



## Higher National Unit specification

### General information for centres

**Unit title:** Equine Studies: Preparation of Horses for Competitions

**Unit code:** DP20 34

**Unit purpose:** This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop and utilise their knowledge in the preparation of the horse for a variety of competitions. Candidates will develop the knowledge and skills to prepare and care for the competition horse successfully in three different disciplines.

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

- 1 Prepare the horse prior to a variety of competitions.
- 2 Prepare and care for the horse at competitions.
- 3 Care for the horse post- competition.

**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:** Prior achievement of the HN Unit 'Equine Health' would be beneficial. Several years of practical experience and/or an appropriate certificate in horse management would also be beneficial.

**Core Skills:** There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* 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:** 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 in the Mandatory section of the HNC and HND in Equine Studies. It may also be delivered as a free-standing Unit and for the purposes of continuing professional development.

This Unit should be delivered on a practical basis to allow the candidate to gain the skills required to enter the industry with the ability to 'groom' for the competition rider. All aspects delivery of the Unit must conform to current Health and Safety legislation in line with the delivering centres policies.

## General information for centres (cont)

**Assessment:** This Unit is assessed holistically by two assessments: a project and a practical exercise. The project will cover two different disciplines. The candidate should provide evidence in the form of charts, diagrams, drawings and pictures.

The practical exercise will relate to one discipline and will cover appropriate parts of each Outcome. It should include the preparation of the horse for competition and travel, and should include vehicle checks. The 10 minute box could be used to show competence of Outcome 2 and checks for injury should be demonstrated. Assessors should complete the observation checklist appropriately. Witness testimony should be used to confirm practical ability.

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

**Unit title:** Equine Studies: Preparation of Horses for Competitions

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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**

Prepare the horse prior to a variety of competitions

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

- ◆ Requirements for Preparation and Grooming
- ◆ Essential items required for the horse at specific competitions
- ◆ Requirements for the preparation of the horse for travel with appropriate boots/bandages and rugs and loading into vehicle.
- ◆ Requirements for the preparation of the vehicle for travel checking for roadworthiness and how to pack with the required equipment.
- ◆ Health and Safety requirements
- ◆ Current legislation relating to transporting equines

#### **Evidence Requirements**

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

- ◆ prepare the horse correctly for the competition.
- ◆ correctly list the equipment required for the competition.
- ◆ prepare the horse for travel, and load into vehicle.
- ◆ prepare the vehicle for travel.

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

The assessment for this Outcome should be combined with Outcomes 2 and 3, details of which are given under Outcome 3.

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

**Unit title:** Equine Studies: Preparation of Horses for Competitions

### **Outcome 2**

Prepare and care for the horse at competitions

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

- ◆ Turnout of the horse to the required standard (including quarter marks).
- ◆ Selecting and fitting appropriate equipment for the competition.
- ◆ Plan of activities for the day.
- ◆ Correct feeding and watering of the horse throughout.
- ◆ Attention to horse's welfare.
- ◆ Assessment of the horse for injury.
- ◆ Health and Safety requirements.

#### **Evidence Requirements**

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

- ◆ identify and fit a variety of equipment taking account of health and safety regulations/legislation
- ◆ turn out the horse appropriately for competition taking account of health and safety regulations/legislation
- ◆ care for the horse throughout the competition day taking account of health and safety regulations/legislation

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

This Unit is assessed holistically. The assessment for this Outcome should be combined with Outcomes 1 and 3, details of which are given under Outcome 3.

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

**Unit title:** Equine Studies: Preparation of Horses for Competitions

### **Outcome 3**

Care for the horse post- competition

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

- ◆ Assessment of the horse for injury and appropriate action.
- ◆ Post-competition routine for the horse.
- ◆ Unloading of equipment from vehicle, clean vehicle and check for damage/wear.
- ◆ Checks on equipment and clean as required, store for next use.
- ◆ Health and Safety requirements.

#### **Evidence Requirements**

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

- ◆ give appropriate care to the horse after the competition.
- ◆ list the necessary checks and maintenance requirements of the vehicle.
- ◆ understand appropriate care of tack and equipment.

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

This Unit will be assessed holistically using a project and a practical exercise. The project will cover two different disciplines. All Outcomes will be covered in one assessment. The candidate may provide evidence in the form of charts, diagrams and pictures to clarify their knowledge. Assessors should complete the marking checklist appropriately.

The practical exercise should include the preparation of the horse for competition and travel, to include vehicle checks. The 10 minute box should be used to show competence for Outcome 2. Checks for injury should be demonstrated. Assessors should complete the observation checklist. Witness testimony should be used to confirm practical ability.

## Administrative Information

**Unit code:** DP20 34

**Unit title:** Equine Studies: Preparation of Horses for Competitions

**Superclass category:** SH

**Original date of publication:** August 2004

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### History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

**Source:** SQA

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

### **Unit title:** Equine Studies: Preparation of Horses for Competitions

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 is aimed at enabling candidates to develop and utilise a sound knowledge in the preparation and care of the horse for a 2 Day Event and two other disciplines (driving; racing; showing; polo; vaulting or other at the choice of the centre). Candidates will develop the knowledge to prepare and care for horses successfully in two different disciplines. This Unit should be delivered on a practical basis to allow the candidate to gain the skills required to enter the industry with the ability to 'groom' for the competition rider. It is aimed at those who have had some experience in general horse care and health.

**Outcome 1** looks at the preparation required on the day prior to the competition. It gives the candidate an insight into three equine competitions. The candidate should demonstrate knowledge of appropriate turnout of the horse and selection of equipment. The candidate should have the opportunity to clip, wash, groom, trim and plait the horse in preparation for the competition. Essential items/equipment should be relevant to the type of competition.

Types of competition/events would include: 2 Day Events, driving, racing; showing; polo and vaulting.

**Outcome 2** looks at the care required by the horse on the day of the competitions. The candidate should demonstrate knowledge of how to select and fit appropriate tack for a discipline. The candidate will show knowledge of organising the day to the welfare of the horse. Appropriate equipment for the competition would include a double bridle, hunting breastplate, boots or exercise bandages and studs.

Aspects of the horses welfare would include stress levels, heat regulation and dehydration.

**Outcome 3** looks at the care of the horse following the competition. The candidate should have the opportunity to make checks on the horse and recognise common injuries. The routine for the horse on this day should enable the horse to recover from the competition as promptly as possible. Checks and maintenance of the vehicle and equipment must be carried out and understood.

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

This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to give them a clear understanding of caring for competition horses in a variety of disciplines.

Some of the Unit will be covered in the classroom but candidates should spend time working with appropriate horses on the yard and in the competitive environment as much as possible.

The use of video, slides and diagrammatic material will be useful. Visits to competitions and the use of specialist speakers should be incorporated. Class discussion would be useful following the return of candidates from competitions.

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

**Unit title:** Equine Studies: Preparation of Horses for Competitions

### ***Opportunities for developing Core Skills***

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* 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**

Due to the practical nature of this Unit it is not well suited to delivery through open learning.

### **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: Equine Studies: Preparation of Horses for Competitions

This Unit is aimed at enabling you to develop and utilise the knowledge and skills necessary to give a clear understanding of caring for competition horses in a variety of disciplines.

You will develop the knowledge to prepare and care for horses successfully in three different disciplines. This Unit should be delivered on a practical basis to allow you to gain the skills required to enter the industry with the ability to 'groom' for the competition rider.

This Unit is aimed at those who have had some experience in general horse care and health.

The Unit is organised into 3 Outcomes, covering the following topics:

- 1 Prepare the horse prior to a variety of competitions.
- 2 Prepare and care for the horse at competitions.
- 3 Care for the horse post-competition.

In **Outcome 1** you will learn about the preparation required on the day prior to the competitions. It will give you a knowledge of two widely available equine competitions. You will demonstrate knowledge and skills of appropriate turnout of the horse and selection of the equipment. You will have the opportunity to clip, wash, groom, trim and plait the horse in preparation for the competition.

In **Outcome 2** you will learn about the care required by the horse on the day of competitions. You will demonstrate knowledge of how to select and fit appropriate tack for three disciplines. You will develop the knowledge and skills of organising the day to the welfare of the horse.

In **Outcome 3** you will look at the care of the horse following the competitions. You will be given the opportunity to make checks on the horse and recognise common injuries. You will develop the knowledge to produce a routine for the horse on this day that will enable him to recover from the competition as promptly as possible. You will be given the opportunity to check and care for the vehicle and equipment after competition.

Assessment of all Outcomes of this Unit will be assessed holistically using a project and a practical exercise. The case study or report will cover two different disciplines. All Outcomes will be covered in one assessment.

The practical exercise will cover one discipline.