

SQA Advanced Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Golf Courses: Developing Understanding

Unit code: HW8G 48

Unit purpose: The purpose of this unit is to develop an understanding of the golf course, specifically the relationship between golf course design, turf quality, course management and the challenge/enjoyment of and for the golfer.

On completion of the unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Evaluate different styles and philosophies of golf course design.
- 2 Describe components of turf quality.
- 3 Identify components of a turf management programme.
- 4 Critically appraise a golf course with reference to design, turf quality and maintenance.

Credit points and value: 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: It is recommended that candidates have completed unit *Golf Courses: An Introduction* prior to studying this unit.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Problem Solving* and *Communication* 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: Assessment is through a variety of means including annotation of drawings, photos and plans of golf holes, written or verbal reports, extended response, closed-book assessment, and verbal presentation to a peer group.

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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

Evaluate different styles and philosophies of golf course design

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Styles of golf design
- ◆ Features of each style
- ◆ Suitability for different golfers

Evidence Requirements

Candidates must identify, describe and evaluate at least three broad styles of golf design (eg strategic, penal, heroic) with specific examples. Description should include typical aspects of each style including but not limited to length of holes, length of carries, hazard placement, nature of hazards, opportunities for recovery, and potential for difficult pin positions. Evaluation of styles and philosophies must be with reference to their suitability for different golfers' abilities and reasons for playing.

Assessment Guidelines

Assessment could consist of annotating a variety of illustrations (drawings, photographs, maps, plans) of different golf holes (a minimum of six) which would identify and discuss the main features of each, and allocate each to a style, with justification. Annotations would consist of notes about the routes different golfers might choose depending on ability, the alternative routes available, the length of carries, the angles created for access to greens, and the potential hazards that await the golfer. This could be as a written exercise, or annotating on a whiteboard or smartboard, or through verbal presentation and question and answer.

Outcome 2

Describe components of turf quality

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Turf quality
- ◆ Components of quality
- ◆ Relationships between golf landscape and turf quality
- ◆ Golf course design and turf quality

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Evidence Requirements

Candidates must demonstrate knowledge of turf quality and understanding of its components including visual and functional, at least three components of each. The relationships between landscape and different turf qualities should be explained for at least two landscapes. Additionally, the relationship between golf design and the importance of turf quality in maintaining design integrity should be discussed, using a minimum of two examples.

Assessment Guidelines

Assessment could be through a written and/or verbal definition and description of the components of turf qualities, with identification of golf landscapes where each is prevalent. This could be achieved through six restricted response questions. The impact of turf quality on design integrity could be discussed in a written or verbal manner, using drawings, photographs, video clips, site visit or relating personal experience, and should cover at least three specific examples of where turf quality either supports or detracts from the design philosophy.

Outcome 3

Identify components of a turf management programme

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Turf management objectives
- ◆ Specific objectives for individual courses
- ◆ Seasonality of turf maintenance
- ◆ Turf maintenance tasks
- ◆ Contribution of turf maintenance tasks to management objectives

Evidence Requirements

Candidates must identify turf management objectives with reference to at least four components of turf quality, for a minimum of two locations. A range of at least six maintenance tasks should be identified, and their impact upon turf quality and management objectives discussed.

Assessment Guidelines

Assessment will be through three extended response questions to described situations of differing turf quality. This will be classroom based, open-book, and will last for 1.5 hours.

Outcome 4

Critically appraise a golf course with reference to design, turf quality and maintenance

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Design philosophy of a given course
- ◆ Appraisal of turf quality
- ◆ Evaluation of design and turf quality

Evidence Requirements

Candidates must describe the design philosophy of a given course and justify this through discussion of specific instances in which this philosophy is expressed. Appraisal of turf quality should identify and describe a minimum of six turf quality components. Candidates must then discuss the consistency between design philosophy and turf quality and present their conclusion.

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Assessment Guidelines

Assessment will be through an illustrated presentation supported by a 300–500 word written report of a golf course, which must be agreed in advance with the tutor. The report will include illustrations of individual golf holes to highlight points being made, and might also include photographs and drawings. Candidates will be encouraged to gain first-hand experience of the course through playing it on at least one occasion, and by directly relating those playing experiences to the concepts of the unit.

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Administrative Information

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Unit title:	Golf Courses: Developing Understanding
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Version	Description of change	Date

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SQA Advanced unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Golf Courses: Developing Understanding

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 designed to develop upon the knowledge and ideas expressed in *Golf Courses: An Introduction*.

Outcome 1 will identify main philosophies of golf design, ie strategic, penal and heroic, and will illustrate these with reference to well-known courses and golf designers/architects. The different levels of difficulty and golfer engagement will be discussed for each philosophy, such that the candidate can understand the reasons that different courses are suitable for different levels of player.

Outcome 2 will concentrate on turf quality. This is significant in that design ideas only come to life when the course is constructed and the turf maintained and presented to the golfer. The relationship between the two will be discussed with reference to the ways in which great courses are played, and the apparent failure of some golf facilities to recognise the connection and their consequent failure to provide an engaging test of golf.

Outcome 3 will briefly introduce the maintenance practices to non greenkeepers, such that they can appreciate the complexity of good turf maintenance. The impact of these upon turf quality will be explored, such that the candidate becomes aware of the relationship between turf management objectives and practice.

Outcome 4 provides an opportunity for the candidate to relate the previous three outcomes through direct experience. He/she will be encouraged to play a course on one or more occasions, and to make mental and written notes in relation to the concepts under discussion. This will provide the material for a critical evaluation of the design philosophy, the turf quality and maintenance.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this unit

Delivery of the unit will be through a combination of classroom work supported by a number of site visits. These will be to a variety of golf courses, and will ideally involve discussion with facility and/or course managers. Different design and management philosophies will be illustrated within these visits, and discussed on return to class. Assessment is through a variety of means; presentation for Outcome 1, a written essay for Outcome 2, extended response for Outcome 3 and oral presentation supported by written materials for Outcome 4.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

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

Open learning

The unit is suitable for open learning.

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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.

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General information for candidates

Unit title: Golf Courses: Developing Understanding

This unit is designed to develop further your understanding of golf courses. It will discuss design philosophy, turf maintenance and playability as related concepts which combine to provide a golfing experience. The impact of turf maintenance in maintaining design integrity will be discussed, such that you will gain knowledge of the tools of greenkeeping and be able to understand the maintenance objectives of the golf course related to turf quality and design. It is believed that this will enhance your understanding of the golf product for which you are or will become responsible, such that your marketing, communication and management objectives become more appropriate to your product and customers.