

General information for centres (cont)

Assessment: This examination-based Graded Unit is a closed-book examination. It will consist of a written examination of 3 hours. The evidence should be generated through the assessment being undertaken in controlled conditions.

The examination will have two sections, section A is a multiple-choice paper and section B is a restricted response question paper. A break between sections is allowed provided section B remains unseen until after the break.

Administrative Information

Graded Unit code: F2CD 34

Graded Unit title: Garden Design: Garden Design: Graded Unit 1

Original date of publication: August 2007

Version: 02 (May 2010)

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Minor Amendment to Units covered to reflect changes to award structure.	26/05/10

Source: SQA

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Higher National Graded Unit specification: instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates

Graded Unit title: Garden Design: Graded Unit 1

Conditions of assessment

The assessment is based on a closed-book written examination lasting 3 hours.

If a candidate does not achieve a pass or if a candidate wishes to upgrade, this must be based on a significantly different examination from that given originally. A candidate's grade will be based on his/her achievement on the new assessment event using a significantly different examination, if this results in a higher grade.

The examination should be unseen and the assessment should be conducted in controlled and invigilated conditions.

At all times, the security, integrity and confidentiality of examinations must be ensured.

Instructions for designing the assessment task:

The examination should be designed to assess the candidate's critical knowledge and understanding of the topics relating to the specific aims which this Graded Unit is designed to cover. The questions and corresponding marks should be designed in accordance with the ranges indicated in the table that follows. However, the overall total mark for the examination is 100.

The examination will have two sections. Section A comprises 40 multiple-choice questions of 1 mark each giving a total of 40 marks. Section B comprises 20 restricted response questions of 3 marks each giving a total of 60 marks. Distribution of marks is as follows:

Key topics	Level of demand	Percentage weighting for each topic
Section A		
Plant Recognition	Identify, Select	8%
Plant Propagation and Cultivation	Identify, Select	8%
Garden Design Concepts	Identify, Select	8%
Hard Landscaping	Identify, Select	8%
Surveying	Identify, Select	8%
Section B		
Plant Recognition	Explain, Describe	12%
Plant Propagation and Cultivation	Explain, Describe	12%
Garden Design Concepts	Explain, Describe	12%
Hard Landscaping	Explain, Describe	12%
The Design Process	Explain, Describe	12%

Higher National Graded Unit specification: instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Graded Unit title: Garden Design: Graded Unit 1

The examination will be marked out of 100. Assessors will aggregate the marks achieved by the candidate to arrive at an overall mark for the examination. Assessors will then assign a grade to the candidate for this Graded Unit based on the following grade boundaries:

- ◆ A = 70%–100%
- ◆ B = 60%–69%
- ◆ C = 50%–59%

All papers should be identified with the candidate name, date and start and completion time of the assessment.

Guidance on grading candidates

Candidates who meet the minimum Evidence Requirements will have their achievement graded as a C (competent), A (highly competent), or B (somewhere between A and C). The grade related criteria to be used to judge candidate performance for this Graded Unit is specified in the following table:

Grade A	Grade C
<p>Is a seamless, coherent piece of work or exam script which consistently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Provides responses that are logically structured and coherent◆ Give reasoned explanations which are supported by evidence◆ Interprets and understands the question in a way that demonstrates insight and clear understanding of issues◆ Uses correct terminology	<p>Is a co-ordinated piece of work or exam script which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Provides responses that are factually correct◆ Give explanations but do not always provide good supporting evidence◆ Interprets and understands the questions in a way which enables the candidate to meet the basic criteria required◆ Uses correct terminology, although use is not always consistent

Higher National Graded Unit specification: instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Graded Unit title: Garden Design: Graded Unit 1

Support notes

This Unit is designed to sample across a range of the mandatory Units of the HNC Garden Design award and to assess the candidate's ability to integrate knowledge from these Units. While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Multiple choice questions: Candidates should be aware of the principles and theories for the five Units as outlined in the Assessment Guidelines. Skills should be developed in the candidate's ability to answer multiple choice questions.

Restricted response questions: Candidates should be aware of the principles and theories for the five Units as outlined in the Assessment Guidelines. The candidate should be able to apply knowledge to current industrial practice.

Where possible, for both papers, a range of fresh plant materials, pictures or diagrams is encouraged. It is recognised however that due to seasonal and other constraints this may not always be possible.

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 assessment arrangements. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs*, which is available on SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk.

