



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Parks, Gardens and Public Open Spaces

Unit code: F1JG 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to give candidates an insight into the history and development of parks, gardens and public open spaces. It also covers how these areas are used and the social and environmental impact of this use. The Unit is intended to be delivered in the context of public and private sector parks, gardens and open spaces.

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

- 1 Explain the history and development of parks and gardens in the UK.
- 2 Evaluate the role of public open spaces.
- 3 Explain the environmental and social impact of and responsibilities for utilising public open spaces.

Credit points and level: 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.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* and *Numeracy* 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: Outcome 1 of this Unit could be assessed by extended response questions. Outcomes 2 and 3 could be assessed through the use project based upon a Case Study.

Higher National 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

Explain the history and development of parks and gardens in the UK

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Development of parks and gardens for public and private use
- ◆ Key figures, styles and periods in the development of parks and gardens
- ◆ Types and designations of parks and gardens
- ◆ Key agencies involved with parks and gardens
- ◆ Relevant legislation relating to the development of parks and gardens

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ explain the development of parks and gardens in the UK
- ◆ outline key figures, styles and periods in the development of parks and gardens
- ◆ explain the relevant statutory requirements

Assessment Guidelines

Written and/or oral evidence in the form of extended response questioning of the candidate's ability to describe the historical development of parks and gardens.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Parks, Gardens and Public Open Spaces

Outcome 2

Evaluate the role of public open spaces

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Scientific/Research
- ◆ Leisure and recreation
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Conservation
- ◆ Sustainability
- ◆ Public/Private Events
- ◆ User Groups

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ describe the role of parks
- ◆ describe the role of gardens
- ◆ compare and contrast user groups within public open spaces

Assessment Guidelines

Written and/or oral evidence in the form of a case study identifying and comparing and contrasting a variety of parks and gardens visited. The assessment of this Outcome may be integrated with Outcome 3.

Outcome 3

Evaluate the environmental and social impact of and responsibilities for utilising public open spaces

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ User Groups
- ◆ Resources: human, financial and physical
- ◆ Funding opportunities
- ◆ Environmental impact of use(s) of the space
- ◆ Social impact of use(s) of the space
- ◆ Sustainability/Conservation and reinstatement

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ evaluate the social and environmental impact of continuing use of public open spaces by a range of users

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Parks, Gardens and Public Open Spaces

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by a project based upon a case study. The assessment for this Outcome could be combined with the assessment for Outcome 2.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F1JG 35
Unit title: Parks, Gardens and Public Open Spaces
Superclass category: SF
Original date of publication: April 2007
Version: 01

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Parks, Gardens and Public Open Spaces

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

This Unit is designed to give candidates an insight into the history and development of Parks and Gardens and staffing issues.

The Unit is intended to be taught in the context of public and private sector Parks and Gardens provision, including local authority, private and trust gardens and estates open to the public, country parks, community parks. It will be of benefit to candidates to visit as wide a range of parks and gardens as possible and reference to actual examples will be made throughout the teaching of this Unit. Visits from those working in parks and gardens will be encouraged. Lectures, individual and group research, student internet research, tutorials, and discussion will be used in the delivery of the material.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is likely to form part of a Group Award designed to provide candidates with technical or professional skills for specific or occupational areas. Those who successfully complete the award may progress towards a career in Parks and Gardens.

This Unit may be delivered at any time during the Group Award.

In general terms, Outcome 1 is an introduction to the historic development of Parks and Gardens in the UK. Outcomes 2 and 3 form an integrated case study following visits to sites.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

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

Open learning

Candidates would benefit most by attending class based lectures and visiting selected sites with their peer group. Classroom based discussions following these visits will enrich the learning experience. This Unit does not lend itself to open learning.

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Parks, Gardens and Public Open Spaces

This Unit is designed to enable you to develop the skills required within the provision of Parks and Gardens. It is primarily intended to prepare you for a career within Local Authority and/or Private Gardens sectors.

The Unit has three main areas, each the subject of a separate Outcome.

The first Outcome covers the historical development of parks and gardens. The second Outcome, incorporating visits to parks and gardens, will illustrate the diversity of provision and uses of parks and gardens. Outcome three builds in Outcome 2 by looking at the environmental and social impact of the use of public open spaces.

Overall, you will be expected to develop knowledge and skills from the Unit to enable you to work within the provision of parks and gardens.

To complete this Unit successfully you will have to achieve all Outcomes to a satisfactory level of performance. Outcome 1 will normally be assessed by the use of extended response questions, while Outcomes 2 and 3 could be assessed by a case study.