

SQA Advanced Unit Specification

General information for centres

This Graded Unit has been validated as part of the SQA Advanced Diploma in Supply Chain Management. Centres are required to develop the assessment instrument in accordance with this validated specification. Centres wishing to use another type of Graded Unit or assessment instrument are required to submit proposals detailing the justification for change for validation.

Graded Unit title: Supply Chain Management: Graded Unit 1

Graded Unit code: HP63 47

Type of Graded Unit: Examination

Assessment Instrument: Closed-book Examination

Publication date: August 2017

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Unit purpose

This Graded Unit is designed to provide evidence that the learner has achieved the following principal aims of the SQA Advanced Diploma in Supply Chain Management:

- ◆ developed an understanding of the knowledge that underpins the fundamentals of Supply Chain Management
- ◆ developed an understanding of the technical knowledge relevant to operating within a supply chain
- ◆ demonstrated the knowledge and understanding of current practices used to develop and maintain good customer/supplier relationships in a supply chain context
- ◆ developed an understanding of the technical knowledge relevant to logistics, legal, procurement, inventory, quality and costing functions within an organisation working within a supply chain

On completion of the Unit the learner should be able to:

- ◆ progress to further study in Supply Chain Management assuming that all other Unit requirements have been achieved
- ◆ develop additional knowledge and skills in a Supply Chain Management context

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

It is recommended that the learner should have completed or be in the process of completing the following Units relating to these specific aims prior to undertaking this Graded Unit:

- ◆ *Supply Chain Fundamentals* (HP5R 47)
- ◆ *Supply Chain Logistics: An Introduction* (HP5T 47)
- ◆ *Supply Chain: Total Quality Management* (HP65 48)
- ◆ *Supply Chain Business Analysis: An Introduction to Techniques* (HP5P 47)
- ◆ *Cost Accounting* (HP5H 47)
- ◆ *Legal Aspects of Commercial Transactions* (HP5G 47)
- ◆ *Purchasing Strategy* (HP62 48)
- ◆ *Supply Chain: Storage and Distribution* (HP5N 48)
- ◆ *Supply Chain Service Levels: Setting the Standards* (HP5V 47)
- ◆ *Supply Chain Organisations: Structures and Function* (HP5J 47)

Credit points and level

1 SQA Credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**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 National 1 to Doctorates.*

Core Skills

There are no Core Skills embedded in this Graded Unit specification.

Assessment

This examination-based Graded Unit is closed-book. It will consist of a written examination of 3 hours. The use of notes, textbooks, hand-outs and other materials will not be permitted.

The examination will consist of two parts 'A' and 'B'.

In undertaking this closed-book examination learners will:

- ◆ attempt eight from 10 restricted response questions in Part 'A'

and

- ◆ attempt three from five extended response questions in Part 'B'

Close attention will be paid to writing of the assessment instrument for this Unit. It will require to be prior verified, and again close attention will be taken when using and marking the assessment.

When marking the assessments the marker will only mark the first eight answers in Part 'A', and the first three answers in Part 'B'. Any additional answers should be disregarded.

Graded Unit specification: instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing learners

Graded Unit title: Supply Chain Management: Graded Unit 1

Conditions of assessment

The assessment is based on a closed-book examination lasting 3 hours.

If a learner does not achieve a pass or if a learner wishes to upgrade, this must be based on a significantly different examination from that given originally. A learner's grade will be based on his/her achievement on the new assessment event using a significantly different examination, if this results in a higher grade.

The examination should be unseen and the assessment should be conducted in controlled and invigilated conditions.

At all times, the security, integrity and confidentiality of examinations must be ensured.

Instructions for designing the assessment task

The examination should be designed to assess the learner's critical knowledge and understanding of the topics relating to the specific aims which this Graded Unit is designed to cover. The questions and corresponding marks should be designed in accordance with the ranges indicated in the table that follows. However, the overall total mark for the examination is 100.

Questions

- ◆ There will be two sections in the examination — Part 'A' and Part 'B'.
- ◆ Part 'A' will comprise 10 restricted response questions from which the learner's will attempt eight questions.
- ◆ These questions will be designed to test the learner's broad knowledge of the subject areas.
- ◆ The questions will comprise of one question for each of the Units that relate to this Graded Unit.
- ◆ Part 'B' will comprise five extended response questions from which the learners will attempt three questions.
- ◆ These questions will be designed to test the learner's in-depth knowledge of the subject areas.
- ◆ The questions may comprise of one question that relates to a single Unit **or** it may be a combination of a maximum of two Units that relate to this Graded Unit.
- ◆ The same Unit may not be used in more than one extended response question.
- ◆ The questions in Part 'B' will not replicate questions covered in Part 'A'.
- ◆ Examination questions must be changed on each assessment occasion.
- ◆ Whilst the minimum pass mark is 50% learners must also score a minimum of 45% in both Parts 'A' and 'B'.
- ◆ Learners should be informed that only the first eight answers in Part 'A' and the first three answers in Part 'B' will be marked. Any additional answers will be disregarded.
- ◆ Learners who attempt more than the requisite number of questions should be instructed that they should score out the answers that they do not wish to be considered.

Key topics	Level of demand	Percentage weighting for each topic
<p>Part 'A'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Supply Chain Fundamentals ◆ Supply Chain Logistics: An Introduction ◆ Supply Chain: Total Quality Management ◆ Supply Chain Business Analysis: An Introduction to Techniques ◆ Cost Accounting ◆ Legal Aspects of Commercial Transactions ◆ Purchasing Strategy ◆ Supply Chain: Storage and Distribution ◆ Supply Chain Service Levels: Setting the Standard ◆ Supply Chain Organisations: Structures and Function 	<p>Ability to apply knowledge to the main concepts and principles of the Units that relate to this Graded Unit.</p>	<p>40 marks</p> <p>Eight restricted response questions — one question per Unit.</p> <p>Eight questions at 5 marks = 40 marks.</p>
<p>Part 'B'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Supply Chain Fundamentals ◆ Supply Chain Logistics: An Introduction ◆ Supply Chain: Total Quality Management ◆ Supply Chain Business Analysis: An Introduction to Techniques ◆ Cost Accounting ◆ Legal Aspects of Commercial Transactions ◆ Purchasing Strategy ◆ Supply Chain: Storage and Distribution ◆ Supply Chain Service Levels: Setting the Standards ◆ Supply Chain Organisations: Structures and Function 	<p>Ability to apply knowledge to the main theories of specific Units that relate to this Graded Unit.</p>	<p>60 marks</p> <p>Three extended response questions — each question may cover a single Unit or it may be a combination of a maximum of two Units.</p> <p>Three questions at 20 marks = 60 marks.</p>

The examination will be marked out of 100. Assessors will aggregate the marks achieved by the learner to arrive at an overall mark for the examination. Assessors will then assign a grade to the learner for this Graded Unit based on the following grade boundaries:

- ◆ A = 70%–100%
- ◆ B = 60%–69%
- ◆ C = 50%–59%

Guidance on grading learners

Learners who meet the minimum Evidence Requirements will have their achievement graded as a C (competent), A (highly competent), or B (somewhere between A and C). The grade-related criteria to be used to judge learner performance for this Graded Unit is specified in the following table:

Grade-related criteria	
Grade A	Grade C
<p>Is a seamless, coherent piece of work or exam script which consistently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ demonstrates the learner's clear understanding of the questions and their requirements ◆ the learner's response to the questions is consistently good and analysis and evaluation of the topic is thorough ◆ the learner uses the correct terminology in relation to the topic ◆ demonstrates the learner's clear understanding of the correct use of technology in response to the relevant questions ◆ where analysis and evaluation is required the learner demonstrates their ability to examine alternative solutions and to provide a reasoned and balanced response 	<p>Is a co-ordinated piece of work or exam script which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ demonstrates the learner's understanding of the questions and their requirements at a basic but acceptable level ◆ the learner's response is appropriate but basic and analysis and evaluation of the topic is acceptable ◆ the learner's use of terminology is not always appropriate ◆ demonstrates the learner's understanding of the use of technology at a basic level in response to the relevant questions ◆ where analysis and evaluation is required the learner may not always identify alternative solutions or be able to provide a reasoned and balanced response

Support notes

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

While the time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

It is recommended that this time is used in preparation for the examination in terms of revising the materials covered in all 10 Units. It is also advised that adequate time is spent in improving the learner's examination techniques.

While the revision of topics will be the responsibility of individual tutors, it is recommended that those delivering the Units follow an integrated approach to improving the learner's examination technique.

Centres should ensure that their examination and resit papers, along with the marking guidelines, in the prescribed format, have been prior verified if they propose to use papers that do not already have SQA approval. This will ensure no fault is found with the papers when scrutinised at central verification.

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.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of SQA Advanced Qualifications.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Call SQA's Customer Contact Centre on 44 (0) 141 500 5030 or 0345 279 1000. Alternatively, complete our [Centre Feedback Form](#).

General information for learners

Graded Unit title: Supply Chain Management: Graded Unit 1

This Unit is intended to test your knowledge and understanding of what you have learned while working towards the Units of the Group Award. Much of your time in this Unit will be taken up in preparation for the examination, both in revising the material covered in the relevant Supply Chain Management Units and also in improving your examination technique.

The examination you take will be closed-book, and will be conducted under supervised conditions. You will not be allowed any notes, textbooks or any other materials in the examination room.

The examination will be 3 hours duration and consist of two parts — 'A' and 'B'.

Part 'A' will be designed to test your broad knowledge of the Units covered as part of your Group Award, and will consist of 10 restricted response questions from which you will be required to attempt eight questions. The 10 questions will cover all 10 Units from this part of your Group Award.

Part 'B' will be designed to test your in-depth knowledge of the Units covered as part of your Group Award, and will consist of five extended response questions from which you will be required to attempt three questions. The five questions will cover selected Units, or a combination of Units from this part of your Group Award.

There will be opportunity, if you fail, to resit an examination with a different set of questions. Should you wish to improve your grade you may also choose to resit the examination.

You should only attempt the number of questions requested. If you attempt more than the requisite number then any additional questions, in each part, will be disregarded. If you are not happy with a question that you have attempted and prefer to answer an alternative question, then please ensure that the question you do not wish to be considered is scored out.