



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Golf Course Design and Layout (SCQF level 5)

CODE F6XM 11

SUMMARY

This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to understand and appreciate the principles of design and layout associated with new or existing golf courses. The Unit is aimed at candidates involved in the golf and greenkeeping industry who wish to develop their understanding of golf course design and layout.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Explain the evolution of golf courses and golf course design.
- 2 Describe the factors which influence the choice of site for golf courses.
- 3 Produce a scale drawing of a golf course with supporting information.
- 4 Describe key environmental considerations in the design and layout of a golf course.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

CREDIT VALUE

1.5 credit at SCQF level 5 (9 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5*).

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Administrative Information

Superclass: SF

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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

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CORE SKILLS

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following:

Complete Core Skill None

Core Skill component Critical Thinking at SCQF Level 5

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit Specification.

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

Explain the evolution of golf courses and golf course design.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Explain clearly the main factors that have contributed to the evolution of golf course design.
- (b) Identify clearly the role and contribution made to golf and greenkeeping practices by the key professional and governing bodies in the golf world.

OUTCOME 2

Describe the factors which influence the choice of site for golf courses.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify correctly the main categories of golf course.
- (b) Describe clearly the main terrain features and soil types which influence the design, construction and category of golf course.
- (c) Describe briefly additional factors which impact on the choice of site for golf courses.

OUTCOME 3

Produce a scale drawing of a golf course with supporting information.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The components parts of a golf course are identified clearly.
- (b) The placement of the component parts within the scale drawing are justified.
- (c) The safety aspects involved in golf course design are described clearly.

OUTCOME 4

Describe key environmental considerations in the design and layout of a golf course.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe accurately the environmental impact of golf course design and layout.
- (b) Describe accurately how design impacts on the sustainable management and maintenance of the golf course.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

All relevant operational procedures undertaken in this Unit must adhere to current health and safety legislation, regulations, codes of practice and manufacturers' recommendations where appropriate.

Outcome 1 — Written and/or recorded oral evidence

Written and/or recorded oral evidence is required which demonstrates that the candidate has achieved Outcome 1. The assessment must cover:

- ◆ the history, development and trends of golf and their effects on golf course design
- ◆ the role and development of golf course designers, both historical and current
- ◆ Penal, Strategic and Heroic in relation to individual hole design
- ◆ the development and construction of golf clubs and their effect on hole design, including hole length and Par
- ◆ the role of professional and governing bodies

Outcome 2 — Written and/or recorded oral evidence

Written and/or recorded oral evidence is required which demonstrates that the candidate has achieved Outcome 2. The assessment must provide evidence that the candidate can describe and explain:

- ◆ links, parkland, heathland and moorland as the main categories of golf course land use and the influence that current or previous land use will have on design and construction including farm land, waste/scrubland and reclaimed land
- ◆ the associate features of the terrain, existing vegetation and soil type of each
- ◆ other factors that include public services and utilities, planning considerations, existing features and access

Outcome 3 — Written and/or recorded oral evidence

Written and/or recorded oral evidence which demonstrates that the candidate has achieved Outcome 3.

Candidates should be presented with an assignment that requires the candidate to produce a scale drawing of a nine hole golf course on a pre-determined area of ground. The candidate must draw to scale the placement of greens, tees, fairways, practice area and bunkers on their golf course.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Candidates must provide supporting information of approximately 500 words which should accompany the design. Candidates must include:

- ◆ factors that influence the location and design of the features
- ◆ the safety aspects involved in golf course design in relation to the placement of greens, tees, bunkers, fairways and other component features

Outcome 4 — Written and/or recorded oral evidence

Written and/or recorded oral evidence which demonstrates that the candidate has achieved Outcome 4.

Candidates are required to produce an assignment that demonstrates their understanding of the environmental considerations and sustainability of golf course design and layout.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Golf Course Design and Layout (SCQF level 5)

This part of the Unit Specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 60 hours.

GUIDANCE ON THE CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT

This Unit is an optional Unit of the National Certificate in Greenkeeping, but may also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit is aligned to the following Lantra, Sector Skills Council's National Occupational Standard (NOS) Units:

- (CU2) Monitor and maintain health and safety
- (L6) Present, maintain and repair sportsturf surfaces for play

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Though some areas may imply classroom-based activity it would be beneficial to augment this with on-site observation of specific golf courses and their design layout.

Outcome 1 can be supplemented by site visits to specific historically important golf courses and/or to golf courses designed by known designers which exhibit Penal, Strategic and Heroic design influences. Visits to the web sites for information retrieval on organisations such as The Home Unions, The Royal and Ancient Golf Club, the Scottish Golf Union, British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association and Sports Turf Research Institute will help to supplement classroom based activities.

Candidates should be aware of relevant publications from both the UK and internationally and be able to retrieve relevant information.

Outcome 2 can be supplemented to visits to golf courses that are known to be constructed on each of the specified land types of links, parkland, heathland and moorland to appreciate the different environmental and vegetative states of each.

Outcome 3 can be supported by centres identifying a known piece of land that may or may not already be a golf course for candidates to use as a guide to help design their own layout for a golf course. Centres should consider areas that can accommodate nine holes for the exercise.

Outcome 4 could include reference to appropriate websites for example, the R&A Best for Golf Courses web site, Golf Environment Europe and the National Audubon Society.

National Unit Specification: support notes

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

In this Unit candidates may have the opportunity to develop the following Core Skills:

- ◆ *Information and Communication Technology* (SCQF level 4), through the assignment development
- ◆ *Numeracy* (SCQF level 4), through scale drawing.
- ◆ *Communication* (SCQF level 4,) through discussion

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Assessment for Outcomes 1, 2 and 4 may be carried out using e-assessments where appropriate. Centres must satisfy themselves that the assessments used are comparable to other instruments of assessment currently available and have evidence available for verification purposes

In Outcome 3 a report could form the supporting information in addition to the scale drawing.

In Outcome 4 the candidate could include the following:

- ◆ Performance Criteria (a): the environmental impact of golf course design and layout which should include the impact on existing habitats, nature conservation, habitat diversity, landscape and cultural heritage, visual impact on the landscape.
- ◆ Performance Criteria (b): a discussion on the impact of the chosen design on future maintenance of the golf course, and may include discussion on water management, pesticide use, landscape management, waste recycling and management and energy use.

Opportunities for the use of 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 communications technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

DISABLED CANDIDATES AND/OR THOSE WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website

www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements