



**Arrangements for:
National Certificate in Greenkeeping
at SCQF level 5**

Group Award Code: G9D6 45

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Acknowledgement

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of National Qualification Group Awards.

History of changes

It is anticipated that changes will take place during the life of the qualification, and this section will record these changes. This document is the latest version and incorporates the changes summarised below.

Version number	Description	Date
05	<p>Revision of Units: D0PT 11 Golf: Club Procedures, Etiquette and Rules has been revised by J6Y0 45 Greenkeeping Procedures, Etiquette and Rules. D0PT 11 will finish on 31/07/2024.</p> <p>F6TL 11 Golf Course Construction: An Introduction has been revised by J6Y1 45 Golf Course Construction: An Introduction. F6TL 11 will finish on 31/07/2024.</p> <p>F6TS 11 Turf Maintenance Machinery has been revised by J6Y2 45 Turf Maintenance Machinery. F6TS 11 will finish on 31/07/2024.</p> <p>F6TT 11 Sportsturf Industry: An Introduction to Health and Safety has been revised by J6Y3 45 Sports Turf Industry: An Introduction to Health and Safety. F6TT 11 will finish on 31/07/2024.</p>	14/12/22
04	<p>Addition of unit: J581 45 – Virtual Work Placement Level 5 added as alternative to HF88 45 – Work Placement.</p> <p>Virtual Work Placement Unit (s) added to framework as an optional work experience unit to allow learners to continue with a work experience when attendance in a physical workplace is not possible or preferred.</p>	16/09/2021
03	<p>Revision of Unit: D36H 11 Work Experience <i>has been revised by HF88 45 Work Placement and will finish on 31/07/2017.</i></p>	21/07/2016
02	<p>H23W 75 Literacy <i>has been added as an alternative to F3GB 11 Communication.</i> H225 74 Numeracy <i>has been added as an alternative to F3GF 10 Numeracy.</i> H225 75 Numeracy <i>has been added as an alternative to F3GF 11 Numeracy.</i></p>	14/05/2014

Version number	Description	Date
01	Original document	

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1 Introduction

This is the Arrangements Document for the revised Group Award in Greenkeeping, at SCQF level 5, which was validated in March 2009. This document includes: background information on the development of the Group Award, its aims, guidance on access, details of the Group Award structure, and guidance on delivery.

The qualification is designed to meet the needs of candidates who wish to develop a foundation for progression to further study and to provide appropriate skills and knowledge for those who wish to enter employment in business.

2 Rationale for the revision of the Group Award

The rationale for the National Certificate in Greenkeeping is based on the premise that since the last validation of the Group Award there has been significant changes within the industry. The Group Award was first delivered in 2001 and was made up of existing Units. Some of these Units had been in existence since 1989. Both the required operational standards and the range and development of the required skills set is now reflected in the needs of the greenkeeping and sportsturf industry. Particular attention has been given to all aspects of health and safety which the sportsturf industry ensures is kept in high regard. Changes to operational practices include the development of machinery and equipment and changes to the standards of construction types and range and the development of different presentation standards on different golf course types.

It is felt, that the changes to the industry occupational standards are not reflected or acknowledged in the range of the current qualification and constrains the ability of colleges to provide programmes of study which will prepare students adequately for employment or enable successful students to progress to further study and qualifications. This situation is consistent with the findings of the consultation on National Qualification Group Awards carried out by the SQA during 2004 and 2005.

Establishing the need for the qualification

A Qualifications Design Team (QDT) was established in September 2008 with the remit to consider the extent and type of provision in Greenkeeping and related areas at SCQF levels 4–6. The QDT was constituted to ensure representation from the main colleges delivering the current qualification namely Elmwood College, Oatridge College and Langside College.

The existing provision at National Certificate level in Greenkeeping consisted of a one year programme of study which varied from centre to centre. This provided the starting point for the work of the QDT which was further influenced by a number of factors:

- ◆ The nature of existing provision at SCQF levels 4–7 in centres
- ◆ The destination of students who completed the current National Certificate in Greenkeeping
- ◆ The characteristics of students attracted to the National Certificate provision in Greenkeeping

- ◆ The existence of a parallel development for a National Certificate qualification in sportsturf.
- ◆ The requirement to produce a qualification for validation by the end of March 2009.

Most centres created their own programmes of study. Typically students followed a programme comprising of 18 credits which consisted of a mix of SQA provision and, where appropriate, Locally Devised Units (LDU).

The QDT was compelled to rely on anecdotal evidence based on the recollections and experience of staff from those colleges participating in the current validation process.

Most learners embark on the current provision with limited prior knowledge or achievement and a key purpose of the existing and new National Certificate is to develop basic skills, knowledge and capability within a vocationally supported environment. Most students who complete the qualification do achieve full employment within the industry.

Students also progress onto other areas of training that are offered on a part time basis as part of a work based programme. This is due in part to the success of the student on the National Certificate programme and the success and reputation of the centre in finding an initial placement. This often developed into a fulltime post with the same or similar provider. Students would then return to vocationally led education with the original centre or at one of the three participating centres.

Overall, the QDT felt there was a requirement for a re-validation of the National Certificate in Greenkeeping as it would:

- ◆ Acknowledge the range of skills that have been developed in the greenkeeping industry since the last validation.
- ◆ Lead to a qualification which would continue to be recognised by both employers and by educational institutions.
- ◆ Enable candidates to point to a significant measure of achievement.
- ◆ Retain the flexibility of existing arrangements in individual centres' to provide options that suit the range of disciplines and employment opportunities within the greenkeeping and sportsturf industry.
- ◆ Remain compatible with successfully devised and complimentary local programmes.
- ◆ Provide multiple exit routes for candidates including entry onto relevant SVQ programmes.
- ◆ Provide a progression route from introduction and taster courses.
- ◆ Enable candidates to develop and signpost appropriate Core Skills relevant to the greenkeeping industry.
- ◆ Match the capabilities, expectations and interests of candidates enrolling for the qualifications.

Determining the level of the qualification

Current arrangements operated by centres are designed to meet the needs of learners at SCQF levels 4–7. This qualification, however, is aimed at SCQF level 5 but provides opportunities for learners, who wish to do so, to choose some Units at SCQF level 7.

A National Certificate at SCQF level 5 was chosen because this would suit the majority of learners presently undertaking NC programmes in Greenkeeping at colleges.

There were several reasons for this:

- ◆ Current experience in centres suggests that a 12 credit qualification was an acceptable target which most learners could achieve.
- ◆ A focus on SCQF level 5 would make it possible for learners to acquire skills and capabilities which would be meaningful and valuable to employers.
- ◆ An appropriate core and options structure would enable candidates to accumulate sufficient Units at SCQF level 5 to demonstrate their suitability for an HN programme.
- ◆ A qualification at this level fitted more closely with available information on current provision which would make transition to the new qualification easier and, therefore, encourage take-up among centres.

In this way the new qualification would provide progression both into employment or further study depending on the wishes of the candidate.

In both cases, the structure of the qualification would include optional Units at the higher level. In this way, all relevant SCQF levels could be covered. This approach would also be consistent with the needs of learners. It would enable learners to begin with SCQF level 4 or SCQF level 5 Units, and progress to Units at the higher level as their confidence and learning skills increased.

Target client group

There are three main target client groups for current provision at this level. They are:

- ◆ young people who have left school in the relatively recent past
- ◆ mature ‘adult returners’ who have decided to re-enter education
- ◆ potential students whose first language is not English

These groups have quite different characteristics:

- ◆ School leavers are represented in two clear streams, those with prior academic achievement and success and those with limited formal school attainment.
- ◆ Adult returners may also possess few formal qualifications relevant to the area being considered. Often when considering a career change, they possess a range of complementary life and industrial experiences, but may lack confidence in their ability to learn.
- ◆ Students whose English is not their first language may need to develop the English language skills required to become effective learners. In some cases, these students may benefit from additional study support in English before attempting the full NC programme. Colleges may find these particular students would benefit from undertaking an SQA ESOL course and attaining an English qualification at SCQF level 5. However, others may have sufficient English language skills, particularly in oral communication, to enable them to embark directly on to the National Certificate in Greenkeeping at SCQF level 5.

Progression routes

For students achieving a good range of Units, this facilitated progression onto an HN course, normally at the same institution or on one being offered by the three participating colleges, could be an HNC/D in Golf Course Management or a HNC/D in Golf Management. For many colleges, the National Certificate provision is often a vital source of recruitment for qualifications at HN level and their viability can be jeopardised if candidates do not come through from NC programmes. For students in this situation, the NC programme amounts to the first of two or more years of learning, culminating in an HNC or higher qualification. This often leads to a variety of employment opportunities here in Scotland, the UK and increasingly Europe and beyond. For example placements and full time employment for students completing in the last two years have included St Andrews Links Trust, Gleneagles, The Belfry and other nationally recognised courses in Spain and Sweden.

3 Aims of the Group Award

The National Certificate in Greenkeeping at SCQF level 5 has been designed to provide a flexible, practical based programme which aims to provide students with a range of practical and industry relevant skills supported by relevant and up to date knowledge and understanding.

It recognises that learners will be at a stage where they are making choices about their future careers and options within the greenkeeping industry and offers opportunity for centres to signpost a range of career and further study options.

As a result, it offers exit routes, either towards employment or further study, depending on the wishes and the ability of the student. Completing the National Certificate will place students in a stronger position to move to the next stage of their career and should increase their chances of achieving success.

3.1 Principal aims of the Group Award

The principal aims of the National Certificate in Greenkeeping at SCQF level 5 are to:

- 1 Provide students with suitable skills and knowledge in greenkeeping which will enable them to reflect on their present situation and identify future opportunity.
- 2 Enable students to consider the various options open to them and to make informed career choices for their future.
- 3 Prepare students for entry into further qualifications such as Higher National qualifications and VQ qualifications in Greenkeeping, Management and other related areas.
- 4 Prepare and provide students with the specific, relevant and transferable skills demanded by employers for entry into a wide range of greenkeeping related occupational areas.

The table below references the above aims into the individual nine mandatory Units.

Unit code	Mandatory Unit title	Reference to principal aims of the award
F6TL 11 OR J6Y1 45*	Golf Course Construction: An Introduction	1,2, 3, 4
F6TM 11	Sportsturf Industry: Soils and Rootzones	1,2, 3, 4
F6TN 11	Sportsturf Nutrition	1,2, 3, 4
F6TP 11	Turf Grass Identification and Production	1,2, 3, 4
F6TR 11	Golf Course Maintenance	1,2, 3, 4
D878 11	Plant Husbandry: Common Disorders	1,2, 3, 4
F6TS 11 OR J6Y2 45*	Turf Maintenance Machinery	1,2, 3, 4
D0PT 11* OR J6Y0 45*	Golf: Club Procedures, Etiquette and Rules	1,2, 3, 4
F6TT 11 OR J6Y3 45*	Sportsturf Industry: An Introduction to Health and Safety	1, 3, 4

*See 'History of Changes' section

3.2 Target groups

A key aspect of the rationale for this qualification was to meet the needs of three main groups of learners, young people who have recently left secondary school, adult returners and potential candidates for whom English is not their first language. The qualification has been designed to provide the framework and flexibility to meet the needs of these quite different groups. The Units which comprise the qualification take a practical approach to both delivery and assessment which is reinforced in the Assessment Support Packs which accompany some of the new and the optional Units. This should help all learners develop and maintain an interest in the qualification but may be particularly important for those who have recently left school or who are returning to education.

3.3 Employment opportunities

The qualification is designed to enable candidates to develop skills, knowledge and understanding relevant to greenkeeping. All of the mandatory Units have been chosen to ensure that candidates entering employment will have a good all-round knowledge of greenkeeping and have experienced many of the practical skills required of someone entering this career.

It is envisaged that candidates completing the National Certificate in Greenkeeping at SCQF level 5 will be equipped to apply for a greenkeeping position anywhere in Europe and some of the colleges have students in employment all over the world.

4 Access to Group Award

There are no specific recommended entry requirements for the National Certificate in Greenkeeping at SCQF level 5. Entry to the qualification will be at the discretion of the centre. Candidates would normally be expected to be at a developmental stage in improving their skills, knowledge and understanding.

As one of the targeted groups are those for whom English is not their first language, it may be appropriate for these candidates to undertake the SQA ESOL Course and attain an English qualification at SCQF level 5.

5 Group Award structure

The National Certificate in Greenkeeping at SCQF level 5 will be awarded to candidates who achieve 72 SCQF points at SCQF levels 4, 5 or 7.

This will be made up as follows:

- ◆ 54 SCQF points at SCQF level 5 from the mandatory Units in the qualification
- ◆ 18 SCQF points at SCQF levels 4, 5 or 7 from the optional Units in the qualification

5.1 Framework

The mandatory Units are:

Unit title	Code	SCQF level	SCQF credit points	SQA credit value
Golf Course Construction: An Introduction	F6TL 11	5	9	1.5
Or Golf Course Construction: An Introduction	J6Y1 45*	5	9	1.5
Sportsturf Industry: Soils and Rootzones:	F6TM 11	5	6	1
Sportsturf Nutrition	F6TN 11	5	6	1
Turf Grass Identification and Production	F6TP 11	5	6	1
Golf Course Maintenance	F6TR 11	5	9	1.5
Plant Husbandry: Common Disorders	D878 11	5	6	1
Turf Maintenance Machinery	F6TS 11	5	6	1
Or Turf Maintenance Machinery	J6Y2 45*	5	6	1
Golf: Club Procedures, Etiquette and Rules	D0PT 11	5	3	0.5
Or Greenkeeping Procedures, Etiquette and Rules	J6Y0 45*	5	3	0.5
Sportsturf Industry: An Introduction to Health and Safety	F6TT 11	5	3	0.5
OR Sports Turf Industry: An Introduction to Health and Safety	J6Y3 45	5	3	0.5
Total			54	9

5 optional Units and from them a candidate must chose 3 credits to make up the 12 credits required for the National Certificate in Greenkeeping at SCQF level 5.

Beyond the 12 credits of the Group Award, centres and candidates are free to choose any other Units from the framework.

The optional Units are:

Unit title	Code	SCQF level	SCQF credit points	SQA credit value
Pesticide Application	F2B2 34	7	8	1
Golf Course Design and Layout	F6XM 11	5	9	1.5
Work Placement	HF88 45*	5	6	1
OR Virtual Work Placement	J581 45*			
Environmental Issues: Sportsturf	F6TV 11	5	6	1
Draining Sports Surfaces	F6V3 11	5	6	1
Irrigating Sports Surfaces	F6V4 11	5	6	1

Unit title	Code	SCQF level	SCQF credit points	SQA credit value
Tractor Operations 1	D900 10	5	6	1
Tree and Shrub Planting	D903 10	4	6	1
Skills for Customer Care	F38W 10	4	6	1
Work Environment Maintenance	F6T1 10	4	3	0.5
Soft Landscaping: An Introduction	DX13 10	4	3	0.5
Golf Course Tournament Preparation	F6TX 11	5	6	1
Numeracy OR *Numeracy	F3GF 10 H225 74	5	6	1
Numeracy OR *Numeracy	F3GF 11 H225 75			
Information and Communication Technology	F3GC 11	5	6	1
Communication OR *Literacy	F3GB 11 H23W 75	5	6	1
Total			89	14.5

*Refer to History of changes for revision changes.

5.2 Mapping information

The structure of the National Certificate in Greenkeeping at SCQF level 5 meets the requirements for a revised qualification in a number of ways. They can be summarised as follows:

- 1 It provides skills, knowledge and capabilities needed for employment.
- 2 It provides multiple progression routes.
- 3 It retains the best of existing locally devised provision at this level in a nationally recognised Group Award.
- 4 It consists of Units which are practical and will engage the interest of learners.
- 5 It provides the flexibility which learners and centres value.
- 6 It provides an opportunity for learners to develop Core Skills.
- 7 It is underpinned by NOS.

The importance of links to the National Occupational Standards is also taken into account. LANTRA publishes the standards for SVQs in Sportsturf and Greenkeeping. The table below shows where the Units of this qualification have specific links to the National Occupational Standards:

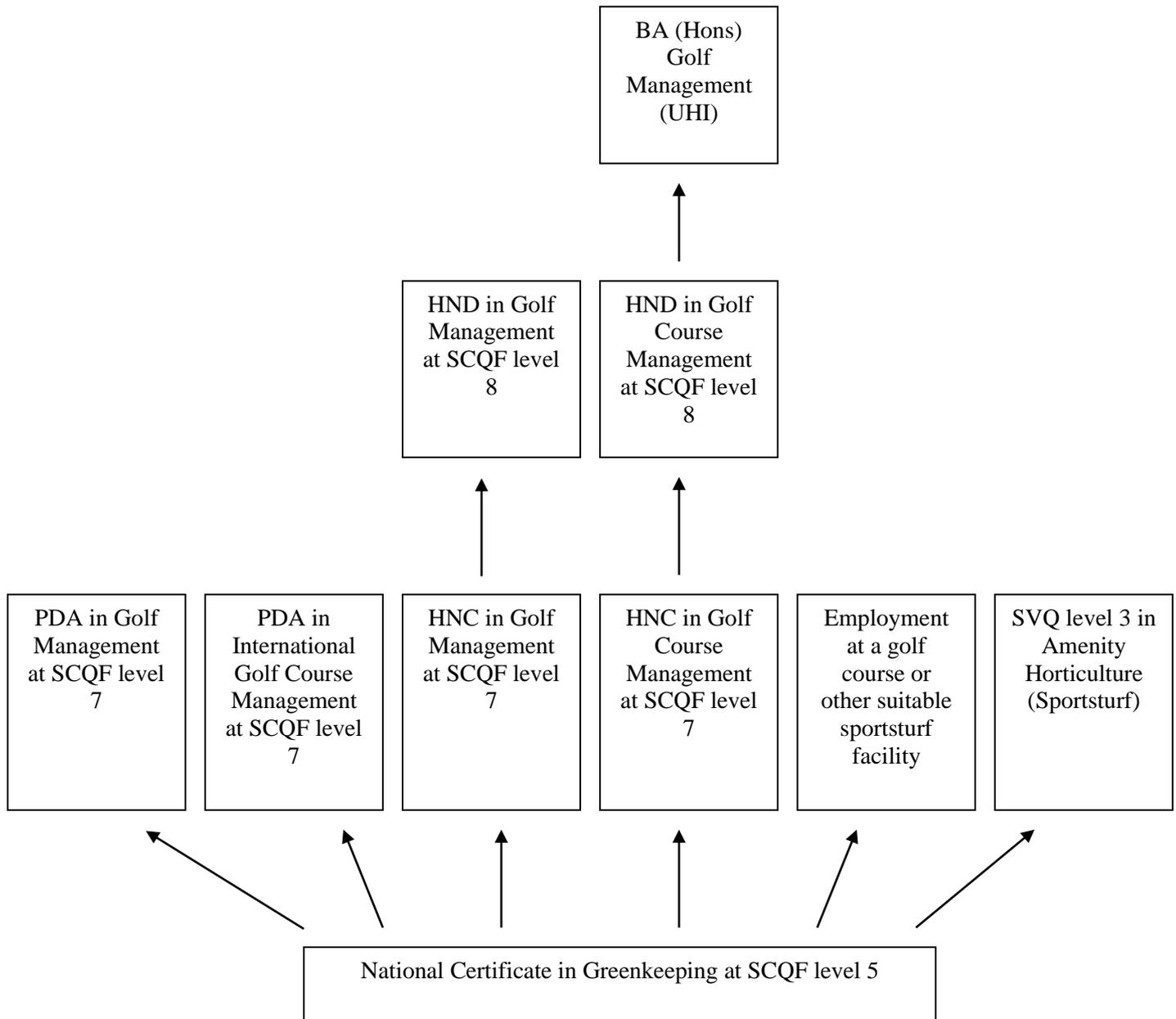
Mandatory Unit title	SCQF level	Links to NOS
Golf Course Construction: An Introduction	5	CU2, CU5, L27, L2
Sportsturf Industry: Soils and Rootzones	5	L2, CU2, L27
Sportsturf Nutrition	5	CU2, L27, L2, L6
Turf Grass Identification and	5	CU2, L2, L5, CU5

Production		
Golf Course Maintenance	5	CU2, CU5, CU11, L27, L6, L5
Plant Husbandry: Common Disorders	5	L5, CU2
Turf Maintenance Machinery	5	CU2, L27, CU11, CU5
Golf: Club Procedures, Etiquette and Rules	5	CU5, L6, CU2
Sportsturf Industry: An Introduction to Health and Safety	5	CU2, CU5

5.3 Articulation, professional recognition and credit transfer

Although there is no direct articulation from the National Certificate in Greenkeeping at SCQF level 5 to the HN Golf Course Management, candidates who have completed the qualification will be well prepared to embark on an HN programme in Golf Course Management, Golf Management or in an associated area.

The diagram below illustrates how the qualification can lead to progression into employment or further education.



6 Approaches to delivery and assessment

With reference to the three types of learners referred to in section 3.3 *Target groups*, it is felt that the range of both practical and theoretical skills and knowledge linked to the range of delivery methods ensures that all identified groups can be engaged at all levels during the course. As a result, the framework includes some existing Units which lend themselves to practical methods of delivery, eg *Golf Course Maintenance*, and which also engage and maintain the interest of learners. Where suitable practical-based Units were not available, new ones have been developed. New Units will also help to address the current difficulty of a lack of relevant, up-to-date Units for learners at SCQF levels 5.

The content of the mandatory Units has been chosen to reflect the needs of learners and employers alike. Units should equip the candidate with the necessary knowledge and skills required to undertake duties and tasks on today's modern golf courses, and equip them with employability skills such as:

- ◆ A positive attitude to workplace and learning
- ◆ The importance of time-keeping and attendance
- ◆ The importance of good verbal communication
- ◆ The importance of good listening skills
- ◆ How to work co-operatively with others as a member of a team
- ◆ Self-respect and showing respect and consideration for others
- ◆ Adaptability and flexibility
- ◆ Application of appropriate legislation, eg health and safety
- ◆ Planning and Preparing
- ◆ Confidence to seek feedback
- ◆ Confidence to give feedback
- ◆ Self-review and evaluation

The optional Units have been chosen to allow the student to develop in a way that suits their preferred objectives and which is consistent with their learning development. In broad terms, therefore, the optional Units allow learners to gain further employment related skills or to prepare themselves more fully for entry into employment within specific trades and occupational areas, further qualifications or workbased training. Students and centres may choose to identify specific optional Units which may suit those who are unsure of their future direction and wish to keep their options open.

The delivery of the qualification is at the discretion of individual centres. As already noted, most centres currently offer a full-time programme of 18 credits to learners at NC level over an academic year. The National Certificate in Greenkeeping at SCQF level 5 has been designed to be compatible with these arrangements.

The flexibility of the qualification means that centres can tailor the optional Unit programmes that they offer to suit both their own and individual or a cohort's particular circumstances. Centres could, for example, provide supplementary Units which would assist students who wish to progress to particular HN programmes. Centres may choose to provide learners with the opportunity to gain further certification — in qualifications at a higher level.

It is envisaged that most centres will be offering the National Certificate in Greenkeeping at SCQF level 5 as a full-time course, over the full academic year, incorporating a total of approximately 18 Units.

Alternatively, some centres may decide to offer the 12 credit qualification on either a part-time or distance learning basis, or as a mixture of both.

Due to the seasonality of some of the Units and the demands placed on individual centres to provide student placements early in the latter half of the academic year. Timetabling of the Units will be at the discretion of each individual Centre.

Mandatory Units

Mandatory Unit title	Code	Block	Type of delivery
Golf Course Construction: An Introduction Or Golf Course Construction: An Introduction	F6TL 11 J6Y1 45	1,2	TL, P, SC
Sportsturf Industry: Soils and Rootzones	F6TM 11	2	TL, SC
Sportsturf Nutrition	F6TN 11	1	TL, VLE
Turf Grass Identification and Production	F6TP 11	2	TL, VLE
Golf Course Maintenance	F6TR 11	1,2,3	TL, SC, P
Plant Husbandry: Common Disorders	D878 11	2	TL, VLE
Turf Maintenance Machinery Or Turf Maintenance Machinery	F6TS 11 J6Y2 45	2	TL, SC, P
Golf: Club Procedures, Etiquette and Rules Or Greenkeeping Procedures, Etiquette and Rules	D0PT 11 J6Y0 45	3	TL, SC
Sportsturf Industry: An Introduction to Health and Safety Or Sports Turf Industry: An Introduction to Health and Safety	F6TT 11 J6Y3 45	1	TL, VLE

Optional Units

Optional Unit title	Code	Block	Type of delivery
Pesticide Application	F2B2 34	3	TL,P, VLE
Golf Course Design and Layout	F6XM 11	2	TL, SC, P
Work Experience	D36H 11	2 and 3	TL, SC, P
Environmental Issues: Sportsturf	F6TV 11	3	TL, SC
Draining Sports Surfaces	F6V3 11	2	TL, SC, P
Irrigating Sports Surfaces	F6V4 11	2	TL, SC, P
Tractor Operations 1	D900 10	1	TL, SC, P
Tree and Shrub Planting	D903 10	1	TL, SC, P
Skills for Customer Care	F38W 10	3	TL, SC, P
Work Environment Maintenance	F6T1 10	3	TL, SC, P
Soft Landscaping: An Introduction	DX13 10	2	TL, SC, P
Golf Course Tournament	F6TX 11	3	TL, SC, P

Preparation			
Numeracy	F3GF 11	1	TL, SC
Information and Communication Technology	F3GC 11	2	TL, SC
Communication	F3GB 11	3	TL, SC

TL –Tutor Led

SC – Student Centred

VLE – Virtual Learning Environment

P - Practical

Core Skills

The mandatory Units provide opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of the following Core Skills at SCQF level 5:

Core Skill	Units through which this is achieved
Communication	Golf Course Construction: An Introduction Turf Grass Identification and Production Sportsturf Nutrition Turf Maintenance Machinery Golf: Club Procedures, Etiquette and Rules Sportsturf Industry: An Introduction to Health and Safety
Information and Communication Technology	Plant Husbandry: Common Disorders Turf Maintenance Machinery Golf Course Maintenance
Numeracy	Golf Course Construction: An Introduction Soils and Rootzones: Sportsturf Industry Turf Grass Identification and Production Golf Course Maintenance Turf Maintenance Machinery
Problem Solving	Golf Course Construction: An Introduction Sportsturf Nutrition Golf Course Maintenance Sportsturf Industry: An Introduction to Health and Safety
Working With Others	Golf Course Construction: An Introduction Sportsturf Nutrition Plant Husbandry: Common Disorders Golf Course Maintenance Golf: Club Procedures, Etiquette and Rules Sportsturf Industry: An Introduction to Health and Safety

The optional Units achieve the following Core Skills at SCQF level 5:

Core Skill	Units through which this is achieved
Communication	Communication (SCQF 5)
Information and Communication Technology	Information and Communication Technology (SCQF 5)
Numeracy	Numeracy (SCQF 5)
Problem Solving	Work Experience (SCQF 5)
Working With Others	Work Experience (SCQF 5)

The optional Units provide opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of the following Core Skills at SCQF level 5:

Core Skill	Units through which this is achieved
Communication	Pesticide Application Golf Course Design and Layout Environmental Issues: Sportsturf Draining Sports Surfaces Irrigating Sports Surfaces Tree and Shrub Planting Work Environment Maintenance Golf Course Tournament Preparation
Information and Communication Technology	Golf Course Design and Layout Draining Sports Surfaces Irrigating Sports Surfaces Golf Course Tournament Preparation
Numeracy	Pesticide Application Golf Course Design and Layout Draining Sports Surfaces Work Environment Maintenance Golf Course Tournament Preparation
Problem Solving	Golf Course Design and Layout Tractor Operations 1 Tree and Shrub Planting Work Environment Maintenance Golf Course Tournament Preparation
Working With Others	Golf Course Design and Construction Draining Sports Surfaces Irrigating Sports Surfaces Tree and Shrub Planting Work Environment Maintenance Golf Course Tournament Preparation

Within the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 5 the components of Critical Thinking and Planning and Organising are embedded and achievement of the following Units will provide automatic certification of these components.

Core Skill component	Units through which this is achieved
Critical Thinking	Environmental Issues: Sportsturf Turf Grass Identification and Production Turf Maintenance Machinery Golf Course Design and Layout Golf Course Tournament Preparation Golf Course Construction: An Introduction Golf Course Maintenance
Planning and Organising	Golf Course Construction: An Introduction Golf Course Maintenance

The optional Units provide opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of the following Core Skills at SCQF level 4:

Core Skill	Units through which this is achieved
Communication	Skills for Customer Care Soft Landscaping: An Introduction
Problem Solving	Skills for Customer Care Soft Landscaping: An Introduction
Working With Others	Soft Landscaping: An Introduction

Within the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 4 the components of Critical Thinking and Planning and Organising are embedded and achievement of the following Units will provide automatic certification of these components.

Core Skill component	Units through which this is achieved
Critical Thinking	Irrigating Sports Surfaces Sports Turf Nutrition Plant Husbandry: Common Disorders Draining Sports Surfaces
Planning and Organising	Draining Sports Surfaces

Assessment Support Packs will be made available for some of the new Units which will reinforce the practical aspect of the Unit specification, as well as reinforcing a common standard across centres. The list is as follows:

- ◆ Draining Sports Surfaces
- ◆ Environmental Issues: Sportsturf
- ◆ Golf Course Construction: An Introduction
- ◆ Golf Course Maintenance
- ◆ Soils and Rootzones: Sportsturf Industry
- ◆ Sportsturf Nutrition
- ◆ Turf Grass Identification and Production

Assessment Support Packs have a critical role in ensuring that the delivery of the Units is linked to greenkeeping. The SQA design principles for National Certificates do not demand the inclusion of an integrative Unit such as the Graded Unit in Higher National Awards. This means that integration between Units has to occur within the delivery mechanisms of the Unit which comprise the qualification. One way to do this is to maintain a greenkeeping focus across all relevant Units. This has been achieved through the choice of Units in the framework and is reinforced by the Assessment Support Packs.

Possible Integration of Units

Unit Title	Units which could be integrated
Golf Course Construction: An Introduction	Golf Course Design and Layout Sports Turf Industry: Soils and Rootzones Environmental Issues: Sportsturf Golf Course Maintenance Sportsturf Nutrition Turf Grass Identification and Production
Sportsturf Industry: Soils and Rootzones	Golf Course Construction: An Introduction Golf Course Design and Layout
Sportsturf Nutrition	Golf Course Maintenance
Turf Grass Identification and Production	Golf Course Maintenance
Golf Course Maintenance	Irrigating Sports Surfaces Sportsturf Nutrition Environmental Issues: Sportsturf Turf Grass Identification and Production Plant Husbandry: Common Disorders Tree and Shrub Planting Golf Course Tournament Preparation
Plant Husbandry: Common Disorders	Pesticide Application
Turf Maintenance Machinery	Golf Course Maintenance Tractor Operations 1
Golf: Club Procedures, Etiquette and Rules	Golf Course Tournament Preparation
Sportsturf Industry: An Introduction to Health and Safety	n/a
Pesticide Application	Plant Husbandry: Common Disorders
Golf Course Design and Layout	Golf Course Construction: An Introduction Environmental Issues: Sportsturf Sportsturf Industry: Soils and Rootzones
Work Experience	n/a
Environmental Issues: Sportsturf	Golf Course Maintenance Golf Course Design and Layout
Draining Sports Surfaces	Sportsturf Industry: An Introduction to Health and Safety for Sportsturf Industry Golf Course Construction: An Introduction Golf Course Maintenance Numeracy Communication
Irrigating Sports Surfaces	Sportsturf Industry: An Introduction to Health and Safety Golf Course Construction: An Introduction Golf Course Maintenance Communication
Tractor Operations 1	Turf Maintenance Machinery
Tree and Shrub Planting	Golf Course Maintenance

Unit Title	Units which could be integrated
Skills for Customer Care	n/a
Work Environment Maintenance	n/a
Golf Course Tournament Preparation	Golf: Club Procedures, Etiquette and Rules Golf Course Maintenance
Communication	n/a
Numeracy	n/a
Information and Communication Technology	n/a

7 General information for centres

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.

Internal and external verification

All instruments of assessment used within this Group Award should be internally verified, using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in *SQA's Guide to Assessment and Quality Assurance for Colleges of Further Education* (www.sqa.org.uk).

8 General information for candidates

The National Certificate in Greenkeeping at SCQF level 5 has been designed as a flexible, practically oriented qualification which will provide you with a range of occupationally relevant skills, understanding and experience. The qualification recognises the fact that you will be at a stage where you are making choices about your future. It is, therefore, designed to offer opportunity to consider different exit routes. Depending on the optional Units that you may choose to study, you may decide to exit to employment or to further study at Higher National or other level.

There are nine mandatory Units that must be completed as well as a minimum choice of three additional Units from a choice of options. Depending on your place of study, all of these options may or may not be available to you. Regardless of choice of optional Units, you must successfully complete a minimum of 12 credits from the qualification framework to gain the qualification.

The mandatory Units are designed in order that you may gain experience and skills in the following areas:

- ◆ Provide you with suitable occupational skills and knowledge in greenkeeping which will enable you to reflect on your present situation and identify future opportunity
- ◆ Enable you to consider the various options open to you and to make informed career choices for your future.
- ◆ Prepare you for entry into further qualifications such as Higher National qualifications and VQ qualifications in Greenkeeping, Management and other related areas.
- ◆ Prepare and provide you with the specific, relevant and transferable skills demanded by employers for entry into a wide range of greenkeeping related occupational areas.

The mandatory Units will equip you with skills such as:

- ◆ Practical greenkeeping skills
- ◆ Up to date and relevant knowledge of greenkeeping and related practices
- ◆ Research and presentation skills
- ◆ Skills and knowledge that will enable you to undertake duties on a modern golf course
- ◆ Written and Oral Communication skills

9 Glossary of terms

SCQF: This stands for the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework, which is a new way of speaking about qualifications and how they inter-relate. We use SCQF terminology throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk

SCQF credit points: One SCQF credit point equates to 10 hours of learning. NQ Units at SCQF levels 2–6 are worth 6 SCQF credit points, NQ Units at level 7 are worth 8 SCQF points.

SCQF levels: The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. National Qualification Group Awards are available at SCQF levels 2-6 and will normally be made up of National Units which are available from SCQF levels 2–7.

Dedicated Unit to cover Core Skills: This is a non-subject Unit that is written to cover one or more particular Core Skills.

Embedded Core Skills: This is where the development of a Core Skill is incorporated into the Unit and where the Unit assessment also covers the requirements of Core Skill assessment at a particular level.

Signposted Core Skills: This refers to the opportunities to develop a particular Core Skill at a specified level that lie outwith automatic certification.

Qualification Design Team: The QDT works in conjunction with a Qualification Manager/Development Manager to steer the development of the National Certificate/National Progression Award from its inception/revision through to validation. The group is made up of key stakeholders representing the interests of centres, employers, universities and other relevant organisations.

Consortium-devised National Certificates/National Progression Awards are those developments or revisions undertaken by a group of centres in partnership with SQA.

10 Appendices

Appendix 1: Sequence of delivery

Appendix 2: Consultation questions and responses

Appendix 3: Units mapped to the National Occupational Standards

APPENDIX 1 Sequence of delivery

Outlined below is an example of how the National Certificate in Greenkeeping at SCQF level 5 could be delivered:

Mandatory Units

Unit title	Block
Golf Course Construction: An Introduction	1,2
Soils and Rootzones: Sportsturf Industry	2
Sportsturf Nutrition	1
Turf Grass Identification and Production	2
Golf Course Maintenance	1,2,3
Plant Husbandry: Common Disorders	2
Turf Maintenance Machinery	2
Golf Club Procedures Etiquette and Rules	3
Sportsturf Industry: An Introduction to Health and Safety	1

Optional Units

Unit title	Block
Pesticide Application	3
Golf Course Design and Layout	2
Work Experience	3
Environmental Issues: Sportsturf	3
Draining Sports Surfaces	2
Irrigating Sports Surfaces	2
Tractor Operations 1	1
Tree and Shrub Planting	1
Skills for Customer Care	3
Work Environment Maintenance	3
Soft Landscaping: An Introduction	2
Golf Course Tournament Preparation	3
Numeracy	1
Information and Communication Technology	2
Communication	3

Block dates

Block 1 — September to November

Block 2 — December to February

Block 3 — March to June

APPENDIX 2 Industry/Employer Consultation

Industry/Employer Consultation No of responses: 5

- 1 Do you agree that a candidate who has successfully completed this qualification would have learned appropriate skills for employment in the greenkeeping industry at the appropriate level?

Agree Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
2	3	0	0	0

- 2 Do you agree that the revalidated qualification will attract candidates wishing to study Greenkeeping?

Agree Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
1	3	1	0	0

- 3 Do you agree that the proposed framework meets the needs of candidates and would allow them to progress onto other qualifications?

Agree Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
1	4	0	0	0

Mandatory section and Optional Choices

- 4 Do you agree that the proposed Mandatory Units in this Group Award support industry development and compliment other qualifications at this level?

Agree Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
1	3	1	0	0

- 5 Other than specialist skills which generic skills would you like to be included in this qualification? eg. understanding instructions, awareness of Health and Safety, basic communication

Agree Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
0	4	0	0	0

- 6 Do you agree that the proposed Optional Units in this Group Award support industry development and compliment other qualifications at this level?

Agree Strongly	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
1	4	0	0	0

Feedback – Industry/Employers

Question 1 – Do you agree that a candidate who has successfully completed this qualification would have learned appropriate skills for employment in the greenkeeping industry at the appropriate level?

- ◆ Yes it would. In the last few years the content of the college course has been poor at level 2. This update seems to offer more material and content which can only help

Question 2 – Do you agree that the revalidated qualification will attract candidates wishing to study Greenkeeping?

- ◆ I would hope Greenkeeping would be the attraction, a revalidated qualification can only help ease candidates through the process
- ◆ I would hope so as it appears to cover almost all areas of the job

Question 3 – Do you agree that the proposed framework meets the needs of candidates and would allow them to progress onto other qualifications?

- ◆ My own view is that the progression through the qualification can be achieved without the relevant on the ground work experience to back them up. As a result of this, candidates will struggle to live up to their attractive CV
- ◆ Yes definitely

Question 4 – Do you agree that the proposed Mandatory Units in this Group Award support industry development and compliment other qualifications at this level?

- ◆ Would like to see more regarding the History of Golf and course design. Also different course types and locations, a good knowledge of your coursed history can help preserve and maintain these aspects for the future. Interesting criteria for the candidate

Question 5 – Other than specialist skills which generic skills would you like to be included in this qualification? Eg understanding instructions, awareness of Health and Safety, basic communication

- ◆ The interpretation of instructions and a good level of communication skills are, I would say, essential in a high standard of qualification
- ◆ Health and Safety are very important issues in today's Greenkeeping world. Communication skills need to be addressed as well
- ◆ Health and Safety would always be useful

Question 6 – Do you agree that the proposed Optional Units in this Group Award support industry development and compliment other qualifications at this level?

- ◆ Delighted to see the inclusion of a link to the history, development and trends in the golf course design and construction Unit
- ◆ Yes it allows the student to cherry pick the extra units to add to the basic certificate

Other Comments

- ◆ Golf Course Design and Layout Unit: Good Unit, would like more of this in mandatory

APPENDIX 3 Units within National Certificate in Greenkeeping at SCQF level 5 mapped to the National Occupational Standards

Unit within Group Award	M/O (Status)	NOS Title(s) (Status)
Golf Course Construction: An Introduction	M	(CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety (CU5) Develop personal performance and maintain working relationships (L27)Use and maintain equipment and machines (L2)Establish plants outdoors
Sportsturf Industry: Soils and Rootzones	M	(L2) Establish plants outdoors (CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety (L27)Use and maintain equipment and machines
Sportsturf Nutrition	M	(CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety (L27)Use and maintain equipment and machines (L2) Establish plants outdoors (L6)Present, maintain and repair sportsturf surfaces for play
Turf Grass Identification and Production	M	(CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety (L2) Establish plants outdoors (L5) Maintain the Health of Sportsturf (CU5) Develop personal performance and maintain working relationships
Golf Course Maintenance	M	(CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety (CU5) Develop personal performance and maintain working relationships (CU11) Prepare and operate a tractor with attachments (L27)Use and maintain equipment and machines (L6)Present, maintain and repair sportsturf surfaces for play (L5) Maintain the Health of Sportsturf
Plant Husbandry	M	(L5) Maintain the Health of Sportsturf (CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety

Unit within Group Award	M/O (Status)	NOS Title(s) (Status)
Turf Maintenance Machinery	M	(CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety (L27) Use and maintain equipment and machines (CU11) Prepare and operate a tractor with attachments (CU5) Develop personal performance and maintain working relationships
Golf: Club Procedures, Etiquette and Rules	M	(CU5) Develop personal performance and maintain working relationships (L6) Present, maintain and repair sportsturf surfaces for play (CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety
Sportsturf Industry: An Introduction to Health and Safety	M	(CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety (CU5) Develop personal performance and maintain working relationships
Pesticide Applications	O	(CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety (L27) Use and maintain equipment and machines (L5) Maintain the Health of Sportsturf (CU5) Develop personal performance and maintain working relationships
Golf Course Design and Layout	O	(CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety (L6) Present, maintain and repair sportsturf surfaces for play
Work Experience	O	(CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety (CU5) Develop personal performance and maintain working relationships
Environmental Issues: Sportsturf	O	(CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety (L27) Use and maintain equipment and machines (L2) Establish plants outdoors (CU5) Develop personal performance and maintain working relationships (L6) Present, maintain and repair sportsturf surfaces for play

Unit within Group Award	M/O (Status)	NOS Title(s) (Status)
Draining Sports Surfaces	O	(CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety (L27)Use and maintain equipment and machines (L2) Establish plants outdoors (CU5) Develop personal performance and maintain working relationships
Irrigation Sports Surfaces	O	(L6)Present, maintain and repair sportsturf surfaces for play (CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety (L27)Use and maintain equipment and machines (CU5) Develop personal performance and maintain working relationships
Tractor Operations 1	O	(CU11) Prepare and operate a tractor with attachments (CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety (L27)Use and maintain equipment and machines (CU5) Develop personal performance and maintain working relationships
Tree and Shrub Planting	O	(L2) Establish plants outdoors (CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety (L27)Use and maintain equipment and machines (CU5) Develop personal performance and maintain working relationships
Skills for Customer Care		(CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety (CU5) Develop personal performance and maintain working relationships
Work Environment Maintenance	O	(CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety (CU5) Develop personal performance and maintain working relationships (L27)Use and maintain equipment and machines

Unit within Group Award	M/O (Status)	NOS Title(s) (Status)
Soft Landscaping: An Introduction	O	(L2) Establish plants outdoors (CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety (L27)Use and maintain equipment and machines (CU5) Develop personal performance and maintain working relationships
Golf Course Tournament Preparation	O	(CU2) Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety (L27)Use and maintain equipment and machines (CU5) Develop personal performance and maintain working relationships (L6)Present, maintain and repair sportsturf surfaces for play