



Higher National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Designing Gardens (SCQF level 7)

Unit code: H7BG 34

Superclass: SA

Publication date: July 2014

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Unit purpose

This Unit introduces the principles and process of garden design. It is designed to provide the basic understanding and skills required to allow learners to design and present a range of garden designs.

This Unit is suitable for those who wish to pursue a career in garden design or within the wider horticulture industry.

Outcomes

On successful completion of the Unit the learner will be able to:

- 1 Describe the design techniques involved in garden design.
- 2 Design small and medium sized gardens.

Credit points and level

1 Higher National Unit credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7)

Recommended entry to the Unit

Entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, however learners may benefit from having completed National Units *Design Process and Composition in the Landscape: An Introduction* and *Landscape Graphics* or equivalent.

Higher National Unit Specification: General information (cont)

Unit title: Designing Gardens (SCQF level 7)

Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the Support Notes for this Unit specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

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.

Equality and inclusion

This Unit specification 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 our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards

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Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

Outcome 1

Describe the design techniques involved in garden design.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Movement and Function
- ◆ Spatial awareness
- ◆ Composition
- ◆ Design principles and design elements
- ◆ Screening/partitioning
- ◆ Focal points
- ◆ Influence of time on space

Outcome 2

Design small and medium sized gardens.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Site surveys
- ◆ Site analysis
- ◆ Client liaison
- ◆ Interpretation of briefs
- ◆ Design concepts
- ◆ Material selection
- ◆ Graphic presentation

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Designing Gardens (SCQF level 7)

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills across all Outcomes by showing that they can:

For Outcome 1:

- ◆ describe the manipulation and effects of movement and function within a garden setting.
- ◆ describe how spatial awareness can affect the design of a garden.
- ◆ utilise the principles of perspective.
- ◆ describe how composition can affect the design of a garden.
- ◆ describe the effects of screening.
- ◆ describe the creation and effects of focal points.

For Outcome 2:

- ◆ conduct site surveys.
- ◆ liaise with two clients and their varied gardens.
- ◆ analyse given sites in relation to their given brief requirements.
- ◆ describe and illustrate a range of concepts for two varied gardens and clients.
- ◆ design appropriate schemes that have appropriate materials selected.
- ◆ present two graphic garden design schemes to a suitable industry standard.

Evidence for both Outcomes could be integrated and presented in the form of a portfolio.



Higher National Unit Support Notes

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Unit Support Notes are offered as guidance and 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

This Unit aims to highlight the unique factors, which require consideration when designing a garden.

Outcome 1 introduces the learner to the principles unique to the design of a garden space. Looking at the theory and techniques involved and dealing with detailed issues such as circulation and movement within a garden. Movement and spatial awareness will be combined through exercises on topics such as composition, perspective, screening and focal points.

Outcome 2 covers practical garden design projects (small and medium gardens) including site survey and analysis and interpretation of clients briefs through to the presentation of the completed proposals.

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

This Unit could be delivered through lectures, tutorials, practicals and site visits. Visiting speakers could be invited to provide examples of the application of the design process. Learners should be encouraged to critically evaluate gardens to analyse the characteristics of successful gardens and to explore themes for gardens and experiment with a range of materials within the context of a garden.

Guidance on approaches to assessment of this Unit

Evidence can be generated using different types of assessment. The following are suggestions only. There may be other methods that would be more suitable to learners.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of centre-devised assessments would help to ensure that the national standard is being met. Where learners experience a range of assessment methods, this helps them to develop different skills that should be transferable to work or further and higher education.

Suitable approaches to generating evidence may include the production of a design workbook, design development of concepts, annotated drawings and practical assessment, which may be supported by oral explanation by the learner.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Designing Gardens (SCQF level 7)

For Outcome 1 evidence could be generated through the submission of a graphic assignment. Within project descriptions and presentations for Outcome 2 evidence could be exhibited which shows that the principles covered in Outcome 1 have been utilised and can be described with the two projects.

Opportunities for e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment.

Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components within this Unit, however there may be opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Numeracy and Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* at SCQF level 5 and *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 6.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for learners

Unit title: Designing Gardens (SCQF level 7)

This section will help you decide whether this is the Unit for you by explaining what the Unit is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the Unit and opportunities for further learning and employment.

This Unit introduces the principles and process of garden design. It is designed to provide you with an understanding of the skills required to design and present a range of garden design schemes.

You will begin by looking at issues and principles of design and how they require to be applied to a garden's scale. Issues of screening, perspective, movement and composition will also be considered.

You will then design a range of gardens for two clients, including undertaking a site survey and analysis, interpreting a brief and selecting appropriate materials. You will normally have the opportunity to present these plans both graphically and verbally to the client.

You will, wherever possible, work with clients to gain an understanding of the client/designer relationship.

In order to successfully complete this Unit you will be required to achieve a satisfactory level of performance in pieces of coursework, these will normally be in the form of a submission of several packages of drawing which could form a portfolio.

This Unit is suitable for you if you wish to pursue a career in Garden Design or other related horticultural industries.