



Higher National Examination-based Graded Unit Specification

General Information

This Graded Unit has been validated as part of the HND Rural Resource Management. Centres are required to develop the assessment instrument in accordance with this validated specification.

Graded Unit title: Rural Resource Management: Graded Unit 3

Graded Unit code: F6JH 35

Type of Examination: Closed-book

Publication date: June 2013

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: completed by SQA

Graded Unit purpose

This Graded Unit is designed to provide evidence that the learner has achieved the following principal aims of the HND Rural Resource Management:

- ◆ to enable learners to develop integrated solutions through a rigorous and critical evaluation of problems associated with resource management
- ◆ to encourage a participatory approach to the development of sustainable rural communities
- ◆ to ensure that learners have a sound appreciation of current environmental issues and how they may relate to business development and management
- ◆ to provide the opportunity for learners to develop a range of practical abilities in rural resource management in a variety of 'real life' and simulated situations
- ◆ to produce rural resource managers with a sound understanding of relevant scientific, technical, socio-economic and business principles
- ◆ to facilitate progression to degree level education based on a firm foundation of understanding, technical expertise, Core Skills, and an understanding of the multidisciplinary nature of appropriate resource management

Credit points and level

1 Higher National Unit credit at SCQF level 8: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8)

Higher National Examination-based Graded Unit Specification: General Information (cont)

Recommended entry to the Graded Unit

It is recommended that the learner should have completed or be in the process of completing the following Units relating to the above principal aims prior to undertaking this Graded Unit:

- ◆ *Resource Economics* (F6CY 35)
- ◆ *Environmental Science: An Introduction* (F5T5 35)
- ◆ *Environmental Management Systems* (F6D0 35)
- ◆ *Data Collection and Handling Methods* (F3X3 35)
- ◆ *Waste Management and Pollution Control* (F55S 35)
- ◆ *Tourism: Sustainability and Rural Communities* (F566 35)
- ◆ *Rural Socio-Economic Development* (F6BK 35)
- ◆ *Rural Business Diversification* (F2EF 35)

Core Skills

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

Assessment Support Pack

The Assessment Support Pack for this Unit provides assessment and marking guidelines that exemplify the national standard for achievement. It is a valid, reliable and practicable instrument of assessment. Centres wishing to develop their own assessments should refer to the Assessment Support Pack to ensure a comparable standard. Assessment Support Packs are available on SQA's secure website.

Equality and inclusion

This Graded Unit has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on SQA's website:
www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

Higher National Examination-based Graded Unit Specification: Designing the examination and assessing learners

Graded Unit title: Rural Resource Management: Graded Unit 3

Assessment

This Graded Unit will be assessed by the use of a closed-book examination developed by centres. The examination should provide the learner with the opportunity to produce evidence that demonstrates she/he has met the aims of this Graded Unit.

The assessment is an examination lasting 3 hours.

The examination should be designed to assess the learner's critical knowledge and understanding of the topics relating to the specific aims which this Graded Unit is designed to cover.

The examination will be marked out of **100**. Only whole marks should be used.

The questions and corresponding marks should be designed in accordance with the key topics (ie the critical knowledge and skills to be covered in the examination), level of demand (eg description, explanation, analysis, application) and relative mark allocation for each key topic outlined in the table below.

The assessment is based on two separate, consecutive closed-book examinations, each of 1 hour 30 minutes duration. Both examinations must cover all key topic areas. The first examination must consist of a paper incorporating restricted response type questions. The second paper should be made up of extended response questions. A list of key topics and weightings is provided in the table which follows.

The format of the examination should be designed to conform to the following:

- ◆ each examination must be closed-book and supervised and last 1 hour 30 minutes
- ◆ the examination papers must contain a choice of at least two questions from each key topic
- ◆ the aggregate marks available for the question or questions in each topic area must conform to the weightings given in the table which follows
- ◆ each question should have an associated mark
- ◆ a blend of question types is to be used for each topic area. One examination paper should involve restricted response and multiple choice questions for each of the key topic areas. The other examination should involve more extended response questions.
- ◆ learners are expected to attempt all required questions in each section of the examination papers
- ◆ a mark must be achieved in each section of each examination paper

Higher National Examination-based Graded Unit Specification: Designing the examination and assessing learners (cont)

Graded Unit title: Rural Resource Management: Graded Unit 3

Key topics	Level of demand	% mark allocation for each key topic
<i>Environmental issues and human interactions</i> (climate change, waste and pollution, transportation, biodiversity, conservation, legislation)	Evaluate environmental issues and human interactions and discuss the need for environmental protection policies.	25%
<i>Principles of environmental management and sustainability</i> (sustainable development, Environmental Management Systems, environmental policy and auditing, ecological footprints, SMART targets)	Critically appraise principles of sustainable development and environmental management, and evaluate their effectiveness.	25%
<i>Resource economics</i> (private costs, externalities and social costs, markets and resource use, market failure, sustainable resource use)	Critical analysis of resource economics, and issues affecting effective sustainable use in the market place.	20%
<i>Management of rural resources</i> (application of business management principles within specific context and in line with legislation)	Examination of appropriate ways of managing rural resources and rural businesses, and application in different contexts.	30%
Total marks for Examination		100

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

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

To pass the examination and achieve the Graded Unit, the learner must achieve a mark of 50% or above.

Higher National Examination-based Graded Unit Specification: Designing the examination and assessing learners (cont)

Graded Unit title: Rural Resource Management: Graded Unit 3

Conditions of assessment

The examination is closed-book.

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 the examination must be ensured.

If a learner does not achieve a pass or if a learner wishes to upgrade, this must be based on a significantly different examination from that given originally. A learner'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.

Assessing and grading learners

Learners who meet the minimum Evidence Requirements will have their achievement graded as an A, B or C. The Grade Related Criteria to be used to judge learner performance for this Graded Unit is specified in the following table.

Grade Related Criteria	
Grade A	Grade C
<p>Is a seamless, coherent piece of work or exam script which consistently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ interprets and understands the question in a way that demonstrates insight and clear understanding of issues and relationships ◆ comprehensively addresses all aspects of the question ◆ demonstrates a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of relevant information ◆ offers logically structured and coherently expressed responses, demonstrating consistent use of correct terminology ◆ has a clear structure throughout and uses language and terminology of a consistently high standard in terms of level, accuracy and technical content ◆ provides solutions to problems are realistic and attention is paid to practicality and viability 	<p>Is a co-ordinated piece of work or exam script which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ interprets the question in a way that enables the learner to meet the minimum Evidence Requirements ◆ addresses the main issues of the question ◆ demonstrates analysis and evaluation ◆ offers responses that convey relevant points ◆ uses language and terminology appropriately, in terms of level, accuracy and technical content ◆ contains solutions to problems which are feasible and with due regard to practicality and viability

Higher National Examination-based Graded Unit Specification: Designing the examination and assessing learners (cont)

Graded Unit title: Rural Resource Management: Graded Unit 3

Grade Related Criteria	
Grade A	Grade C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ argues and shows links between discussions and conclusions, demonstrating comprehensive knowledge and understanding as well as analysis and evaluation skills ◆ provides evidence of possible alternative approaches and arguments as well as an understanding of different interpretations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ argues and justifies conclusions with some links to discussions ◆ demonstrates one approach and limited understanding of different interpretations

The marks achieved by the learner in the examination should be aggregated to arrive at an overall mark for the examination. Assessors will then assign an overall grade to the learner for this Graded Unit based on the following grade boundaries.

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

These grade boundaries are fixed and should **not** be amended.

If a learner does not achieve a pass or wishes to upgrade, then this must be done using a substantially different examination. In these circumstances, the highest grade achieved should be awarded.

More information on reasonable assistance, remediation and re-assessment may be found in the SQA publication *Guidance for the Implementation of Graded Units in Higher National Certificates and Diplomas* (SQA, 2008, Publication code: CA4405).



Higher National Examination-based Graded Unit Support Notes

Graded Unit title: Rural Resource Management: Graded Unit 3

Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment of this Graded Unit

The Graded Unit for this award consists of 3 hours of closed-book examination covering four key topics. It is suggested that the examination is held as two separate events, both undertaken under the same closed-book conditions and both containing a spread of questions covering the key topic areas. One exam may consist of restricted response questions, the other of extended response questions. The questions associated with each key topic should be focused on appropriate knowledge and skills. The purpose of the examination is, in part, to prove the learner's ability to integrate information gleaned from the Units that comprise the Course, but also it provides the opportunity for learners to achieve a grade for the examination that reflects the depth and scope of their knowledge and understanding.

The defined mandatory Units could be scheduled for the first and second terms so that learners have time to consolidate and deepen their knowledge and understanding by private study and background reading before the examination towards the end of the academic session.

It would be beneficial if learners gained experience of an examination type assessment event during the delivery of the Group Award so that they feel comfortable with the format. There could be discussions with learners on examination techniques which should include the timing, the significance of the verbs used in questions, the need to ascertain the scope of the question, and planning responses. Feedback on sample responses (formative assessment) would sharpen their examination techniques.

The examination should be completed under normal examination conditions. That is at a defined time advertised well in advance, in a quiet venue with effective invigilation facilities. Learners should be provided with clear information regarding examination resist.

Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

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

History of changes to Graded Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for learners

Graded Unit title: Rural Resource Management: Graded Unit 3

This is a single credit Graded Unit (examination) at SCQF level 8.

This Graded Unit is designed to assess your ability to recall, integrate and apply the essential knowledge and understanding required to meet the principal aims of the HND Rural Resource Management. The assessment is two closed-book examinations lasting a total of 3 hours, held towards the end of the Course, which draw together elements from the following defined Units of the Rural Resource Management programme:

- ◆ *Resource Economics (F6CY 35)*
- ◆ *Environmental Science: An Introduction (F5T5 35)*
- ◆ *Environmental Management Systems (F6D0 35)*
- ◆ *Data Collection and Handling Methods (F3X3 35)*
- ◆ *Waste Management and Pollution Control (F55S 35)*
- ◆ *Tourism: Sustainability and Rural Communities (F566 35)*
- ◆ *Rural Socio-Economic Development (F6BK 35)*
- ◆ *Rural Business Diversification (F2EF 35)*

The examination consists of questions in four areas related to key aspects of the above Units. These areas are:

- ◆ Environmental issues
- ◆ Environmental management principles
- ◆ Resource economics
- ◆ Management of rural resources

Each question has the marks for the question identified and the total number of marks available per section. Assessors mark each section of the examination paper taking into account the criteria outlined. The marks for the examination are then aggregated to arrive at an overall mark for the examination. Assessors then assign an overall grade to the learner for this Graded Unit based on the following grade boundaries.

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

Learners who fail the examination and are offered a resit opportunity will undertake a substantially different question paper.