



## Higher National Unit specification

### General information for centres

**Unit title:** Garden Design Concepts

**Unit code:** F1J8 34

**Unit purpose:** This Unit introduces the principles and process of garden design. It is designed to provide the basic understanding and skills, which will allow candidates to design and present a range of garden designs.

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

- 1 Describe the design techniques involved in garden design.
- 2 Design a range of gardens.

**Credit points and level:** 2 HN credits at SCQF level 7: (16 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, however it may be beneficial for candidates to have completed National Units: *Design Process* and *Composition in the Landscape: An Introduction and Landscape Graphics*.

**Core Skills:** There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

**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 could be assessed by means of a written assignment or combined with the assessment for Outcome 2. Outcome 2 could be assessed through several design based student centred projects, and normally include oral presentation of each project.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards**

**Unit title:** Garden Design Concepts

**Unit code:** F1J8 34

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 design techniques involved in garden design

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Movement
- ◆ Spatial awareness
- ◆ Composition
- ◆ Perspective
- ◆ Screening
- ◆ Focal points

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Evidence for the knowledge and/or skills in this Outcome will be provided on a sample basis.

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

- ◆ describe the manipulation and effects of movement within a garden setting
- ◆ describe how spatial awareness can affect the design of a garden
- ◆ utilise the principles of perspective
- ◆ describe how composition can affect the design of a garden
- ◆ describe the effects of screening
- ◆ describe the effects and creation of focal points

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**

Evidence could be generated through the submission of a written and/or graphic assignment. The assessment of this Outcome may be combined with Outcome 2. Within project descriptions and presentations for Outcome 2 evidence should be exhibited that the principles in Outcome 1 have been utilised and can be described within the range of projects.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Garden Design Concepts

### **Outcome 2**

Design a range of gardens

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Site survey
- ◆ Site analysis
- ◆ Client liaison
- ◆ Interpretation brief
- ◆ Design Concepts
- ◆ Appropriate material selection
- ◆ Graphic presentation

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Evidence for the knowledge and/or skills in this Outcome will be provided on a sample basis.

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

- ◆ conduct site surveys
- ◆ conduct liaison with a range of clients for a variety of schemes
- ◆ analyse given sites in relation to their given brief requirements
- ◆ describe and illustrate a range of concepts for a variety of gardens and clients
- ◆ design appropriate schemes for a range of gardens
- ◆ present a range of garden design schemes

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 for this Unit will normally be combined with Outcome 1. The submission of a small portfolio of drawings at the completion of this Unit should demonstrate the principles taught within Outcomes 1 and 2. Evidence should be presented to identify where they are displayed within the submission.

## Administrative Information

**Unit code:** F1J8 34  
**Unit title:** Garden Design Concepts  
**Superclass category:** SA  
**Original date of publication:** August 2007  
**Version:** 01

### History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

**Source:** SQA

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2007

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of Higher National qualifications.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Customer Contact Centre for further details, telephone 0845 279 1000.

## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes**

### **Unit title:** Garden Design Concepts

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 a garden. Candidates will visit a variety of gardens within this Unit and meet professionals involved in the garden design process.

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

- (a) Outcome 1 introduces students to the principles unique to the design of a garden space. Looking at the theory and techniques involved and dealing with detailed issues such as circulation and movement within a garden. Movement and spatial awareness will be combined through exercises on topics such as composition, perspective, screening and focal points.
- (b) Outcome 2 is the completion of a range of garden design projects, including site survey and analysis, interpretation of a Clients brief to the presentation of completed proposals. Tutorials should also be given on working with clients. Assessment submission will normally be a mini portfolio, which contains sets of drawings for the range of projects undertaken. Students will normally make an oral presentation of their work and should be encouraged to give critique on the work of others. The number of projects studied by candidates should normally be three, however this can alter depending upon the size and complexity of the given projects. It is important that the students experience dealing with multiple clients to gain skills in this important area of the design process.

### **Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit**

The Unit should be delivered through lectures, tutorials, practicals and site visits. Visiting speakers will be invited to provide examples of the application of the design process. Candidates will be encouraged to critically evaluate gardens to analyse the characteristics of successful gardens. Candidates should be encouraged to explore themes for gardens and experiment with a range of materials within the context of a garden.

Suitable approaches to generating evidence may include the production of a design workbook, annotated drawings and practical assessment, which may be supported by oral explanation by the candidate.

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

### Unit title: Garden Design Concepts

The following texts or equivalents are appropriate for the Unit.

- ◆ Aben R Wit, S de, (1999), *'The Enclosed Garden'*, 010 Publishers
- ◆ Alexander R, (1994), *'A Handbook for Garden Designers'*, Ward Lock Ltd, London
- ◆ Bell S, (1999), *'Landscape Pattern'*, Perception and Process, & F Spon
- ◆ Brookes J, (1992), *'John Brooks Garden Design Book'*, Dorling Kindersley Ltd, London
- ◆ Coltart D, (2007), *'Design and Renovation of Larger Gardens'*, Timber Press
- ◆ Conran T, Pearson D, (1998), *'The Essential Garden Book'*, Conran Octopus Ltd
- ◆ Golby R, (1994), *'The Well Planned Garden'*, Conran Octopus Ltd
- ◆ Williams R, (1999), *'Garden Planning'*, Mitchell Beazley
- ◆ Booth, N K, *'Basic Elements of Landscape Architectural Design'*, Waveland Press Ltd
- ◆ Reid G.W., (1998), *'From Concept to Form in Landscaping Design'*, Whitney Library of Design
- ◆ Reid, G.W., (1987), *'Landscape Graphics'*, Whitney Library of Design

### *Opportunities for developing Core Skills*

There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

### 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 2, though this could be done in other locations under supervision.

### 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk)).

## **General information for candidates**

### **Unit title:** Garden Design Concepts

This Unit introduces the principles and process of garden design. It is designed to provide an understanding of the skills, which will allow candidates to design and present a range of garden design schemes.

Candidates will begin by looking at issues and principles of design and how they require to be applied to a garden scale. Issues of screening, perspective, movement and composition will also be considered.

Candidates will then design a range of gardens for a variety of clients, they will be required to undertake a site survey and analysis, interpret a brief and select appropriate materials. The plans will then be presented graphically and normally verbally to the client concerned. Candidates will, where possible work with clients to gain an understanding of the client/designer relationship. Skills gained within the Landscape Graphics Unit should allow the various drawings packages to display a range of graphic techniques and presentation methods.

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 the submission of several packages of drawings which will form a mini portfolio.