



Higher National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Equine: Care of the Competition Horse (SCQF level 7)

Unit code: HG52 34

Superclass: SH

Publication date: October 2016

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Unit purpose

This unit is designed to enable learners to develop and utilise their knowledge in the preparation of the horse for a variety of competitions. Learners will develop the knowledge and skills to prepare and care for the competition horse successfully in three different disciplines.

This unit is suitable for those wishing to pursue a career within a Riding School or within the equine industry in general.

Outcomes

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

- 1 Prepare the horse prior to a variety of competitions.
- 2 Prepare and care for the horse at competitions.
- 3 Care for the horse post- competition.

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 delivering centre, however prior achievement of the HN unit 'Equine Health' would be beneficial. Several years of practical experience and/or an appropriate certificate in horse management would also be beneficial.

Higher National Unit Specification: General information (cont)

Unit title: Equine: Care of the Competition Horse (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

Unit title: Equine: Care of the Competition Horse (SCQF level 7)

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

Prepare the horse prior to a variety of competitions

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Requirements for preparation and grooming
- ◆ Essential items required for the horse at specific competitions
- ◆ Requirements for the preparation of the horse for travel with appropriate boots/bandages and rugs and loading into vehicle.
- ◆ Requirements for the preparation of the vehicle for transporting horses and how to pack with the required equipment.
- ◆ Health and Safety requirements
- ◆ Current legislation relating to transporting equines

Outcome 2

Prepare and care for the horse at competitions

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Turnout of the horse to the required standard
- ◆ Selecting and fitting appropriate equipment for the competition
- ◆ Plan of activities for the day
- ◆ Correct feeding and watering of the horse throughout
- ◆ Attention to horse's welfare
- ◆ Assessment of the horse for injury
- ◆ Health and Safety requirements

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards

Unit title: Equine: Care of the Competition Horse (SCQF level 7)

Outcome 3

Care for the horse post-competition

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Assessment of the horse for injury and appropriate action
- ◆ Post-competition routine for the horse
- ◆ Unloading of equipment from vehicle, clean vehicle and check for damage/wear
- ◆ Checks on equipment and clean as required, store for next use
- ◆ Health and Safety requirements

Evidence Requirements for this unit

Outcome 1

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

- ◆ prepare a horse correctly for a given competition.
- ◆ describe the equipment required for the competition.
- ◆ prepare the vehicle to transport the horse.
- ◆ prepare the horse for travel, and load into vehicle.
- ◆ comply with all relevant Health and Safety regulations and legislation.

Outcome 2

Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can, for a one day event and two other affiliated competitions:

- ◆ fit a double bridle.
- ◆ identify and fit equipment appropriate to the competition.
- ◆ turn out the horse appropriately to the competition.
- ◆ describe care for the horse throughout the competition, highlighting any differences between events.
- ◆ comply with all relevant Health and Safety regulations and legislation.

Outcome 3

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

- ◆ describe the appropriate care of a horse following a given competition.
- ◆ describe the necessary checks and maintenance required for the vehicle following transporting a horse.
- ◆ describe the appropriate post competition care of tack and equipment.



Higher National Unit Support Notes

Unit title: Equine: Care of the Competition Horse (SCQF level 7)

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 is aimed at enabling learners to develop and utilise a sound knowledge in the preparation and care of the horse for a One Day Event and two other disciplines such as show jumping, dressage, showing and endurance. Learners will develop the knowledge to prepare and care for horses successfully in different disciplines. This unit should be delivered on a practical basis to allow the learner to gain the skills required to enter the industry with the ability to 'groom' for the competition rider. It is aimed at those who have had some experience in general horse care and health.

Outcome 1 looks at the preparation required on the day prior to the competition. It gives the learner an insight into three equine competitions. The learner should demonstrate knowledge of appropriate turnout of the horse and selection of equipment. The learner should have the opportunity to clip, wash, groom, trim and plait the horse in preparation for the competition. Essential items/equipment should be relevant to the type of competition. The focus on preparing the vehicle should be on the safe accommodation of the horse not the general road worthiness of the vehicle.

Types of competition/events could include: One Day Events, show jumping, dressage, showing and endurance.

Outcome 2 looks at the care required by the horse on the day of the competitions. The learner should demonstrate knowledge of how to select and fit appropriate tack for a discipline. The learner will show knowledge of organising the day to the welfare of the horse. Appropriate equipment for the competition could include a double bridle, hunting breastplate, boots or exercise bandages and studs.

Aspects of the horses welfare would include stress levels, heat regulation and dehydration. Outcome 3 looks at the care of the horse following the competition. The learner should have the opportunity to make checks on the horse and recognise common injuries. The routine for the horse on this day should enable the horse to recover from the competition as promptly as possible. Checks and maintenance of the vehicle and equipment must be carried out and understood.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Equine: Care of the Competition Horse (SCQF level 7)

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this unit

This unit is designed to enable the learner to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to give them a clear understanding of caring for competition horses in a variety of disciplines.

Some of the unit will be covered in the classroom but learners should spend time working with appropriate horses on the yard and in the competitive environment as much as possible.

The use of video, slides and diagrammatic material will be useful. Visits to competitions and the use of specialist speakers should be incorporated. Class discussion would be useful following the return of learners from competitions.

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.

This unit could be assessed holistically using a project and a practical exercise. The project should cover a one day event and two other different disciplines. All Outcomes could be covered in one assessment. The learner may provide evidence in the form of charts, diagrams and pictures to clarify their knowledge. Assessors should complete the marking checklist appropriately.

The practical exercise should include the preparation of the horse for competition and travel, to include vehicle checks. Checks for injury should be demonstrated. Assessors should complete the observation checklist. Witness testimony should be used to confirm practical ability.

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.

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 are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication*, *Problem Solving* and *Working with Others* at SCQF level 6 in this unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

History of changes to unit

Version	Description of change	Date

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2016

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

Additional copies of this unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Business Development and Customer Support team, telephone 0303 333 0330.

General information for learners

Unit title: Equine: Care of the Competition Horse (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 is designed to give you a clear understanding of how to care for competition horses in a variety of disciplines.

You will develop the knowledge to prepare and care for horses successfully in three different disciplines. This unit should be delivered on a practical basis to allow you to gain the skills required to enter the industry with the ability to 'groom' for the competition rider.

This unit is aimed at those who have had some experience in general horse care and health.

The unit is organised into three Outcomes, covering the following topics:

- 1 Prepare the horse prior to a variety of competitions.
- 2 Prepare and care for the horse at competitions.
- 3 Care for the horse post-competition.

In Outcome 1 you will learn about the preparation required on the day prior to the competitions. It will give you a knowledge of three widely available equine competitions. You will demonstrate knowledge and skills of appropriate turnout of the horse and selection of the equipment. You will have the opportunity to clip, wash, groom, trim and plait the horse in preparation for the competition.

In Outcome 2 you will learn about the care required by the horse on the day of competitions. You will demonstrate knowledge of how to select and fit appropriate tack for three disciplines. You will develop the knowledge and skills of organising the day to the welfare of the horse.

In Outcome 3 you will look at the care of the horse following the competitions. You will be given the opportunity to make checks on the horse and recognise common injuries. You will develop the knowledge to produce a routine for the horse on this day that will enable him to recover from the competition as promptly as possible. You will be given the opportunity to check and care for the vehicle and equipment after competition.

Assessment of all Outcomes of this unit will be assessed holistically using a project and a practical exercise. The case study or report will cover three different disciplines. The practical exercise will cover one discipline.