



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equine Selection

Unit code: DP1N 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop the skills and underpinning knowledge necessary to evaluate the potential of a horse for a specific use and to locate, value and successfully purchase a horse.

Activities will be centred on identifying the requirements of horses for a variety of sport and commercial activities, and assessing and evaluating the horse's potential.

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

- 1 Describe the requirements of horses for specific uses.
- 2 Evaluate the potential of a horse for a specific use.
- 3 Explain how to locate, value and purchase a horse for a specific use.

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**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 will be at the discretion of the centre, however it would be useful if the candidate had some experience of the varying uses of horses for sport and commercial activities. Knowledge of locating, valuing and purchasing horses would also be helpful. This may be evidenced by possession of an NC Unit or similar qualifications or relevant experience.

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

General information for centres (cont)

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.

This Unit provides a solid base on which further skills in evaluating; locating, valuing and purchasing horses can be developed. It will enable the candidate to understand all that is involved when locating and purchasing a horse for a specific purpose. The candidate will enhance their underpinning knowledge of a horse's potential and current market value and should be able to relate this to a practical situation.

Assessment: This Unit is largely of a practical nature and all Outcomes could be assessed in one holistic assessment as a project. This could take the form of an investigation where candidates evaluate the potential of horses and show their familiarity with the procedures involved

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

Describe the requirements of horses for specific uses

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Requirements of horses for different sports and commercial activities including dressage, show-jumping, eventing, hunting, long distance, showing and riding school, driving and vaulting
- ◆ Suitability for use including conformation, age, type, breeding, height and paces
- ◆ Suitable temperament for use including obedience, calmness, stamina
- ◆ Suitable types and breeds

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ describe the requirements of horses for different sports and commercial activities
- ◆ describe suitable conformation and temperament of horses for specific uses

The evidence for this Outcome will be by submission of a report describing the requirements, conformation and temperament of horses for specific uses.

Assessment Guidelines

All Outcomes could be assessed as one holistic assessment in the form of an investigation. It is recommended that the candidates be given a practical exercise that ensure that they can describe the requirements, conformation and temperament of horses for specific uses so they may relate to this when completing their report.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equine Selection

Outcome 2

Evaluate the potential of a horse for a specific use

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Temperament and behaviour of a variety of horses both at work and rest
- ◆ Conformation of a variety of horses including correctness, soundness, blemishes and injuries
- ◆ Performance of a variety of horses at all paces both on the flat and over fences

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ evaluate the temperament and behaviour of a variety of horses both at work and at rest
- ◆ evaluate the conformation of a variety of horses
- ◆ evaluate the ridden performance of a variety of horses

The evidence for this Outcome will be by submission of a report, which shows the candidate's ability to evaluate the potential of a horse for a specific use.

Assessment Guidelines

All Outcomes could be assessed as one holistic assessment in the form of an investigation. It is recommended that the candidates be given a practical exercise that ensures that they can evaluate horses both at work and rest so they may relate to this when completing their report.

Outcome 3

Explain how to locate, value and purchase a horse for a specific use

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Methods of locating horses for sale including advertisements, word of mouth, sales and dealers
- ◆ Criteria necessary to value a horse including the location, age, breed, type, ability, potential, performance, competition record, soundness and winnings
- ◆ Procedures involved when purchasing a horse including pre-purchase veterinary inspection, trial, warranties and payment methods

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ describe the methods for locating a horse for sale
- ◆ explain the criteria necessary to value a horse
- ◆ describe the procedures involved when purchasing a horse

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equine Selection

The evidence for this Outcome will be by submission of a report, which shows the candidate's ability to explain how to locate, value and purchase a horse for a specific use.

Assessment Guidelines

All Outcomes could be assessed as one holistic assessment in the form of an investigation. Candidates could refer to the information gathered in Outcomes 1 and 2 and may relate to this when completing their report.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DP1N 34
Unit title: Equine Studies: Equine Selection
Superclass category: SH
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Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equine Selection

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 aims of this Unit are to develop the candidate's skills and knowledge necessary to identify the requirements for a variety of sport and commercial activities, evaluate the potential of a horse for a specific use and to explain how to locate value and successfully purchase a horse.

Lectures and tutorials would be supported by practical exercises and evidence of actual work experience would be beneficial.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Outcome 1 identifies the range of sport and commercial activities horses may take part in the ability necessary for each.

Candidates should recognise the types and breeds suitable for each activity and the importance of temperament and conformation.

Sport and commercial activities could include: dressage, show-jumping, eventing, hunting, long distance, showing, riding school, riding club, private use, driving and vaulting.

In **Outcome 2** candidates will observe a variety of horses both at work and at rest and will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to identify good and poor conformation and movement.

Using the knowledge and skills gained the candidate will be able to evaluate the potential of a horse for a specific use.

Depending on the activity the horse could be evaluated on the lunge, being driven or ridden.

Outcome 3 explains how to locate, value and purchase a horse.

Candidates should recognise the variety of methods used for locating horses and the criteria necessary to value a horse with regard to its potential use and current market value.

Candidates should be made aware of the importance of the legal requirements and procedures necessary for purchasing a horse.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

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

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equine Selection

Open learning

This Unit is well suited for delivery by both open and distance learning where the candidate has appropriate workplace home based or other facilities to carry out the practical assignments, and adequate supervision and support is available. This will require careful planning by the centre to ensure the sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence. It may be necessary for an “on-line support” tutor to be involved. In situations where the candidate completes the work away from the centre, regular contact with tutors will be necessary. This may take the form of visits by the tutor to the candidate or vice versa. It is at the discretion of the centre as to whether assessment take place at the centre, workplace or at home.

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: Equine Studies: Equine Selection

This Unit is designed to enable you to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to evaluate the potential of a horse and to explain how to purchase a horse.

It covers three main areas: identifying the requirements and suitability of horses for different sports and commercial activities, evaluating the potential both at rest and when working and the procedures involved when purchasing a horse.

On completion of this Unit you should have achieved the skills and knowledge necessary to be competent to evaluate a horse's potential, and be able to explain all the procedures to be followed prior to its purchase.

In order to complete the Unit you will be expected to achieve a satisfactory level of competence in knowledge and skills relevant to each Outcome and demonstrate the ability to put these skills into practice.

This Unit can be achieved without the need for you to ride the horses you are assessing.

Assessment may take the form of one holistic assessment covering all Outcomes the type of assessment could be an investigation.

The assessment will cover matching horse and rider for their chosen activity and explaining how to go about buying a horse.