

# Higher National Group Award Graded Unit Specification

## General Information for Centres

This Group Award Graded Unit has been validated as part of the HND in Veterinary Nursing. Centres are required to develop the assessment instrument in accordance with this validated specification. Centres wishing to use another type of Group Award Graded Unit or assessment instrument are required to submit proposals detailing the justification for change for validation.

**Group Award Graded Unit Title:** Veterinary Nursing: Group Award Graded Unit 2

**Group Award Graded Unit Code:** DJ0R 35

**Type of Group Award Graded Unit:** Examination

**Assessment Instrument:** Closed-book Examination

**Credit value:** 1 HN 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 Access 1 to Doctorates.*

**Purpose:** This Group Award Graded Unit is designed to provide evidence that the candidate has achieved the following principal aims of the HND in Veterinary Nursing:

- ◆ develop the ability to absorb, manage and evaluate large amounts of complex subject-specific information
- ◆ develop and apply a broad range of specialised vocational knowledge and skills
- ◆ develop an understanding of the interdisciplinary links between seven subject areas within veterinary nursing
- ◆ apply knowledge and understanding in both non-routine and complex contexts
- ◆ build on previously acquired transferable skills
- ◆ prepare for the RCVS part 2 external examination
- ◆ enable progression to further academic qualifications (including progression within SCQF).

**Recommended Prior Knowledge and Skills:** It is recommended that the candidate should have completed or be in the process of completing the following Units relating to these specific aims prior to undertaking this Group Award Graded Unit:

- ◆ Small Animal Health and Disease
- ◆ Veterinary Nursing: Diagnostic Techniques
- ◆ Veterinary Nursing: Medical Conditions
- ◆ Veterinary Nursing: Diagnostic Imaging Techniques
- ◆ Veterinary Nursing: Reptile and Chelonian Care
- ◆ Veterinary Nursing: Avian Care
- ◆ Veterinary Nursing: Small Mammal Care.

## General Information for Centres (cont)

**Core Skills:** There are no Core Skills embedded in this Group Award Graded Unit specification.

**Assessment:** This examination-based Group Award Graded Unit is a closed-book examination. It will consist of a written examination of three hours.

The examination will be in two sections with Section A lasting 1 hour and Section B lasting 2 hours. A break between the sections will be allowed, provided that Section B remains unseen until after the break.

Section A will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. Section B will consist of structured questions in which there will be no choice and unstructured essay questions in which there will be a degree of choice.

To achieve this Unit, candidates should attain 50% of the available marks in each of the sections of the paper, with achievement being graded according to marks attained.

## Administrative Information

**Graded Unit Code:** DJ0R 35

**Graded Unit Title:** Veterinary Nursing: Group Award Graded Unit 2

**Date of publication:** August 2004

**Source:** SQA

**Special Needs:** This Group Award Graded Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering special alternative assessment arrangements. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment Arrangements* (December 2001, AA0645/3).

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## **Higher National Group Award Graded Unit specification: Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates**

### **Group Award Graded Unit Title: Veterinary Nursing: Group Award Graded Unit 2**

#### **Conditions of Assessment**

The assessment is based on a closed-book written examination lasting three hours. The grade given will reflect the candidate's achievement on the first assessment event. A candidate may wish to retake the Group Award Graded Unit but this should be based on a significantly different examination.

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

#### **Instructions for designing the assessment task:**

The examination should be designed to assess the candidate's critical knowledge and understanding of the topics relating to the specific aims which this Group Award 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.

The format of the examination paper should be designed to meet the following requirements.

- ◆ The examination paper should be in two sections.
- ◆ Section A should last 1 hour and should consist of 50 multiple-choice questions, each worth 1 mark.
- ◆ Section B should last 2 hours and should consist of structured questions and three unstructured essay questions.
- ◆ The structured questions should be worth 35 marks and the essay questions should be worth 15 marks.
- ◆ The structured questions may be split into several parts and each part given a separate mark.
- ◆ Candidates will be required to attempt all questions in Section A and all structured questions of Section B. There should be a choice of one from three in the essay questions.
- ◆ The examination paper must cover aspects of integration and problem solving.

**Higher National Group Award Graded Unit specification:  
Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing  
candidates (cont)**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Level of knowledge/ understanding</b>	<b>Weighting/ Mark Allocation</b>
<b>Integration and problem solving</b> – multiple choice questions	Use knowledge and understanding from a number of different disciplines to identify, explain and analyse issues arising from given situations. Use knowledge and understanding from a number of different disciplines to justify actions which could be taken to respond to issues.	50 marks
<b>Applying diagnostic techniques and patient care concepts</b> – structured questions	Apply knowledge and understanding to explain the diagnostic and patient care concepts that relate to given medical situations. Use knowledge and understanding to draw conclusions about relevant diagnostic results and how the results would be interpreted to develop a care strategy.	17.5 marks
<b>Applying patient care concepts to exotic species</b> – structured questions	Apply knowledge and understanding to explain the special needs that relate to exotic and small pet animals. Use knowledge and understanding to identify the advantages and disadvantages of keeping a range of exotic and small pet animals.	17.5 marks

**Higher National Group Award Graded Unit specification:  
Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing  
candidates (cont)**

Topic	Level of knowledge/ understanding	Weighting/ Mark Allocation
<b>Applying diagnostic techniques and patient care concepts</b> – essay questions	Apply knowledge and understanding to identify, explain and analyse the diagnostic and patient care techniques used in given situations. Use knowledge and understanding to compare the diagnostic and care requirements of a range of animal patients.	15 marks

To ensure a suitably integrated approach, some questions will cover more than one topic. In these cases, precise attribution of marks to a particular topic may not be possible. The weightings above are, therefore, approximate and should be seen as strong guidelines on the proportion of the total marks which will relate to each topic.

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

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

These grade-related criteria must apply to each section of the examination. For example, for a minimum C pass, the candidate must accumulate at least 25 marks from Section A and at least 25 marks from Section B.