



Higher National Examination-based Graded Unit Specification

General Information

This Graded Unit has been validated as part of the HND in Horticulture at SCQF level 8. Centres are required to develop the assessment instrument in accordance with this validated specification.

Graded Unit title: Horticulture: Graded Unit 3 (SCQF level 8)

Graded Unit code: H7L3 35

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 HND in Horticulture to:

- ◆ develop skills and knowledge in the production of edible and non-edible crop plants.
- ◆ develop practical skills and knowledge in the care, maintenance and management of plants in the amenity landscape.
- ◆ develop abilities in horticultural science and technology.
- ◆ apply knowledge in a management and scientific context.

Credit points and level

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

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)

- F1JL 35 *Soils and Plant Nutrition* (SCQF level 8)
F1JH 35 *Plant Protection: Integrated Approaches* (SCQF level 8)

A minimum of four of the following SCQF level 8 Units:

- H7B5 35 *Advanced Plant Propagation* (SCQF level 8)
F2AX 35 *Crop Physiology and Breeding* (SCQF level 8)
F1J4 35 *Crop Production Practices* (SCQF level 8)
DJ6X 35 *DNA Molecular Techniques: Theory and Practice* (SCQF level 8)
F1MK 35 *Genetics for Plant Science* (SCQF level 8)
H7B6 35 *Hardy Ornamental Nursery Stock* (SCQF level 8)
F2B0 35 *Horticultural Growing Media* (SCQF level 8)
F21R 35 *Horticultural Production Mechanisation* (SCQF level 8)
F1ML 35 *Information Technology in Landscape Design and Management* (SCQF level 8)
F1JB 35 *Landscape Design History* (SCQF level 8)
F1JC 35 *Landscape Management and Maintenance* (SCQF level 8)
F2B1 35 *Landscape Practices* (SCQF level 8)
H7BH 35 *Lawn Construction and Management* (SCQF level 8)
F1JG 35 *Parks, Gardens and Public Open Spaces* (SCQF level 8)
H7BD 35 *Plants and Habitats: Ecology and Conservation* (SCQF level 8)
F2B6 35 *Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings* (SCQF level 8)
F1JJ 35 *Protected Crops* (SCQF level 8)
DP4X 35 *Terrestrial Ecosystems* (SCQF level 8)
F2B7 35 *Water Gardens: Design and Construction* (SCQF level 8)
FX3X 35 *Data Collection and Handling Methods* (SCQF level 8)
F1YA 35 *Organic Production Systems* (SCQF level 8)

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 (cont)

Graded Unit title: Horticulture: Graded Unit 3 (SCQF level 8)

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 and will consist of six questions from which the learner must attempt four questions (each question being worth a maximum of 25 marks).

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Plant health ◆ Integrated crop management ◆ Soil fertility and nutrient availability ◆ Principles and practices of horticulture 	Evaluate/Analyse — Single Extended Response Question — 25 marks	25
	Evaluate/Analyse — Single Extended Response Question — 25 marks	25
	Evaluate/Analyse — Single Extended Response Question — 25 marks	25
	Evaluate/Analyse — Single Extended Response Question — 25 marks	25
Total marks for Examination		100

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

Graded Unit title: Horticulture: Graded Unit 3 (SCQF level 8)

Conditions of assessment

The examination is *closed-book* and will consist of six questions from which the learner must attempt four questions.

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.

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

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

Graded Unit title: Horticulture: Graded Unit 3 (SCQF level 8)

Grade Related Criteria (cont)	
Grade A	Grade C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ convincingly argues and shows links between discussions and conclusions, demonstrating comprehensive knowledge and understanding as well as analysis and evaluation skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 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

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 3 (SCQF level 8)

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 3 (SCQF level 8)

The HND Horticulture Graded Unit 3 consists of a closed-book exam which you will undertake under normal exam conditions. You will be presented with six questions from which you will be required to select four questions to answer. The questions will be designed to allow you to demonstrate that you achieved the following aims of the HND:

- ◆ To develop skills and knowledge in the production of edible and non-edible crop plants.
- ◆ To develop practical skills and knowledge in the care, maintenance and management of plants in the amenity landscape.
- ◆ Develop abilities in horticultural science and technology.
- ◆ Apply knowledge in a management and scientific context.

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 HND year.