

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Design and Construction of Show Gardens

Unit code: D7VN 35

Unit purpose: This unit is designed to enable candidates to participate in show garden activities for horticultural shows.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

1. Describe the process of staging a show garden.
2. Describe the design components of a show garden.
3. Describe the roles of those involved in designing and constructing show gardens.
4. Construct a display garden.

Credit value: 2 HN Credits at SCQF level 8: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8)

SCQF (the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) brings Scottish qualifications into a single framework of 12 levels ranging from SQA Access 1 to doctorates. The SCQF includes degrees; HNC/Ds; SQA National Qualifications; and SVQs. Each SQA Unit is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at a specific level. 1 SCQF point = 10 hours of learning. HN candidates are normally expected to input a further number of hours, matched to the credit value of the Unit, of non-contact time or candidate-led effort to consolidate and reinforce learning.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: It is recommended that candidates should have good design, communication and project management skills. This may be demonstrated by the achievement of the following units: Design Process and Composition in the Landscape: An Introduction (SCQF level 7), Supervision and Management (SCQF level 7) and Garden Design: Basic Concepts (SCQF level 7).

Core skills: There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards core skills in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of core skills or core skills components.

General information for centres (cont)

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a group award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the group award to which it contributes.

Assessment: Assessment can reflect the teaching approach taken by a particular centre. Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 could be combined in one instrument of assessment, normally a restricted response test. The test should be closed book, held under supervision and should last one and a half hours. Outcome 3 could alternatively be assessed through class-based group work, normally involving role-play within given case study scenarios. Outcome 4 should normally, be assessed by the satisfactory design and construction of a show garden at a horticultural event.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and evidence requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

DESCRIBE THE PROCESS OF STAGING A SHOW GARDEN

Knowledge and/or skills

- The application process
- Planning stages
- Project management
- Critical path method
- Health and safety at work legislation

Evidence requirements

Evidence for the knowledge and/or skills in this outcome will be provided on a sample basis. Evidence should be generated through a supervised, closed book, restricted response class test. Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- describe the application process
- list the stages in planning a show garden
- describe the benefits and application of project management
- describe the process of undertaking a critical path analysis
- describe the influence of health and safety legislation on staging a show garden.

Where knowledge is sampled, the sample should comprise at least three of the bullet points listed under the knowledge and/or skills. In order to ensure that candidates will not be able to foresee the sample, the whole content listed must be taught. Moreover, a different sample is required each time the outcome is assessed, to which candidates must give a satisfactory response.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Design and Construction of Show Gardens

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this outcome may be combined with outcome 2 and 3.

Outcome 2

DESCRIBE THE DESIGN COMPONENTS OF A SHOW GARDEN

Knowledge and/or skills

- The historical development of show gardens
- The selection and development of a theme within show gardens
- Use of water, plants, hard and soft landscape materials, sculpture, accessories
- The importance of view to and from a show garden
- The construction techniques appropriate for a given show garden.

Evidence requirements

Evidence for the knowledge and/or skills in this outcome will be provided on a sample basis. Evidence should be generated through a supervised, closed book, restricted response class test.

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their skills and/or knowledge by showing that they can:

- describe the historical development of show gardens
- develop a theme for a show garden
- describe the construction techniques for a given show garden

Where knowledge is sampled, the sample should comprise at least three of the bullet points listed under the knowledge and/or skills. In order to ensure that candidates will not be able to foresee the sample, the whole content listed must be taught. Moreover, a different sample is required each time the outcome is assessed, to which candidates must give a satisfactory response.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this outcome may be combined with outcome 1 and 3.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Design and Construction of Show Gardens

Outcome 3

DESCRIBE THE ROLES OF THOSE INVOLVED IN DESIGNING AND CONSTRUCTING SHOW GARDENS

Knowledge and/or skills

- The role of the Royal Horticultural Society
- The role of Local Authorities and other organisations, which may be involved in the provision and or support of shows.
- The role of designers.
- The role of contractors
- The role of sponsors
- The role of the media

Evidence requirements

Evidence for the knowledge and/or skills in this outcome will be provided on a sample basis. Evidence should be generated through a supervised, closed book, restricted response class test or a set series of role-play scenarios, peer marking may be appropriate within this situation. Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- describe the roles of the Royal Horticultural Society and other organisations involved in the staging of horticultural events.
- describe the roles of the designer, contractors, sponsors and the media

Where knowledge is sampled, the sample should comprise at least three of the bullet points listed under the knowledge and/or skills. In order to ensure that candidates will not be able to foresee the sample, the whole content listed must be taught. Moreover, a different sample is required each time the outcome is assessed, to which candidates must give a satisfactory response.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this outcome may be combined with outcomes 1 and 2 within a restricted response examination or assessed on its own through the use of assessed role-play scenarios.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Design and Construction of Show Gardens

Outcome 4

CONSTRUCT A DISPLAY GARDEN.

Knowledge and/or skills

- Show garden design
- Selection of appropriate materials and features
- Critical path method
- Show regulations

Evidence requirements

Evidence for the knowledge and/or skills in this outcome will be provided on a sample basis. Evidence should be generated through the satisfactory design and construction of a show garden. Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- design a show garden
- detail appropriate materials and features necessary to construct a show garden
- describe the critical path for constructing a show garden
- construct a show garden in accordance with a defined show regulations

Where knowledge is sampled, the sample should comprise at least three of the bullet points listed under the knowledge and/or skills. In order to ensure that candidates will not be able to foresee the sample, the whole content listed must be taught. Moreover, a different sample is required each time the outcome is assessed, to which candidates must give a satisfactory response.

Assessment guidelines

This outcome will normally be assessed individually.

Administrative Information

Unit code: D7VN 35

Unit title: Design and Construction of Show Gardens

Superclass category: SA

Original date of publication: October 2001

Version: 02

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Credit value changed from 1 to 2 credits.	27/08/10

Source: SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Design and Construction of Show Gardens

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

The unit aims to highlight the unique factors which require to be considered when designing and constructing a display garden. Candidates should visit a Horticultural Show and should meet professionals involved at all stages of the display process.

The content of this unit can be delivered flexibly to reflect interests and approaches at a particular centre.

Outcome 1 examines the application process which will be analysed through a series of classroom based exercises. Students will be encouraged to work in groups to develop an understanding of the process, which should range from inception, feasibility, construction, to break-down and evaluation. Candidates should be aware of the order and inter-dependant relationships between differing elements of the process.

Outcome 2 explores the unique factors which are involved in designing a display garden. These will be analysed, tracing the historical development of each. Particular emphasis will be placed upon the ability to manipulate and guide viewers around these displays. The interpretation and execution of themes will be undertaken. Candidates will be encouraged to critically evaluate displays and to analyse the characteristics of award-winning displays. Candidates should be encouraged to experiment with differing methods of display, explore themes for gardens and above all recognise the importance of innovation within show garden design.

Outcome 3 examines the roles and responsibilities, and in particular the pivotal role that the RHS plays within Horticultural Shows throughout the UK. Candidates will also become aware of the standards and regulations which they bring to display events, including judging criteria. The key elements of sponsorship and funding should also be explored. Many people are involved in the production of a display garden and this outcome will emphasise the roles of those involved. Candidates should gain an appreciation of their part within a team. It is suggested that role play scenarios could be used to assess the candidate's understanding, however, this outcome could equally be integrated into written assessment or closed book examination.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Design and Construction of Show Gardens

Outcome 4 is central to the candidate's understanding of the unit. Candidates will normally be expected to contribute to the construction of a display garden. This outcome will give candidates actual experience of on-site construction, display supervision, management and promotion. The promotional aspects will normally include contributing to the design of a display leaflet, catalogue entry and on-site promotion following construction. The construction of the display garden will require candidates to work as part of a team, ensuring that they identify roles for each member. Candidates will take cognisance of all show regulations and Health and Safety implications for on-site working.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

It is recommended that this unit is taught through a series of lectures which could be supplemented by practical classes that examine topics such as garden themes, material selection and drawing classes. Evidence of practical work is normally required.

Suitable approaches to generating evidence may include the production of a design workbook, annotated drawing and practical assessment, which may be supported by oral explanation by the candidate. In addition, the qualities of the end product will be assessed.

The following texts or equivalents are appropriate for the unit.

Phaidon Press, (2000), "The Garden Book", Phaidon Press Ltd.

Williams R, (1999), "Garden Planning", The Royal Horticultural Society, Mitchell Beazley.

Geddes Brown L, (2000), "Chelsea: The Greatest Flower Show on Earth", Dorling Kinderley, London.

Moreland j, (2000), "Chelsea Gold", Cassell and Co, London

Cooper G, Taylor G, (2000), "Gardens for the Future", Conran Octopus Ltd.

Open learning

Elements of this unit could be delivered by distance or flexible learning. It is probable that candidates would need to attend the centre for assessment of outcome 4, though this could be done in other locations under supervision.

For information on open learning arrangements please refer to the SQA guide Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning (SQA, 2000).

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Design and Construction of Show Gardens

Special needs

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering special alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment and Certification Arrangements for Candidates with Special Needs and Candidates for whom English is an Additional Language* (SQA, 2000).

General information for candidates

This unit is designed to enable candidates to participate in show garden activities for horticultural shows.

This unit will describe the process of staging a show garden, allowing candidates to appreciate the application, planning and project management processes. Candidates will then examine the historical development, and issues of theme selection and styling for gardens. Construction techniques particular to show gardens will then be examined.

The unit will then look at the pivotal role of the Royal Horticultural Society and other organisations, which support shows. It will then go on to look at individual roles of those, such as designers, contractors, sponsors and the media.

Candidates will be expected to contribute to the design, specification and construction of a garden at a show, in accordance with show regulations.

In order to complete this unit successfully, you will be required to achieve a satisfactory level of performance in pieces of coursework, these would normally be in the form of a written test and the submission of a drawings package.