



Higher National Graded Unit specification

General information for centres

This Graded Unit has been validated as part of the HNC Horticulture. Centres are required to develop the assessment instrument in accordance with this validated specification. Centres wishing to use another type of Graded Unit or assessment instrument are required to submit proposals detailing the justification for change for validation.

Graded Unit title: Horticulture: Graded Unit 1

Graded Unit code: F2CF 34

Type of Graded Unit: Examination

Assessment Instrument: Closed-book Examination

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

**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.*

Purpose: This Graded Unit is designed to provide evidence that the candidate has achieved the following principal aims of the HNC Horticulture:

- ◆ gain a broad knowledge of the horticulture and landscape industries
- ◆ gain outline knowledge of areas of specialism within horticulture
- ◆ to be introduced to the processes of research
- ◆ to apply the knowledge and understanding required for progression to employment and higher education

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: It is recommended that the candidate should have completed or be in the process of completing the following Units relating to these specific aims prior to undertaking this Graded Unit:

F21S 34 *Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use*
F1JA 34 *Horticultural Practices*
F21V 34 *Soil Management*
F2B3 34 *Plant Protection*
F21T 34 *Plant Growth and Development*
 and
F21P 34 *Horticultural Mechanisation Principles*
 or
D4PE 34 *Selection and Management of Machinery for Land Based Industries*

General information for centres (cont)

Core Skills: There are no Core Skills embedded in this Graded Unit specification.

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: F2CF 34
Graded Unit title: Horticulture: Horticulture: Graded Unit 1
Original date of publication: August 2007
Version: 02 (April 2014)

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Inclusion of Unit D4PE 34 as alternative to F21P 34.	10/04/14

Source: SQA

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

Graded Unit title: Horticulture: 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%
Plant Health	Identify, Select	8%
Soils	Identify, Select	8%
Plant Biology	Identify, Select	8%
Section B		
Plant Recognition	Explain, Describe	12%
Plant Propagation and Cultivation	Explain, Describe	12%
Plant Health	Explain, Describe	12%
Soils	Explain, Describe	12%
Horticultural Machinery	Explain, Describe	12%

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

Graded Unit title: Horticulture: 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

Support notes

This Unit is designed to sample across a range of the mandatory Units of the HNC Horticulture 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.

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

Graded Unit title: Horticulture: Graded Unit 1

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.

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

General information for candidates

Graded Unit title: Horticulture: Graded Unit 1

This Unit is designed to integrate and apply knowledge and skills from a range of mandatory Units for the award of HNC Horticulture. The award is designed to develop skills and underpinning knowledge associated with the role of a horticultural supervisor and reflects modern practice.

The first question paper (1 hour) requires you to answer multiple-choice questions covering the following Units:

F21S 34 *Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use*
F1JA 34 *Horticultural Practices*
F21V 34 *Soil Management*
F2B3 34 *Plant Protection*
F21T 34 *Plant Growth and Development*

The second question paper (2 hours) requires the candidate to write restricted response answers to questions based on the following Units:

F21S 34 *Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use*
F1JA 34 *Horticultural Practices*
F21V 34 *Soil Management*
F2B3 34 *Plant Protection*
 and
F21P 34 *Horticultural Mechanisation Principles*
 or
D4PE 34 *Selection and Management of Machinery for Land Based Industries*

The Graded Unit is a compulsory element of the HN Horticulture awards and will be awarded at the following grades:

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