



Higher National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Equine Studies: Riding and Training Techniques on the Flat (SCQF level 8)

Unit code: HC4D 35

Superclass: SH

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Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 02

Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to enable learners to develop knowledge and skills of a variety of techniques used for training and assessing horses on the flat. The skills will be developed to a level of competence that will enable learners to maintain and assess the current level of horses on the flat up to and including novice standard dressage.

There is no requirement for the learner to ride in order to complete this Unit.

The Unit is suitable for anyone wishing to work within Horse Care or the wider equine industry.

Outcomes

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

- 1 Assess the current level of training of horses on the flat.
- 2 Evaluate a variety of horses on the flat to maintain their current level of training.
- 3 Implement a training programme from the ground.

Credit points and level

2 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 8: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8)

Higher National Unit Specification: General information (cont)

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Recommended entry to the Unit

Entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, however learners would benefit from having completed Higher National Unit *Equine Studies: Equitation*. They would also benefit from experience of riding and/or training horses on the flat.

Core Skills

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following:

Complete Core Skill Problem Solving at SCQF level 6

Core Skill component None

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

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.

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. Learners 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

Assess the current level of training of horses on the flat.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Assessing current levels of training including:
 - Conformation
 - Age
 - Soundness
 - Fitness
- ◆ Techniques to assess horses on the flat
- ◆ Evaluating horses to assess future potential on the flat

Outcome 2

Evaluate a variety of horses on the flat to maintain their current level of training.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Monitoring horses on the flat
- ◆ Maintaining levels of training
- ◆ Developing the quality of work within a horse's repertoire
- ◆ Safe working practices

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 3

Implement a training programme from the ground.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Ground techniques to include:
 - Lunging
 - Long reining
 - Loose schooling
- ◆ Assessing horses on the flat using ground techniques
- ◆ Planning training programmes for horses using ridden and ground techniques
- ◆ Implementing training programmes
- ◆ Appropriate tack for ridden and ground techniques
- ◆ Necessary modifications to the programme
- ◆ Health and safety

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 Outcomes 1 and 2:

- ◆ assess two selected horses' level of training on the flat over a given period of time.
- ◆ provide feedback on assessment of the selected horses covering:
 - conformation
 - age
 - soundness
 - fitness
- ◆ demonstrate appropriate techniques on selected horses to maintain their current level of training. This could be either ridden or ground techniques.
- ◆ describe the value of schoolwork in the overall development of the horse.
- ◆ comply with all relevant Health and Safety requirements.

For Outcome 3:

- ◆ develop and produce a training plan to maintain and improve a selected horse on the flat using ground techniques.
- ◆ implement the training plan over a given period.
- ◆ modify the plan as necessary during the implementation.
- ◆ report on and evaluate the success of the programme.
- ◆ comply with all relevant Health and Safety requirements.



Higher National Unit Support Notes

Unit title: Equine Studies: Riding and Training Techniques on the Flat (SCQF level 8)

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 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

Outcome 1 provides the learner with the Knowledge and Skills required to assess and report on the current level of training of a variety of horses on the flat. Learners should be made aware of the techniques used to assess horses on the flat.

Outcome 2 provides the learner with the Knowledge and Skills required to maintain the level of training of a variety of horses. Learners should be made aware of the importance of schoolwork to the overall development of the horse.

Outcome 3 provides the learner with the Knowledge and Skills required to implement a training programme from the ground (there is no requirement for the learner to ride within this Unit). The learner will be introduced to a range of ground techniques including lunging, long reining and loose schooling.

Throughout this Unit an emphasis should be placed on safe working practices to reduce the risk to learners and horses alike.

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

A practical approach to delivery is recommended which allows learners to develop the skills required to complete the Unit.

For Outcome 1 learners should be made aware of the techniques used to assess horses on the flat, including assessment of conformation, age and soundness. The learner should develop the skills to be able to effectively evaluate horses in order to assess their suitability and current level of training and their future potential on the flat.

For Outcome 2 learners are not expected to improve on the horse's level of training but only to maintain the existing level. Techniques to maintain the level of training would include both ground and ridden techniques (although the learner is not required to ride themselves). Learners should be made aware of the importance of schoolwork to the overall development of the horse.

In Outcome 3 examples of ground techniques would include lunging, long reining and loose schooling. Learners should be able to modify the training programme as required to ensure it is suitable for the selected horse.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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The Outcomes of the Unit will normally be delivered sequentially as Outcome 2 builds on the knowledge and skills developed in Outcome 1 and Outcome 3 follows naturally from Outcome 2.

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.

Outcomes 1 and 2 could be assessed jointly by a practical assignment supported by some additional written and/or oral questions covering all the Evidence Requirements.

Outcome 3 could be assessed by the production of a written and/or oral report covering the implementation and evaluation of the training programme, including any adjustments to the training programme. An assessor's checklist could be used to provide evidence of the practical aspects of Outcome 3.

If this Unit is delivered as part of the HNC or HND in Equine Studies (SCQF levels 7 and level 8 respectively) there may be opportunities to integrate the delivery and assessment of this Unit with other relevant Units. This will help learners to relate the knowledge and skills they have developed throughout the Unit to a wider horse care context.

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

This Unit has the Core Skill of Problem Solving embedded in it, so when learners achieve this Unit their Core Skills profile will be updated to show that they have achieved Problem Solving at SCQF level 6.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Core Skill Problem Solving at SCQF level 6 embedded.	20/05/16

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General information for learners

Unit title: Equine Studies: Riding and Training Techniques on the Flat (SCQF level 8)

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 is designed to develop your knowledge and skills in the techniques used for assessing and training horses on the flat. You will develop the skills required to assess and maintain the current level of horses on the flat up to and including novice dressage standard.

Upon completion of the Unit you will be able to:

- ◆ Assess the current level of training of horses on the flat.
- ◆ Evaluate a variety of horses on the flat to maintain their current level of training
- ◆ Implement a training programme from the ground

You will be assessed in this Unit through a mixture of theory and practical assessments. This will include assessing horses' levels of training, using appropriate techniques to maintain levels of training and producing a plan to improve a horse on the flat. There is no requirement to ride in order to achieve this Unit.

This Unit has the Core Skill of Problem Solving embedded in it, so when you achieve this Unit your Core Skills profile will be updated to show that you have achieved Problem Solving at SCQF level 6.