

You need to be able to plan dishes for a menu as well as know, understand and include the following:

Commodity list with quantities

This means naming all the ingredients needed to make all dishes and how much of each one e.g. grams (g), ounces (oz), millilitres (ml), etc.

Contingencies

This means stating, in the plan, what you would do to deal with a problem if something were to go wrong.

Equipment list

Naming all pieces of equipment you would need to cook the dishes, which also includes specialist equipment such as pasta machines and ice cream makers as well as saucepans, chopping boards, knives, etc.

Health, safety and hygiene

Stating in the plan, points regarding the health, safety and hygiene. The use of temperature probes to ensure foods are cooked, correctly using colour coded chopping boards or washing hands after handling raw meat are a few examples.

Quality points

These include naming any quality points to consider in the preparation, cooking and serving stage of the plan. Examples could include checking foods are in use by/best before dates, dishes are cooked to minimum temperatures, ingredients stored in correct places and correct temperature, etc.

Sequencing or dovetailing

This means you fit together the different steps and activities in logical order when planning to cook more than one dish.

Timing

You need to state realistic timings of how long each step is likely to take throughout your plan to give accurate information of how long your dishes take to complete.

Mise en place

This is all the preparation you undertake before cooking. Examples of this include weighing out ingredients, collecting equipment and washing hands.

Cooking

Throughout your plan, you will need to state how you ensure food is cooked correctly, e.g. chicken is white in the middle, using a temperature probe, etc.

Cooling and hot holding

Cooling dishes correctly within 1.5hrs to 8 degrees and keeping hot dishes for service at 63 degrees should be mentioned in your plan for relevant dishes, as well as how you would ensure these temperatures are met, e.g. by using temperature probes.

Serving

Once you have finished cooking your dish or dishes, you need to state how you would present your dish/dishes, e.g. on plate, bowl, etc., as well as what decoration, garnishes and sauces you include before serving.

Storage

In your plan, you should state where different kinds of ingredients need to be stored, e.g. raw chicken in the fridge or frozen fruit in the freezer and at what temperatures these pieces of equipment need to be (fridge needs to be 0–5 degrees and freezer needs to be -18 degrees).