



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Horse Care: Horse Fittening (SCQF level 5)

Unit code: FV9P 11

Superclass: SH

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Summary

The purpose of this Unit is to enable the candidate to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to bring a horse up from grass, identify a suitable fittening programme and to take a horse out of work with due regard to safety.

This Unit is suitable for school pupils, adult learners and for industry CPD. This is an optional Unit in the NC Horse Care at SCQF Level 5. It can also be taken as a free standing Unit.

Outcomes

- 1 Describe the procedures of bringing a horse into work
- 2 Describe a basic fittening programme
- 3 Describe the procedure of taking a horse out of work

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, it would be beneficial if candidates had 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.*

General information (cont)

Unit title: Horse Care: Horse Fittening (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: Horse Fittening (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

Describe the procedures of bringing a horse into work.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Explain the principles of bringing horses up from grass and into work
- (b) Describe changes in feeding when bringing a horse up from grass and during the fittening process
- (c) Describe changes in the management of the horse.
- (d) Identify the necessary routine health treatments that should be carried out prior to a fittening programme

Outcome 2

Describe a basic fittening programme.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Explain the time taken to develop basic fitness in a horse
- (b) Explain the type and duration of exercise for each stage of the fittening programme
- (c) Identify ways of preventing sore backs, girth galls and sore mouths
- (d) Identify methods of preventing concussion and strain during the fitness process

Outcome 3

Describe the procedure of taking a horse out of work.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Explain the principles of taking a horse out of work
- (b) Explain the reduction in exercise, grooming and feeding adjustments necessary to prepare a horse for turning out
- (c) Explain the importance of increasing time spent in the field

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Horse Care: Horse Fittening (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.

Outcome 1

Candidates must provide written/oral recorded evidence which provides an explanation of the principles of bringing a horse up from grass and into work including:

- ◆ The time it takes for the horse to make the transition from being at grass to being stabled. Candidates must identify that changes are made gradually over a period of ten to fourteen days, allowing the horse to make the necessary physiological adjustments particularly with regard to diet.
- ◆ Bringing the horse into the stable for several hours per day and introducing grooming.
- ◆ The appropriate time to introduce small amounts of feed and dampened hay into the horse's diet.
- ◆ An appropriate increase in stable time and grooming.
- ◆ Commencement of trimming.
- ◆ Routine health treatments carried out prior to implementing a fittening programme which include vaccination, worming, tooth rasping and shoeing

Evidence must be gathered under closed-book conditions.

Outcome 2

Candidates must provide written/oral recorded evidence of a suitable basic fittening programme for a horse. Evidence will be gathered under open-book conditions. The evidence must include:

- ◆ The time it takes to develop basic fitness in a horse
- ◆ Identification of the stages of the fitness programme including:
 - Preparation – adjustment of stable management to allow the start of fittening work over a period of 10 to 14 days.
 - Conditioning – introduction of daily walking exercise, starting with thirty minutes and building up to one –to one and half hours over a period of two to four weeks
 - Development – walking combined with short trotting on level surfaces with the duration of trotting increasing. The introduction of inclines, schooling and slow canter work which can be introduced towards the end of this stage as can jumping. This stage will be six to eight weeks in duration.
 - Methods of preventing sore backs, girth galls, sore mouths, concussion and strains.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Horse Care: Horse Fittening (SCQF level 5)

Outcome 3

Candidates must provide written/oral recorded evidence to demonstrate their knowledge of the principles of taking a horse out of work. Candidates must identify that preparations for turn out are made gradually over a period of ten to fourteen days allowing the horse to make the necessary physiological adjustments particularly with regard to diet. Evidence must be gathered under closed-book conditions. The evidence must include information about:

- ◆ Gradually reducing hard feed
- ◆ Why it is important to increase time spent in field
- ◆ Terminating all fast work and the gradual reduction in work
- ◆ Why it is necessary to reduce grooming
- ◆ Removal of rugs (or using lighter weight rugs)

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Horse Care: Horse Fittening (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 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Horse Care at SCQF level 5. It can also be taken as a free standing Unit.

In this Unit candidates are required to describe the procedure of bringing a horse into work, identifying the necessary and appropriate feed adjustments, explaining the importance of gradually introducing grooming and time spent in the stable and identifying the necessary routine health checks that should be carried out prior to a fittening programme out of work.

Candidates will also be expected to explain the time taken to develop basic fitness in a horse, identify the stages of the fittening programme and the type and duration of exercise for each stage and identify ways of preventing sore backs, girth galls and sore mouths.

Candidates are required to explain the principles of taking horses out of work to include the reduction of exercise, grooming and the necessary feeding adjustments and the importance of the horse spending more time in the field.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

Theoretical teaching should deliver the knowledge required for all aspects of all Outcomes. Candidates would benefit from tutor led information sessions and working in small groups to develop a basic fittening programme.

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 to test the knowledge required to describe the procedures of bringing a horse into work

Outcome 2:

The candidate could be presented with an open-book assignment to test the knowledge required to describe a basic fittening programme.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Horse Care: Horse Fittening (SCQF level 5)

Outcome 3:

The candidate could be presented with restricted response questions to test the knowledge required to describe the procedure of taking a horse out of work.

Alternatively the candidate could be assessed holistically where all three Outcomes are combined and the candidate is asked to produce a report on the procedures of bringing a horse into work, identifying a fittening programme and the procedures of taking a horse out of work. Centres must be satisfied that the evidence submitted is the work of individual candidates

Time should be allowed for any necessary re-assessment.

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 social software. 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 in Working with Others and Communication during group work and question and answer sessions in the classroom.

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

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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