



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Landscape Practices

Unit code: F2B1 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to allow candidates to develop knowledge and practical skills in landscaping to industry standards within a professional hard and/or soft land landscaping environment. Candidates will develop knowledge and skills in related areas such as tendering, budget management, risk management and working to standards set by Health and Safety legislation. Candidates will require to develop a sound understanding of landscape design theory when interpreting and implementing the design brief for a given site.

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

- 1 Apply relevant professional techniques to develop landscaping constructs/features.
- 2 Explain the factors involved in the maintenance of landscaped sites.
- 3 Prepare a tender document for a given landscaping project.

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: While access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, it is recommended that candidates have previous experience in basic gardening skills and/or have completed a National Certificate or similar qualification in horticulture.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill(s) of Numeracy 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: Outcome 1 may be assessed by the production of a portfolio of evidence supported by observation of practical activities recorded by observation checklist. Outcome 2 may be assessed by means of a report also supported by observation checklist for the practical tasks. Outcome 3 may be assessed by the production of tender documentation.

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

Apply relevant professional techniques to develop landscaping constructs/features

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Relevant landscaping techniques
- ◆ Tools, equipment and machinery
- ◆ Design principles
- ◆ Health and Safety Requirements and Risk Assessment
- ◆ Costings
- ◆ Planning regulations

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ interpret a brief
- ◆ prepare costing for a given brief
- ◆ select appropriate materials
- ◆ demonstrate an understanding of design principles
- ◆ select tools and machinery
- ◆ construct landscape features using a range of materials to required specifications
- ◆ establish planted areas using a range of materials to required specifications
- ◆ carry out tasks in line with current Health and Safety legislation including a risk assessment

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by the production of a portfolio of evidence containing designs/planting plans, lists of materials and costing and through the use of observation checklists for the practical elements.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Landscape Practices

Outcome 2

Explain the factors involved in the maintenance of landscaped sites

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Procedures and systems for the maintenance of:
 - hard landscaped features
 - soft landscaped features
 - grassed areas
- ◆ Key factors influencing maintenance
- ◆ Resources required for maintenance
- ◆ Health and Safety including Risk Assessment
- ◆ Planning and record keeping

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ explain the procedures and systems for the maintenance of:
 - hard landscaped features
 - soft landscaped features
 - grassed areas
- ◆ explain the key factors influencing maintenance of landscaped features
- ◆ describe the resource requirements for landscape maintenance
- ◆ explain the Health and Safety requirements for landscape maintenance
- ◆ demonstrate three landscape maintenance tasks

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by a report describing the process of maintenance for a given site supported by the use of an observation checklist for the practical element.

Outcome 3

Prepare a tender document for a given landscaping project

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Purposes of and procedures for tendering
- ◆ Tender documentation
- ◆ Contract terms and conditions
- ◆ Landscaping requirements
- ◆ Statutory requirements

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Landscape Practices

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ prepare tender documentation relating to a specific landscaped site to include specifications for installation and maintenance, bills of quantity and general elements of the terms and conditions of the contract

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome can be assessed by the production of a tender document for a given landscape project.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F2B1 35
Unit title: Landscape Practices
Superclass category: TC
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History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Landscape Practices

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 hands on experience of a broad range of tasks carried out within the Landscaping Industry. It is intended to be a highly practical Unit requiring a large range of practical learning opportunities to be available to the candidates. It also introduces tender documentation relating to landscape and grounds maintenance contracts.

In Outcome 1 candidates will develop knowledge of the principles of landscaping and develop practical skills in developing landscape constructs and/or features. Landscaping techniques will normally include slabbing, paving, paths, walling and fencing. The establishment of planting areas would include the planting of trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials and annuals. It should also cover staking, watering and mulching.

In Outcome 2 candidates will develop knowledge of the maintenance requirements of landscaped areas and the practical skills to carry out the maintenance tasks (for example: cleaning, weeding, renewing, re-levelling, painting and re-pointing). Factors influencing maintenance would include prevailing weather conditions, seasonality and the characteristics and features of the site itself. The candidate should undertake a minimum of three maintenance tasks and must comply with all relevant Health and Safety requirements at all times.

Outcome 3 allows candidates to develop knowledge of the tendering process and how to produce tender documents.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit has been designed to give flexibility to participating centres in order to maximise the hands on learning experience.

The Unit is likely to form part of a Group Award to provide candidates with technical or professional skills for specific or occupational areas. Those who successfully complete this award may progress towards a career in Landscape Management and Maintenance.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill(s) of Numeracy and Communication at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components. Opportunities to develop both the Core Skills of Numeracy and Communication may present themselves during the production of costings in Outcome 1 and Tender documentation in Outcome 3.

Open learning

Due to the highly practical nature of much of this Unit it does not lend itself to open learning.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Landscape Practices

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: Landscape Practices

This Unit is designed to enable you to develop skills required within the landscape industry. It is primarily intended to prepare you for a career in Landscape Management and Maintenance.

The Unit has four main areas, each the subject of a separate Outcome. The first Outcome looks at landscaping skills required in the creation of landscaped features. The second Outcome covers the main skills required when implementing soft landscaping features. The third, maintenance operations of landscape features are carried out and lastly tender documentation and contracts.

Overall, you will be expected to use knowledge and skills from the Unit to enable you to work to Landscape Industry standards.

To complete this Unit you will have to achieve a satisfactory level of performance in all assessed work. Assessments will be continuous throughout and evidence will be gathered by checklists of practical work, written and/or oral means.