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Name Cards



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Cellulose Filler

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Activity

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Name Cards



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Ready Mixed Filler

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Name Cards



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Tack Cloth

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Name Cards



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Masking Tape

Thank You.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for using this learning resource, we hope you found it useful.

If you have any questions regarding this or any of our learning resources, please contact us on:



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