

## **SQA Advanced Unit specification**

### **General information for centres**

**Unit title:** Golf Course Management: Integrated Management of the  
Golf Course Environment

**Unit code:** HW85 48

**Unit purpose:** To develop the understanding of the golf course as a resource for wildlife as well as for golf, and to develop management techniques which take account of this.

The Unit is presented in the context of golf as an activity taking place within the wider environment. The Unit aims to present and develop the concept of environment, the aspects of its management which relate to golf course management, how to develop programmes of management which take account of these concepts, and where to get assistance and advice. This is set against a background of increasing public and political pressure in environmental issues, and aims to develop further the environmental stewardship aspects of golf course management. There are three Outcomes:

- 1 Analyse the relationship between golf and the environment.
- 2 Explain the process of establishing an environmental programme for a golf course.
- 3 Produce an integrated management plan for the golf course.

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

*\*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.*

**Recommended prior knowledge and skills:** Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, however it is recommended though not essential that the candidate has achieved an appropriate National Certificate Unit eg E8WT 11 *Wildlife Conservation 1*.

**Core Skills:** There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Problem Solving, Communication, Numeracy* and *IT* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

**Context for delivery:** If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

**Assessment:** This Unit is assessed by three assessments. An integrated approach to assessment is highly recommended. The means by which integration may be achieved is described in the Guidance notes on assessment at the end of this descriptor.

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### **SQA Advanced Unit specification: statement of standards**

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

#### **Outcome 1**

Analyse the relationship between golf and the environment

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- Environment: local, national, biodiversity, partnership
- History of golf and its relationship to the natural environment
- Benefits of environmentally sensitive golf course management: tangible, non-tangible
- Interests: golfers, conservationists, government, public, partnerships, relationships

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- define the term environment in the context of golf courses

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- explain the historical and present day relationships between golf and the environment
- describe the mutual compatibility and benefits of the relationship between golf and the environment
- analyse the conflicting interests between golf and the environment

### **Assessment Guidelines**

This outcome could be assessed verbally for example as a podcast for an industry website or by a written article for an industry recognised publication.

## **Outcome 2**

Explain the process of establishing an environmental programme for a golf course

### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- Structure: committee, steering group, greenstaff
- Sources of Information: Golf Environment Organisation, Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI), Golf Environment Awards, Bigga Awards, Scottish Golf and international organisations for example Audubon International or any other relevant sources

### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- identify an internal structure on which to develop an environmental programme
- identify sources of information, advice and funding, including golf/environment initiatives

Written and/or oral evidence demonstrating the candidate's understanding of the structure required to effectively develop and implement an environmental programme, and indicating their awareness of the support available to assist in this process.

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### **Assessment Guidelines**

The Outcome could be assessed by the production of a short oral report or presentation which covers all of the content listed in the knowledge and skills and the points identified in the Evidence Requirements. The report / presentation could be supported by referenced material from a variety of sources to form a portfolio. The assessment should be carried out under open-book (no restrictions) conditions.

### **Outcome 3**

Produce an integrated management plan for the Golf Course

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- Management Planning: Description, benefits
- Evidence based objectives and action planning

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- explain the need for and importance of coherent management planning; Produce a five year Integrated Management Plan for a golf course

### **Assessment Guidelines**

The Outcome should be assessed by the production of a five year management plan in the form of a plan for a particular golf course (3,000 words maximum) which covers all of the content listed in the knowledge and skills and the points identified in the Evidence Requirements. The plan should conform to a given format and could be supported by photographs and plans of the area under investigation. The assessment should be carried out under open-book (no restrictions) conditions.

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### Administrative Information

**Unit code:** HW85 48

**Unit title:** Golf Course Management: Integrated  
Management of the Golf Course  
Environment

**Superclass category:** SF

**Date of publication:** November 2017

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#### History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Unit updated to remove out of date references and restrictive assessment guidance.	08/05/25

**Source:** SQA

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### **SQA Advanced Unit specification: support notes**

**Unit title:** Golf Course Management: Integrated Management of the  
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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**

The Unit is presented in the context of golf as an activity taking place within the wider environment. The Unit aims to present and develop the concept of environment, the aspects of its management which relate to golf course management, how to develop programmes of management which take account of these concepts, and where to get assistance and advice. This is set against a background of increasing public and political pressure in environmental issues, and aims to develop further the environmental stewardship aspects of golf course management.



## Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

**Outcome 1** Analyse the relationship between golf and the environment. This will make candidates think about what the environment is and the value of biodiversity. They will examine past and present relationship between golf and the environment. Finally they should examine mutual benefits and areas of conflict. Assessed by a written report (1,000 words).

**Outcome 2** Explain the process of establishing an environmental programme for a golf course. This is all about the internal structure needed to develop an environmental programme. It will also get candidates to examine where they can get help, advice and accreditation for what they have done. Assessed by a written or oral report.

**Outcome 3** Produce an integrated management plan for a golf course. Candidates should produce an integrated plan (taking into account golf, nature conservation, turfgrass, waste, landscape and education) for a five-year period and to an accepted format (the format should be supplied by the tutor). Assessed by the production of an integrated plan (3,000 words).

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

While there may be opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Problem Solving*, *Communication*, *Numeracy* and *IT*, all at SCQF level 6, there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

### **Open learning**

The Unit is suitable for a range of delivery modes, full-time, part-time, block or day release or distance learning. The developing centre has produced distance learning packs to facilitate remote delivery. Where candidates are not attending the delivery centre it is essential that they have access to a working golf course on which to base

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their assessments. Steps should be taken by the delivering centre to ensure that assessments are the candidates own work.

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

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- the **relationship** between **golf** and the **environment**
- producing a **management plan**, that will **improve** both **golf** and the **environment**

### Approximate Study Time

The time allocated to full-time students for the complete Unit is 36 hours. The majority of this will be taken up with Outcome 3. As a *guide*, Outcome 1 = 7 hours, Outcome 2 = 5 hours, Outcome 3 = 24 hours.

You will complete the assessments at College or your home/work location.

**Outcome 1:** Analyse the relationship between golf and the environment. This will make you think about what the environment is and the value of biodiversity. You will examine the past and present relationship between golf and the environment. Finally you will look at mutual benefits and areas of conflict. Assessed by a written report (1,000 words).

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**Outcome 2:** Explain the process of establishing an environmental programme for a golf course. This is all about the internal structure needed to develop an environmental programme. It will also get you to look at where you can get help, advice and accreditation for what you have done. Assessed by a brief written report or oral presentation.

**Outcome 3** Produce an integrated management plan for a golf course. You produce an integrated plan (taking into account golf, nature conservation, turfgrass, waste, landscape and education) for a five-year period and to an accepted format. Assessed by the production of an integrated plan (3,000 words).