



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equine Health

Unit code: DP1L 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to develop the candidate's knowledge of equine health. The Unit provides a solid basis on which further equine health skills can be built if required. It will enable candidates to understand the health of both the performance and non-performance horse. Candidates will develop skills to interpret psychological influences as well as mechanical features. They will also investigate the practical application of diagnosis and treatment. This Unit is designed to prepare candidates to be able apply this to the horse in a practical situation.

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

- 1 Interpret psychological influences.
- 2 Identify ailments in relation to both performance and non-performance horses.
- 3 Understand methods of diagnosis and treatment and apply prescribed treatment and/or first aid.

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: It would be useful if the candidate had some experience of Equine Anatomy and Physiology. This may be evidenced by possession of a relevant NC Unit or similar qualification, and experience.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* and *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.

This Unit is part of the Mandatory section of the HNC and HND in Equine Studies and will normally be delivered as part of the Group Award/s. It is a free-standing Unit and can be used for the purposes of continuing professional development.

General information for centres (cont)

This Unit is designed to develop the candidate's knowledge of equine health. It provides a solid basis on which further Equine Health skills can be built if required. It will enable candidates to understand the health of both the performance and non-performance horse.

The term 'horse' in this context includes thoroughbred and non-thoroughbred horses and ponies.

Assessment: The assessment for Outcomes 1 and 2 in this Unit should be combined together into one written assessment which should last up to two hours. The assessment should be comprised of a suitable balance of short answer, restricted response and structured questions. It should be conducted under controlled, supervised conditions. Outcome 3 is assessed by an investigation in which candidates are asked to complete a series of practical tasks to enable them to demonstrate their practical application of horse's health.

Both the written assessment and practical assignment should be carried out at the end of the delivery of the Unit.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equine Health

Unit code: DP1L 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

Interpret psychological influences

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Behaviour patterns in relation to various stimuli
- ◆ Psychological influences
- ◆ Herd instinct
- ◆ Equine ethology
- ◆ Normal behaviour in wild
- ◆ Normal behaviour in domestication
- ◆ Performance and non-performance horse behaviour
- ◆ All handling techniques

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ sample performance and non-performance horse behaviour

Assessment Guidelines

Outcomes 1 and 2 should be combined into a single assessment based on a mix of short answer and restricted response questions.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equine Health

Outcome 2

Identify ailments in relation to both performance and non-performance horses

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Signs of equine good/poor health
- ◆ Locomotory ailments and defects
- ◆ Systemic ailments and
- ◆ Euthanasia: methods, costs and disposal

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ identify signs of good and poor equine health
- ◆ describe the symptoms and treatments of five ailments or diseases from both the systemic and locomotory areas
- ◆ describe the symptoms and causes of irregularity of gait
- ◆ remedial shoeing and foot balance
- ◆ describe the method and cost of euthanasia and disposal of carcass

Assessment Guidelines

As per assessment guidelines for Outcome 1.

Outcome 3

Understand methods of diagnosis and treatment and apply prescribed treatment and/or first aid.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Locomotory ailments and defects
- ◆ Remedial shoeing and foot balance
- ◆ Systemic ailments and diseases
- ◆ Application of prescribed treatments

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ apply prescribed treatment and/or first aid
- ◆ identify irregularities of gait

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome is assessed by a practical investigation. A range of horses may be used.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DP1L 34
Unit title: Equine Studies: Equine Health
Superclass category: SH
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History of changes:

| Version | Description of change | Date |
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equine Health

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

This Unit provides candidates with the knowledge and skills required to deal with equine health. The candidate should achieve the level of competence of someone who could recognise the normal behavioural patterns, identify simple ailments and diseases and know the correct procedure for treatment.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Outcome 1

It is important that the candidate has a thorough knowledge in horse psychology. All the areas must be taught. The use of practical exercises and videos, CD-ROMs and guest speakers is strongly recommended. Candidates could produce an ethogram of a couple of horses! All class of horses can be used, performance and non-performance. The candidate must be able to interpret psychological influences and explain the behaviour patterns in relation to various stimuli. The candidate will be able to identify and understand the positive and negative psychological influences, the herd instinct, normal behaviour in wild and normal behaviour in domestication. Candidates will be taught modern techniques; behaviour techniques: imprint training, join up and its application on both types of horses- Performance and Non-Performance. It is important that the candidate understands behavioural problems: weaving, crib biting, wind sucking, barging, kicking, rearing, bucking. The candidate must be able to explain handling techniques: reprimand, reward, discipline, devices, boredom, and alleviation. The candidate should develop an understanding of the horse's different temperaments, limited reasoning power, and how proximity to others affect its mental well-being.

Outcome 2

The candidate will be able to identify signs of good and poor health and identify ailments in relation to both performance and non-performance horses. The will be able to demonstrate a thorough knowledge of locomotory ailments and defect that effect the performance and non-performance horse (Laminitis, Sand crack, Navicular, Nail binds, Corns Seedy toe, Thrush, Over reaching, Sesamiodiditis, Mud fever, Lymphangitis, Bursal enlargements, Bony enlargements). The candidate will have a basics knowledge and awareness of Lameness, causes and methods of diagnosis: x-ray, nerve blocking, and scintigraphy. It would be expected that they would be able to identify a lame horse if shown one practically. An understanding of remedial shoeing and foot balance should be developed.

The candidate will be expected to have a thorough knowledge of the Systemic ailments and diseases, (lampas, quidding, whistling, roaring, coughs, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, strangles, cold, pneumonia, influenza, poll evil, fistulous withers, bots, worms, ticks, lice, warbles, mange, colic, azoturia, nettle rash, sweet itch, ringworm, sore back).

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equine Health

The candidate should demonstrate an understanding of Euthanasia, methods, costs and carcass disposal.

Outcome 3

The candidate will be expected to identify modern methods of diagnosis and treatment on the live horse in a practical situation. The candidate must show a practical understanding of the knowledge and skills areas in Outcomes 1 and 2. The assessment for this Outcome should be carried out at one practical assessment event, though it is advised that students include written statements, evidence testimonies of practical experiences they have been included in ie assisting the vet, Farrier in diagnosing or treatment.

The candidate will be expected to identify on the live horse any of the locomotory ailments and defects that affect the performance and non-performance horse. Discuss Lameness, causes and methods of diagnosis (x-ray, nerve blocking, scintigraphy) in the live horse. The candidate will be expected to identify a lame horse if one should arise and to identify surgical shoe types and methods of use. The candidate would be expected to identify common Systemic ailments and diseases.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

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

Open learning

This Unit is well suited for delivery by both open and distance learning where the candidate has appropriate workplace, home based, or other facilities to carry out the practical assignments, and adequate supervision and support is available. This will require careful planning by the centre to ensure the sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence. It may be necessary for an "on-line support" tutor to be involved. In situations where the student completes work away from the centre, regular contact with tutors will be necessary. This may take the form of visits by the tutor to the student or vice versa. It is at the discretion of the centre as to whether assessments take place at the centre, workplace, or at home.

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

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equine Health

The candidate should achieve the level of competence of someone who could recognise the normal behavioural patterns, identify simple ailments and diseases and know the correct procedure for treatment.

Candidates should be able to:

- ◆ interpret psychological influences
- ◆ identify ailments in relation to both performance and non-performance horses
- ◆ practical application, of modern methods of diagnosis and treatment