

Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Constructing Hard Landscape Features

Unit code: F1J3 34

Unit purpose: The aims of this Unit are to allow the candidate to develop an understanding of and to apply the principles of construction of common hard landscape features. It is of relevance to those wishing to work in landscape management and construction or landscape/garden design.

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

- 1 Describe the uses of and installation procedure for a range of hard surfaces.
- 2 Describe the uses of and installation procedure for a range of landscape structures.
- 3 Contribute to the construction of a rock and water feature.
- 4 Contribute to the construction of a hard landscape feature using a range of materials and methods.

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the delivering centre.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill(s) of Numeracy, Problem Solving and Working with Others at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: This Unit is normally delivered as part of a Group Award, however it may be offered as a free standing Unit for Continued Professional Development. 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. The learning experience of students could be enhanced by teaching the Unit in tandem with other landscape or design based Units such as F1J5 34 *Design and Use of Hard Landscape Features*, F1J7 34 *Fundamentals of Landscape Surveying*.

Assessment: Outcome 1 and 2 are assessed through extended response questions, there is scope for integration. Outcomes 3 and 4 are assessed through practical assignment and may be integrated with each other.

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 uses of and installation procedure for a range of hard surfaces

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Factors influencing the choice and specification of materials for hard surfaces
- ◆ Calculation of drainage run-off requirements for given surfaces
- ◆ Landscape surface construction techniques

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ evaluate factors influencing the choice and specification of materials for hard surfaces including function, cost and aesthetic appeal
- ◆ calculate drainage run-off requirements accurately for given surfaces
- ◆ explain landscape surface construction techniques whilst giving consideration to environmental impacts, effects of weather and safety factors

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome can be assessed through extended response questions which may include graphical evidence and should include arithmetical evidence of the candidate's ability to calculate drainage run-off.

Outcome 2

Describe the uses of and installation procedure for a range of landscape structures

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Types and uses of free standing walls and fences
- ◆ Walls or fences for specific situations

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Constructing Hard Landscape Features

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ describe types and uses of free standing walls and fences
- ◆ produce proposals for the erection of a free standing wall or fence for a given situation, including detail on materials, design and construction

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome can be assessed through extended response questions which should include graphical evidence in the form of construction drawings.

Outcome 3

Contribute to the construction of a rock and water feature

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Rock garden/feature construction
- ◆ Water feature construction, dynamic or static
- ◆ Application and monitoring of health and safety standards

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ contribute to the building of a rock garden or feature
- ◆ contribute to the construction of a water feature
- ◆ apply and monitor health and safety standards

Assessment Guidelines

Evidence for this learning Outcome would normally be generated by a practical assignment where candidates, for a given site, take part in installing a rock and water feature.

Outcome 4

Contribute to the construction of a hard landscape feature using a range of materials and methods

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Assessment of site conditions
- ◆ Site preparation in accordance with given specifications
- ◆ Application and monitoring of health and safety standards
- ◆ Construction of hard landscape features to an acceptable standard

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Constructing Hard Landscape Features

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ assess site conditions
- ◆ prepare and set out site to given specifications
- ◆ apply and monitor health and safety standards
- ◆ contribute to the construction of a hard landscape feature

Assessment Guidelines

Evidence for this learning Outcome would normally be generated by a practical assignment where candidates, for a given site, take part in the construction of a hard landscape feature.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F1J3 34

Unit title: Constructing Hard Landscape Features

Superclass category: SA

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Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

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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 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

The aims of this Unit are to introduce candidates to simple hard landscape construction from underpinning theory to practical experience through participation in a landscape construction project.

Lectures, tutorials and demonstrations should be complemented by visits to various sites, builders merchants and hard landscape material suppliers where students are enabled to collect information about hard surfaces, structures and features. The practical projects in which the student takes part for Outcomes 3 and 4 may be one integrated practical project. Current health and safety regulations and practise should be constantly referred to throughout this Unit.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Outcomes 1 and 2 can be taught through formal lectures, visits and workshops. Outcome 1 should be assessed by a written test covering a range of hard surface selection and construction. Outcome 2 should be assessed by a written test which could include construction drawings for a proposed structure for a given site. Outcomes 3 and 4 should be taught through practical demonstration where the student takes part in one or more construction projects to build a rock and water feature and a hard landscape feature to an acceptable standard. For Outcomes 3 and 4 the student should be assessed on their ability to apply principles and to work safely.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill(s) of Numeracy, Problem Solving and Working with Others at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Open learning

While there may be opportunities to deliver Outcomes 1 and 2 of this Unit through Open Learning the practical nature of Outcomes 3 and 4 do lend themselves to this type of delivery.

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

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The aims of this Unit are to allow the candidate to develop an understanding of and to apply the principles of construction of common hard landscape features. It is of relevance to those wishing to work in landscape management and construction or landscape/garden design.

This Unit is designed to allow you to develop an understanding of the principles of constructing common hard landscape features. You will also have the opportunity to develop practical skills in applying the principles of hard landscape feature construction. Throughout this Unit you will be required to adhere to and monitor all relevant Health and Safety requirements.

On completion of this Unit you should be able to:

- 1 Describe the uses of and installation procedure for a range of hard surfaces.
- 2 Describe the uses of and installation procedure for a range of landscape structures.
- 3 Contribute to the construction of a rock and water feature.
- 4 Contribute to the construction of a hard landscape feature using a range of materials and methods.

You will be assessed by a series of extended response questions for Outcomes 1 and 2 and by observation of your practical skills for Outcome 3 and 4.