



## National Unit specification: general information

**Unit title:** Horse Care: Grooming and Clothing (SCQF level 5)

**Unit code:** FV9J 11

**Superclass:** SH

**Publication date:** September 2011

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

## Summary

The purpose of this Unit is to enable the candidate to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to groom a stabled horse, recognise, fit and care for horse rugs and to apply stable and tail bandages. The Unit is suitable for candidates who are school leavers, adult returners, school pupils and for industry CPD. This Unit is a mandatory Unit in the NC in Horse Care at SCQF Level 5 but can also be taken as a free standing Unit. Candidates may progress from this Unit to a range of higher level Units within Horse Care awards.

## Outcomes

- 1 Groom a stable kept horse.
- 2 Recognise, fit and care for horse rugs.
- 3 Apply and remove stable and tail bandages.

## Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, it would be beneficial if candidates had previous experience of handling horses.

## Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 5: (6 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.*

## **National Unit specification: general information (cont)**

**Unit title:** Horse Care: Grooming and Clothing (SCQF level 5)

### **Core Skills**

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the support notes of this Unit specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill component in this Unit.

## **National Unit specification: statement of standards**

**Unit title:** Horse Care: Grooming and Clothing (SCQF level 5)

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**

Groom a stable kept horse.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Provide reasons for grooming horses.
- (b) Describe the differences in grooming a stable kept and a grass kept horse.
- (c) Identify the items of the grooming kit and describe their use.
- (d) Secure the horse effectively.
- (e) Pick out feet, commenting on the condition of the foot and shoe.
- (f) Groom the horse using the correct tools.
- (g) Explain the time taken for efficient grooming.

### **Outcome 2**

Recognise, fit and care for horse rugs.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Explain the uses of different types of rugs.
- (b) Explain how to correctly fit a rug.
- (c) Select a rug which is appropriate for the horse and the conditions.
- (d) Apply and remove a rug correctly and safely commenting on the fit.
- (e) Clean a rug in accordance with the material of the rug.
- (f) Store the rug correctly.

### **Outcome 3**

Apply and remove stable and tail bandages.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Explain the principles and reasons for bandaging correctly.
- (b) Apply a tail bandage correctly and safely.
- (c) Apply stable bandages correctly and safely.
- (d) Remove and roll up bandages correctly and safely.

## National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

**Unit title:** Horse Care: Grooming and Clothing (SCQF level 5)

### Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidates have achieved all of the Outcomes and Performance Criteria. All practical activities must be carried out in accordance with Rules of the School and Health and Safety legislation.

#### Outcome 1

The candidates must provide written/oral/recorded evidence which includes:

- ◆ Identification of four reasons for grooming horses.
- ◆ Explanation of two differences between grooming grass kept and stable kept horses which must include (i) more thorough grooming and (ii) extensive use of a body brush.
- ◆ An effective explanation of the time it takes to groom a horse effectively.

Evidence must be gathered under closed-book conditions.

The candidate must provide performance evidence which includes:

- ◆ Identification of the items of the grooming kit including:
  - The following items as a minimum — dandy brush, body brush, hoof pick, metal curry comb, plastic or rubber curry comb, sponges, sweat scraper.
- ◆ Securing the horse effectively for grooming including:
  - Tying up the horse to a piece of string in a safe area with an appropriate length of rope.
- ◆ Picking out feet effectively ensuring they lift the horse's legs safely and correctly and use a hoof pick, picking from heel to toe and ensuring all mud, stones and debris is removed. Recording comments on the condition of the foot and shoe.
- ◆ Grooming the horse effectively using the correct tools in the correct sequence and ensuring that all mud, sweat and dirt is removed.
- ◆ Carrying out the grooming process with due regard to health and safety ensuring they adopt a safe position in relation to the horse throughout all stages of the process.

#### Outcome 2

The candidates must provide written/oral/recorded evidence which includes:

- ◆ Identification of four types of horse rug and an explanation of at least one situation when each type of rug could be used.
- ◆ A description of how to correctly fit a rug including:
  - Reference to the length and depth of the rug, the tightness or fit of the rug over the shoulders and withers and the tightness of cross over surcingles (if present) and/or leg straps/fillet string (if present).

Evidence must be gathered under closed-book supervised conditions.

Practical performance evidence which includes:

- ◆ Selection of an appropriate rug for the horse and the conditions.
  - The rug selected must be fit for purpose (a waterproof outdoor rug selected for turn out).
- ◆ Tying up the horse safely and effectively.

## National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

### Unit title: Horse Care: Grooming and Clothing (SCQF level 5)

- ◆ Application and removal of a rug correctly and safely, commenting on the fit.
  - The rug must be folded in the appropriate manner (inside out, wither to tail) and surcingles knotted (if present) and leg straps done up (if present). The rug must be placed over the base of the neck and breast straps secured before unfolding into position and secured correctly.

The candidates must provide performance/written/oral evidence which includes:

- ◆ An explanation of how rugs are cleaned which includes why rugs must be stored clean, repaired, re-proofed (if necessary) in a dry, secure, vermin free area.
- ◆ Cleaning a rug in accordance with the material requirements.
- ◆ Correct storage of rugs.
- ◆ Evidence must be gathered under supervised and closed-book conditions.

### Outcome 3

The candidate must provide written/oral evidence which includes:

- ◆ An explanation of the principles and reasons for bandaging horses, including the following:
  - Bandages must be applied with even pressure, neither too loosely or too tightly and four reasons for applying bandages to horses.

Practical performance evidence which includes:

One correctly applied tail bandage. The finished product must have even pressure, is not too tight or too loose, has been started high enough on the tail, covers the tail evenly and finishes two to three centimetres above or below the dock, the tapes should be secured and the tail shaped. Candidates must carry out the task with due regard for safety to themselves and the horse.

Practical performance evidence which includes:

A full set of stable bandages correctly applied. The finished product must have even pressure, is neither too tight nor too loose, is started just below the knee or hock and extends down to just above the coronet band, covers the leg evenly and is applied over padding. Candidates must carry out the task with due regard for safety to themselves and the horse.

Practical performance evidence which includes:

Safe and correct removal of bandages which are then rolled up correctly and with due regard for safety of the individual and horse.

Candidates must also demonstrate that stable bandages and padding are unwound and removed from the leg in the correct manner. That tail bandages are removed from the tail correctly. They must also show that bandages are rolled up the correct way (not inside out, with tapes/ties on inside) in preparation for re-application.

Evidence must be gathered under supervised and closed-book conditions.

## **National Unit specification: support notes (SCQF level 5)**

### **Unit title: Horse Care: Grooming and Clothing**

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 40 hours.

When using performance evidence, assessor observational checklists and other assessment records should be maintained and kept up-to-date to keep track of candidate progress and to provide evidence for internal and external verification purposes.

### **Guidance on the content and context for this Unit**

This Unit is a mandatory Unit within the National Certificate in Horse Care at SCQF level 5, but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit by school pupils and industry CPD.

This Unit aligns to the following National Occupational Standards from Lantra:

- ◆ LAN Eq 101 Assist with Cleaning and Grooming Horses
- ◆ LAN Eq 105 Assist with Putting On and Taking Off Horse Rugs
- ◆ LAN Eq 205 Apply, Fit and Remove Horse Clothing

Candidates will develop essential skills in employability, critical thinking, reasoned evaluation and self awareness.

In this Unit candidates are required to groom a stabled kept horse in a safe and proficient manner. They will be required to identify the reasons for grooming horses and the items of the grooming kit.

Candidates will also be expected to explain the uses of different rugs and describe a correctly fitting rug. They will demonstrate how to apply various horse rugs correctly and safely and clean and store rugs appropriately.

Candidates will be expected to explain the principles and reasons for bandaging horses. They will demonstrate how to apply and remove tail and stable bandages safely and correctly and demonstrate the correct technique of rolling up bandages.

Candidates would benefit from having Knowledge and/or Skills in horse handling.

### **Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit**

Classroom discussions and group investigations can be used as an approach to develop:

- ◆ Knowledge of the reasons for grooming horses and the time taken to groom should be explained and the items of the grooming kit identified and discussed.
- ◆ Knowledge of the uses of a range of rugs should be discussed and a correctly fitting rug described. Cleaning and storage methods of rugs should be discussed.
- ◆ Knowledge of the principles and reasons for bandaging are identified and examined.

## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

### Unit title: Horse Care: Grooming and Clothing (SCQF level 5)

Practical demonstrations followed by repeated supervised candidate practicals can be used as an approach to develop the following skills:

- ◆ The correct usage of the items of the grooming kit.
- ◆ The grooming process including necessary preparations (securing horse, removing droppings and water buckets, etc).
- ◆ The selection and application of appropriate horses' rugs.
- ◆ The cleaning and storage of horse rugs.
- ◆ The application of tail and stable bandages.
- ◆ The removal and the rolling up of bandages.

### Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

The following approaches to assessment are suggested:

#### Outcome 1:

The candidate could be presented with restricted response questions — written/oral, closed-book to test the knowledge of the reasons for grooming horses and the time it takes to groom horses effectively.

A practical exercise could be set to test the application of the knowledge and skills required to identify the items of a grooming kit, secure the horse effectively for grooming, pick out feet effectively, groom the horse effectively using the correct tools and carried out with due regard to health and safety.

#### Outcome 2:

The candidate could be presented with restricted response questions — written/oral, closed-book to test the knowledge of the uses of different types of rugs and to explain a correctly fitting rug.

A practical exercise could be set to test the application of the knowledge and skills required to select an appropriate rug for the horse and the conditions and to apply the rug correctly with due regard for health and safety.

A practical exercise could be set to test the application of the knowledge and skills required to clean a rug in accordance with the material and to store the rug correctly.

#### Outcome 3:

The candidate could be presented with restricted response questions — written/oral, closed-book to test the knowledge of the principles and reasons for bandaging horses.

A practical exercise could be set to test the application of the knowledge and skills required to apply and remove a tail bandage correctly with due regard for health and safety.

A practical exercise could be set to test the application of the knowledge and skills required to apply and remove stable bandages correctly with due regard for health and safety.

A practical exercise could be set to test the application of the knowledge and skills required to remove and roll up bandages correctly.

Time should be allowed for any necessary re-assessment.

## **National Unit specification: support notes (cont)**

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### **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 Communication 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)*.

### **Opportunities for developing Core Skills**

There are opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skills *Working with Others* and *Communication* during group discussions in the classroom and when handling horses.

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



## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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