



Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Land Use Systems

Unit code: F2GA 35

Unit purpose:

The purpose of this Unit is to enable candidates to develop an understanding of the physical, economic and social factors that influence land use in a specified area, the effects land uses have on the environment and how land use may change in the future.

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

- 1 Evaluate different forms of land use in a specific area.
- 2 Evaluate the potential pattern of land use in a specific area.

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

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Entry to this Unit will be at the discretion of the centre however, some prior experience would be beneficial. For example, those who have worked in this area or who have studied this or related subjects as part of a locally devised NC or Access programme.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communications*, *Working with Others*, and *Information Technology* 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.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Land Use Systems

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Assessment: The Unit could be assessed by a single report of around 2,500 words or equivalent covering both Outcomes. Alternatively, Outcome 1 may be assessed by a presentation, while Outcome 2 could be assessed by a report.

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

Evaluate different forms of land use in a specific area

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Range of land use activities
- ◆ Physical and economic factors that affect land use
- ◆ Impact of current land uses on the environment

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that, for a specified area, chosen by the candidate in agreement with the tutor, they can:

- ◆ describe at least four current land use activities
- ◆ evaluate current land use in terms of three economic and three physical factors
- ◆ explain the impact of current land use on the environment including at least two from: biodiversity; resource use; water pollution; air pollution

Assessment Guidelines

An appropriate specified area could be the area visited on a field course or a local area familiar to the candidate.

The Unit could be assessed by a single report of about 2,500 words or equivalent that covers both Outcomes. Alternatively, Outcome 1 may be assessed separately by a presentation.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Land Use Systems

Outcome 2

Evaluate the potential pattern of land use in a specific area

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Land use change
- ◆ European Union policy
- ◆ United Kingdom policy
- ◆ Local land use policies
- ◆ Sustainability

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can discuss at least four factors that affect the development of current land use and the known factors that may change land use in future including policies at European Union, United Kingdom and local level. Candidates will also be required to provide evidence that they can evaluate the consequences of forecast changes in land use on sustainability and present conclusions that are clearly supported by evidence.

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 2 may be assessed together with Outcome 1 by a single report of around 2,500 words or equivalent. Alternatively, Outcome 2 may be assessed by a separate report. Graphs, maps and diagrams may be used where possible in the report.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F2GA 35
Unit title: Land Use Systems
Superclass category: SM
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History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Superclass category changed from QA to SM.	05/06/09

Source: SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Land Use Systems

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

The purpose of this Unit is to provide candidates with an understanding of the factors affecting land use and the impacts of different land uses. It explains some of the interacting factors influencing land use at local, national and global level. Candidates should appreciate how they themselves take part in the process of land use interaction and change from both a professional and personal viewpoint. This Unit is particularly suitable for candidates undertaking a course of study in a biological science, food production, agriculture, environmental science or a related subject.

Outcome 1 introduces candidates to land use at a general level. To aid understanding, candidates are asked to consider land use in a particular area at the current time. On completing this Outcome, candidates should be capable of evaluating how an area is used. Land uses might include farming, forestry, housing, transport, industry, energy generation, mineral extraction, services, tourism, recreation, conservation and aquaculture. Candidates will learn to explain the relative importance of these land uses by means of generally available physical and economic information; for example, area covered and employment. Finally, candidates will explain how the current land use affects the environment as indicated by, for example, water quality and biodiversity.

For Outcome 2, the emphasis switches, with candidates required to explain the factors responsible for the current land use in the area under study. Candidates are then challenged to forecast how land use is likely to change in the future. This will require knowledge of planned and likely changes in policy at the international, European Union and national levels. Candidates are asked to consider the implications of likely changes on sustainability.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

It is expected that delivery of this Unit will be based on a series of lectures and site visits supported by information from reading and on-line material. The Unit is intended to make reference to a wide range of land uses, although each candidate would then select those which are of particular interest.

Delivery is expected to place emphasis on the physical and economic factors which influence land use, the impacts of current land uses on the environment and how land use may change in the future. The Unit lends itself to the use of visits as a means of delivery supported by formal class sessions to share and reinforce the information gained on the visits.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

The completion of Outcomes 1 and 2 provides an opportunity to develop *Communication* and *Numeracy* Core Skills to SCQF level 6 by demonstrating that candidates can convey complex ideas in a well-structured and coherent form and evaluate numerical and graphical data. *IT* skills will be developed by using a range of forms of communication effectively in both familiar and new contexts and by using standard applications to process and obtain a variety of information and data.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Land Use Systems

There may also be the opportunity to develop the Core Skill of *Working with Others* to SCQF Level 6. Suggested activities include working with others under guidance and the use of group work in the classroom and presentations by candidates.

Open learning

This Unit is suited to delivery by distance learning. The evidence for Outcomes 1 and 2 could be held in a portfolio or electronic portfolio and sent to the assessor.

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: Land Use Systems

The aims of this Unit are to develop your knowledge and skills in the evaluation of land use and in the potential pattern of land use in a specified area. The Unit addresses these concepts within the context of a range of land use activities. Consequently, the Unit may be vocationally relevant to you in particular if you are studying biological science, food production, agriculture, environmental science or related courses.

The Unit is primarily designed to prepare you for management roles later in your career and may also assist you in gaining professional accreditation. If you have prior experience in the land use area, you should be able to make use of this during your study.

During the Unit you will learn about the physical and economic factors that affect land use, the impacts of current land uses on the environment and the factors that will influence future changes in land use. This approach reinforces the concept of sustainability at local, national and global level.

You will be expected to use the knowledge and skills from the Unit to enable you to assess land use issues in your vocational area. In order to complete this Unit successfully, you will be required to complete one or two pieces of assessed work. The selection of assessment will depend on the mode of delivery and is likely to consist of a report and a presentation.

There may be opportunities for you to develop the Core Skills of *Communication*, *Working with Others*, and *IT* to SCQF level 6 within this Unit.