

SQA Advanced Unit Specification

General information

Unit title: Landscape Industry: Specification and Estimation

Unit code: HW94 48

Superclass: QA

Publication date: November 2017

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

General competence for unit

Demonstrating an understanding of the processes of estimation, work organisation, specification and project management within the landscape industry.

Outcomes

On successful completion of the unit the learner will be able to:

1. explain the structure of the landscape industry in the UK
2. prepare working drawings for a range of landscape features
3. prepare costed bills of quantity and a contract management plan for the construction of a proposed designed landscape
4. apply a planned approach to the management of a landscape contract

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.

Access statement

Completion of landscape modules at NC level (Landscape Construction: An Introduction), or relevant practical experience would be an advantage.

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**.

SQA Advanced unit specification: Statement of standards

Unit title: Landscape Industry: Specification and Estimation

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

Explain the structure of the landscape industry in the UK.

Performance criteria

- a) The identification of the roles of professional organisations in the landscape sector in the UK is correct.
- b) The explanation of the roles of individual professionals involved in landscape design and construction is correct in terms of current industrial practice.

Range statement

Professional organisations: Landscape Institute, BALI, ILAM, JCLI.

Landscape sector: private; public.

Individual professionals: client; consultants; contract monitoring personnel; contractors.

Evidence requirements

Written and/or oral evidence in the form of a restricted response covering the identification and explanation of the roles of at least four organisations and individuals involved in landscape practice.

Outcome 2

Prepare working drawings for a range of landscape features.

Performance criteria

- a) "Specifications prepared are correct, unambiguous and consistent with current horticultural and landscape practice.
- b) The presentation of working drawings for specific sites is accurate.

Range statement

Landscape Features: hard landscape; soft landscape.

Working drawings: specification; hard landscape plan; soft landscape plan; construction drawings.

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Evidence requirements

Graphical and written evidence in the form of a portfolio. At least one hard landscape feature and one soft landscape feature will be included in the portfolio.

Outcome 3

Prepare costed bills of quantity and a contract management plan for the construction of a proposed designed landscape.

Performance criteria

- (a) The preparation of bills of quantity cover all aspects of the construction of a proposed design accurately.
- (b) The preparation of costings are realistic and accurate in relation to the design landscape.
- (c) The production of a design report and contracts management plan is accurate in relation to specific sites.

Range statement

Costings: labour; materials; overheads; profit margin. Management plan: work schedules; labour requirements.

Evidence requirements

Written and graphical evidence with arithmetically correct costings consisting of specifications and bills of quantity for landscape contract.

Outcome 4

Apply a planned approach to the management of a landscape contract.

Performance criteria

- a) The preparation of a schedule for labour and equipment requirements for the project is correct.
- b) The identification of the need for materials to be on site at appropriate times, and arrangements for suitable storage, is correct.

Range statement

Equipment: tools, consumables.

Materials: hard landscape materials; plants.

Evidence requirements

Performance and written evidence of candidates' ability to plan and work as part of a team on a given project.

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Assessment

In order to achieve this unit, candidates are required to present sufficient evidence that they have met all the performance criteria for each outcome within the range specified. Details of these requirements are given for each outcome. The assessment instruments used should follow the general guidance offered by the SQA Advanced assessment model and an integrative approach to assessment is encouraged. (See references at the end of support notes).

Accurate records should be made of the assessment instruments used showing how evidence is generated for each outcome and giving marking schemes and/or checklists, etc. Records of candidates' achievements should also be kept. These records will be available for external verification.

SQA Advanced Unit Support Notes

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This part of the unit specification is offered as guidance. None of the sections of the support notes is mandatory.

Purpose

The unit is intended to give candidates training in the management and planning of landscape contracts.

Content/context

The teaching/learning methods used in this unit should include considerable reference to and use of actual examples of contract documents, class exercises, formal lectures, role-play, discussions and tutorials. In addition, practical involvement in a landscape project to which the principles of specification and estimation can be applied is advised.

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this unit

Outcome 1 will be taught mainly by formal lectures and individual research and should include visiting speakers from the landscape industry where possible. Assessment may be short-answer closed book, or open book and in depth.

Outcome 2 will be taught through a combination of lectures, group discussion and practical activities involving survey, drawing and design. Role-play may be employed to ensure candidates have an appreciation of the interaction between client and consultant in the evolution of designs and construction programmes.

Outcome 3 could be based on a continuation of the work produced in Outcome 2, in that designs and proposals will now be costed and specified. Teaching and learning methods will encourage the candidates in individual research while providing a back-up of formal lectures. Class and group exercises will be used to enable candidates to construct watertight specifications and accurate costings, and should cover specification of both labour and materials. Reference should be made to British Standards, 8.S. Codes of Practice, nominated suppliers as means of specification, as well as descriptive methods referring to types of materials or finished effect.

Outcome 4 could be the practical application of Outcomes 2 and 3 or it could apply to a separate project. Candidates should show written evidence of their ability to employ a planned approach as well as the practical application of this to a landscape construction situation. The practical work carried out should be small scale in order to meet notional design length, although it could be part of a larger project. The nature of the construction should be fairly varied, but there is no need to specify particular activities or elements. The assessment of Outcome 4 could be combined with the assessment of the unit Constructing Hard Landscape Features Outcome 4.

References

1. Guide to unit writing.
2. For a fuller discussion on assessment issues, please refer to SQA's Guide to Assessment.

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3. Information for centres on SQA's operating procedures is contained in SQA's Guide to Procedures.
4. For details of other SQA publications, please consult SQA's publications list.