



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Riding and Trek Leading Skills

Unit code: F43Y 34

Unit purpose: This Unit aims to equip the candidate with the practical skills and background knowledge to safely plan, organise and lead a trek for a variety of different client groups. Integral to the Unit is an understanding of the legal background regarding countryside access and the responsibility of riding visitors, duty of care issues and risk assessments, in relation to the range of client age and riding abilities likely to be encountered.

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

- 1 Prepare and ride horses or ponies over different types of terrain.
- 2 Explain the equine related legal requirements and guidelines of riding out with a group.
- 3 Plan, organise and lead a horse or pony trek.

Credit points and level: 2 HN credits at SCQF level 7: (16 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 beneficial if the candidate had some years of practical riding experience and/or a competency in horse riding equivalent to British Horse Society (BHS) Stage1 Riding. It would also be useful if the candidate had some experience of looking after horses or ponies.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills *Communication*, *Working with Others* and *Problem Solving* in this Unit at SCQF level 6, 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.

Assessment: A demonstration of practical competence for Outcomes 1 and 3 combined with an open-book submission for part of Outcome 3.

Outcome 2: could be suitably assessed by means of a restricted response paper, and extended response choice questions. Outcome 3 could be assessed by a submission of a trek plan and a practical demonstration of leading a group on a planned trek, the performance of which will be recorded on an evidence checklist maintained by the lecturer.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Riding and Trek Leading Skills

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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 and ride horses or ponies over different types of terrain

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Riding preparation
- ◆ Tack
- ◆ Stable and yard (personal) safety
- ◆ Riding Technique
- ◆ Terrain
- ◆ Horse and pony types
- ◆ Aids

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ demonstrate a safe and efficient method of tacking up
- ◆ demonstrate safe mounting and dismounting
- ◆ demonstrate personal and horse/pony stable and yard safety by following yard safety rules and routine when tacking-up and mounting/dismounting
- ◆ check six items of tack for damage, wear and safety and take remediative action where appropriate
- ◆ be able to describe three consequences of worn, damaged or unsafe tack
- ◆ carry out an examination to confirm suitable condition of horse or pony for trekking purposes in relation to fitness, soundness, condition of feet and shoes
- ◆ walk, trot, ride at a canter and modify riding techniques on a minimum of three horse or pony types and ride over different terrain to include at least four from: flat ground; hilly ground; boggy or wet ground; rough ground; sand

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Riding and Trek Leading Skills

The candidate must modify his/her riding technique in relation to handling of the three different types of horses and manage a horse or pony across the four different terrains.

- ◆ demonstrate the effective use of the following aids: voice, legs, hands and seat when riding

This is a supervised practical interactive assessment which should be undertaken over a number of occasions to allow for the necessary range of candidate demonstration. Any additional evidence may be gathered using questioning, with responses recorded by the assessor on a candidate evidence checklist.

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 1 could be assessed by means of supervised practical demonstration with oral questions as required, on a number of occasions. A record of candidate achievement could be kept utilising a skills matrix maintained by the assessor.

Outcome 2

Explain the equine legal requirements and guidelines of riding out with a group

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Highway Code
- ◆ Access to land laws
- ◆ Adventurous activities legislation in the context of horse/pony trekking
- ◆ Legal requirements in relation to suitability to work with children and at risk groups
- ◆ Duty of care

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ explain the horse riding sections of the Highway Code
- ◆ compare and contrast the access legislation for Scotland with that for England and Wales providing two main differences between the Scottish legislation and that of (i) England and (ii) Wales
- ◆ describe the legal requirements in relation to suitability to work with children and at risk groups and providing an adventurous activity (trekking) experience, identifying a contact address or website for further details for each
- ◆ explain the legal duty of care and three potential consequences of non-compliance

This is an open-book assessment.

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 2 may be suitably assessed by means of restricted response questions, and extended questions. It might be useful for the candidate to provide in an appendix any relevant details or extracts from the legislature and guidance under study.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Riding and Trek Leading Skills

Outcome 3

Lead a trek

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Rider groups
- ◆ Riding ability
- ◆ Planning itinerary
- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Resources
- ◆ Trek leadership skills

Evidence Requirements

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

- 1 choose four different types of rider groups and describe how to gain a riding history and assess riding ability
- 2 for each of the chosen rider groups describe one factor which will further influence the type of trek they may undertake
- 3 provide a planning itinerary document for a riding experience appropriate for the riding ability of a chosen rider group to include the following: route selection; season; access permissions; time allocation; stopover; refreshments; emergency procedures, contact and back-up vehicles and personnel
- 4 within the planning itinerary document, explain five risk assessment considerations which should be resolved prior to undertaking a trek
- 5 produce a checklist which itemises rider personal safety requirements and which will be applied by the trek leader to riders prior to leading a trek
- 6 lead a trek of 2 hours duration with one rider group (MAX 4 clients and assessor), demonstrating the necessary leadership, communication, risk aversions and decision making skills for the particular trek.

This is a supervised practical assessment with an open-book submission providing evidence for requirements 1–5.

All evidence for the first five Evidence Requirements must be lodged with the tutor prior to leading the trek. Candidate evidence check-lists should be used by the assessor to record performance elements. Any additional evidence may be gathered using questioning, and this should be recorded by the assessor.

Assessment Guidelines

A written submission providing details of the trek as stated in the first five Evidence Requirements plus a practical demonstration checked by assessor as stated in the last Evidence Requirement.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F43Y 34
Unit title: Riding and Trek Leading Skills
Superclass category: MH
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Riding and Trek Leading Skills

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 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

Rural and activity holidays increasingly involve participation in a range of different activities. Horse or pony trekking remains popular, but will often be undertaken as part of this wider range of holiday activities, and by relatively unskilled clients. This Unit aims to equip the trek leader with the practical skills, and background knowledge to safely plan, organise and lead a trek for a variety of different clients. Integral to the Unit is an understanding of the legal background, duty of care issues, and risk assessments, in relation to the range of client age, and riding abilities likely to be encountered.

Access to practical riding instruction is an essential element of this Unit, although some classroom time would be advisable as well. Riding facilities should include the use of a range of different horses for the candidates to ride and, ideally, access to suitable, safe trekking/ riding out from the centre.

Outcome 1

Riding preparation should deal with all necessary arrangements prior to planning a trek for the ability and type of client group and will include an animal assessment: fitness, soundness, feet, shoes. This could reflect the demands of the trek (for example: distance, time, terrain, age and experience of participant).

Tack could be: saddle, girth, bridle, numnah, neck rein, martingale, reins, stirrups, stirrup leathers, lead rein.

Safety in the stable and yard: personal and horse/pony safety; correct protective equipment (boots, hat, body protector, gloves) Rules of yard.

Riding techniques: position; balance; confidence; speed; pace; walking; trotting; cantering.

Terrain types: flat; hills; boggy/wet ground; rough; sand.

Horse or pony types could be: fizzy; slow; novice; experienced.

Aids could be: use of voice, legs, hands and seat when riding.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Riding and Trek Leading Skills

Outcome 2

Highway Code in the context of horse riding could be Roadcraft, Road Awareness, signalling and position.

Current law relating to access in Scotland and in England and Wales in the context of horse riding. Common elements could be: Legislative framework for access. Differences could be: Rights of Way and Bridleways in England and Wales and Drove roads and Responsible Access in Scotland.

Current Legal requirements in relation to adventurous activities in the context of horse/pony trekking. Currently laid out in Adventurous Activities Licensing Authority (AALA)
Current Legal requirements in relation to suitability of working with children and at risk groups.

Current legislation relating to duty of care owed by the trek leader to the trek participants.

Outcome 3

Rider groups (children; adults; experienced; novices; special groups)

Riding ability assessment and additional factors which may affect choice of trek experience could be: age; mobility; impairment factors (hearing/sight/physical) client riding history; confirmation of client ability through practical demonstration; similar client group abilities.

Planning itinerary could be: riding group; route selection; season; access permissions; time allocation; stopover; refreshments; emergency procedures, contact and back-up vehicles and personnel.

Risk assessment could be: rider experience; route; rider: leader ratio; horse selection; fitness of horses.

Resources could be: tack; clothing for riders; headgear for riders; riders' footwear, body protectors; mobile phone, Global Positioning Software (GPS) device.

Trek leadership skills could be: communication; risk aversion, decision making.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Evidence should be generated through supervised practical experience of handling horses and ponies and riding in a school and hacking out off road. Appropriate risk assessments, involving the candidates, must be undertaken for practical delivery.

Exposure to different yards and businesses through organised visits if undertaken will expose candidates to real working yards where they can see trek procedures in practice. Theory and principles could be delivered through a mixture of classroom lectures and discussion and opportunities out in the field to relate theory to practice. This is practical based but includes the relevant theory and applicable legislative regulations. Delivery and assessment should follow the order of Outcomes. Assessment needs to provide for the candidate to demonstrate (on a number of occasions) competence in riding ability and leading a small group on a planned trek.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Riding and Trek Leading Skills

Outcome 1: A demonstration of practical competence incorporating questions from the assessor on practical aspects as appropriate.

Outcome 2: could be suitably assessed by means of a restricted response paper, and extended response choice questions.

Outcome 3: could be assessed by an open-book submission of a trek plan and risk and a practical demonstration of leading a group on a planned trek, the performance of which to be recorded on an evidence checklist maintained by the assessor.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills *Communication*, *Working with Others* and *Problem Solving* in this Unit at SCQF level 6, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components. Visiting different yards and businesses through organised visits where the candidate can observe and assist in real working yards and where they can see and implement trek procedures in practice, will provide opportunities to develop *Communication* skills, in particular Oral Communication. *Working with Other* skills could be developed as candidates contribute to, supervise or discuss yard management or trekking issues. *Problem Solving* skills are required to select and plan safely and effectively for the trekking experience, with written communication skills developed if the trek plan is submitted in written form.

Open learning

The practical aspects of this Unit are not suitable for Open Learning although the underpinning knowledge and theory may be studied in an open, flexible way, supported by a VLE platform and blended learning techniques.

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: Riding and Trek Leading Skills

Rural and activity holidays increasingly involve participation in a range of different activities. Horse or pony trekking remains popular, but will often be undertaken as part of this wider range of holiday activities, and by relatively unskilled clients. This Unit aims to equip you, the trek leader, with the practical skills and background knowledge to safely plan, organise and lead a trek for a client group. Integral to the Unit is your understanding of the legal background, duty of care issues, and risk assessments, in relation to the range of client age and riding abilities likely to be encountered.

The Unit is divided into three interconnected main areas of study, each of which has its own Outcome:

To be a Trek Leader you need to be confident in your riding abilities and in dealing with a group of riders whose experience may be variable. In the first Outcome you receive practical instruction on modifying your riding technique and the chance to make any required improvement riding a variety of horses or ponies over a variety of different surfaces and terrain.

The second Outcome looks at the legal requirements of riding out with a group. You examine the Highway Code and how it applies to safe riding on the road and investigate best practice by visiting different yards and exploring how the businesses are run. You will also examine case studies of negligence, or failed duty of care to appreciate the consequences of poor adherence to the law and poor working methods.

For the third Outcome, you are exposed to more practical riding on different types of horses and ponies and practice leading a short trek under supervision. You are required to demonstrate effective communication with the group and any other leaders or assistants and plan a trek ensuring safety of horses and riders, rider ability matched to mount and submitting a suitable itinerary and route.

Many of the practical Evidence Requirements of this Unit may be continuously assessed by the tutor/trainer with a final demonstration of leading out a planned trek.

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