



## Higher National Examination-based Graded Unit Specification

### General Information

This Graded Unit has been validated as part of the HNC in Horticulture at SCQF level 7. Centres are required to develop the assessment instrument in accordance with this validated specification.

**Graded Unit title:** Horticulture: Graded Unit 1 (SCQF level 7)

**Graded Unit code:** H7L0 34

**Type of Examination:** Closed-book

**Publication date:** August 2014

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

### Graded Unit purpose

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

- ◆ introduce the breadth of the horticultural industry and to develop an understanding of the characteristics, growth and use of plants, supported by the basic practical skills required for the care and maintenance of plants.

### 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 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:

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

- F1JA 34 Horticultural Practices (SCQF level 7)
- F21T 34 Plant Growth and Development (SCQF level 7)
- F2B3 34 Plant Protection (SCQF level 7)
- F21S 34 Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use (SCQF level 7)
- F21V 34 Soil Management (SCQF level 7)

and

- F21P 34 Horticultural Mechanisation Principles (SCQF level 7)

or

- D4PE 34 Selection and Management of Machinery for Land-based Industries  
(SCQF level 7)

### 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)

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

**Graded Unit title:** Horticulture: Graded Unit 1 (SCQF level 7)

### 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 three 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.

Key topics	Level of demand	% mark allocation for each key topic
◆ Plant Identification and Use ◆ Plant Propagation and Cultivation ◆ Soils ◆ Plant Health ◆ Plant Biology ◆ Horticultural Machinery	Describe and Explain — 1 Extended Response Question — 25 marks	25%
	Describe and Explain — 1 Extended Response Question — 25 marks	25%
	Describe and Explain — 1 Extended Response Question — 25 marks	25%
	Describe and Explain — 1 Extended Response Question — 25 marks	25%
<b>Total marks for Examination</b>		<b>100</b>

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

**Graded Unit title:** Horticulture: Graded Unit 1 (SCQF level 7)

### 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.

The exam should be of three hours in duration and consist of six questions from which the learner is required to attempt four questions, each worth 25% of the overall mark.

### 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"> <li>◆ interprets and understands the question in a way that demonstrates insight and clear understanding of issues and relationships</li> <li>◆ demonstrates a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of relevant information</li> <li>◆ offers logically structured and coherently expressed responses, demonstrating consistent use of correct terminology</li> <li>◆ is clear and well-structured throughout, with language and terminology used of a consistently high standard in terms of level, accuracy, and technical content</li> <li>◆ consolidates and integrates required knowledge and skills, linking concepts and ideas, and relating answers explicitly to the question</li> <li>◆ provides evidence of possible alternative approaches and arguments as well as understanding of different interpretations</li> </ul>	<p>Is a co-ordinated piece of work or exam script which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ interprets and understands the question in a way that enables the learner to meet the basic criteria required</li> <li>◆ demonstrates limited analysis, evaluation, and explanation of the question and other relevant information</li> <li>◆ offers uneven responses that convey limited understanding although some relevant points are made</li> <li>◆ is satisfactorily structured, with language and terminology used adequate, although not always consistent, in terms of level, accuracy, and technical content</li> <li>◆ consolidates and integrates knowledge and skills but may lack continuity and consistency and fail to show clear links to concepts and ideas</li> <li>◆ is likely to show only one approach and limited understanding of different interpretations</li> </ul>

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

**Graded Unit title:** Horticulture: Graded Unit 1 (SCQF level 7)

Grade Related Criteria (cont)	
Grade A	Grade C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ convincingly argues and shows links between discussions and conclusions, demonstrating comprehensive knowledge and understanding as well as analysis and evaluation skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ argues and justifies conclusions in an acceptable way but these conclusions may lack reasoned understanding, may not link well to discussions, and may show limited knowledge</li> </ul>

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:** Horticulture: Graded Unit 1 (SCQF level 7)

### **Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment of this Graded Unit**

The closed-book examination should consist of six extended response questions, from which the learner will be required to select four. Each question should assess the learner's ability to integrate the knowledge and skills they have developed across more than one Unit or specific subject. As learners will be selecting four from six questions it is important, as far as is possible, to ensure that questions are equally weighted in terms of length of response required and level of demand.

The overall exam will be marked on the basis of 100 marks, with each question contributing 25% of the overall mark. A significant focus in marking should be on the ability of the learner to integrate the knowledge and skills gained across a number of Units and apply it in a coherent way in various horticultural contexts.

Where re-assessment is required this must be based on a significantly different exam paper.

The exam should be conducted under normal closed-book invigilated conditions.

### **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: Horticulture: Graded Unit 1 (SCQF level 7)

The *HNC Horticulture: Graded Unit 1* consists of a closed-book examination. You will be required to select four questions to answer from a selection of six questions. This will allow you some flexibility to select questions which reflect your particular interests.

The questions will be based upon the knowledge and skills you will have developed while undertaking the following Units from the HNC:

*Horticultural Practices*

*Plant Growth and Development*

*Plant Protection*

*Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use*

*Soil Management*

and

*Horticultural Mechanisation Principles*

or

*Selection and Management of Machinery for Land-based Industries*

The examination will last 3 hours and will be marked out of a total of 100 marks, with each question contributing a maximum of 25 marks. A total of 50 marks are required to achieve the Graded Unit (C Grade), with a B Grade achieved at 60 marks and an A Grade at 70. The assessment for the Graded Unit will take place towards the end of your HNC year.