



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equitation

Unit code: DP1R 34

Unit purpose: The aims of this Unit are to develop the candidate's skills required to ride a quiet, experienced horse with understanding of how the horse adjusts his balance to carry a rider. They will be required to demonstrate riding on the flat, over fences up to 0.75 metres, in an outdoor school, an indoor school, in the countryside and on the public highway.

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

- 1 Demonstrate riding a horse on the flat.
- 2 Demonstrate riding a horse over fences.
- 3 Demonstrate riding in the countryside and on the public highway.

Credit points and level: 2 HN credits at SCQF level 7: (16 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: Prior knowledge or skills are not essential for this Unit. However it would be beneficial if candidates did have some vocational experience in riding.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* and *Working with Others* 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.

This Unit is part of the Optional section of the HNC and HND in Equine Studies. It is a free-standing Unit and may be used for the purposes of continuing professional development.

Assessment: This Unit is assessed by three practical assignments supported by checklists.

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

Demonstrate riding a horse on the flat

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Riding techniques for quiet, experienced horses
- ◆ How to mount and dismount correctly
- ◆ How to give and receive a leg up
- ◆ Correct position in the saddle
- ◆ Basic suppleness as required in the riding position
- ◆ Independent balance through turns, circles and transitions
- ◆ Rhythm and balance through turns and circles
- ◆ Ability to ride forward
- ◆ Know when and when not to use artificial aids (whip)
- ◆ Non-restricting yet controlling rein contact
- ◆ Balance and security without stirrups in walk, trot and canter
- ◆ Co-ordinated aids when riding with the reins in one hand
- ◆ Co-ordinated aid application
- ◆ Preparation when making transitions
- ◆ Correct use of diagonals in trot
- ◆ Correct canter strike-offs
- ◆ Correctly sized and positioned school figures to include: circles, turns, serpentines, loops, turn on forehand, leg yield
- ◆ Calm confident riding in establishing the horse's trust
- ◆ Assessment of the horse's work as listed above
- ◆ All relevant health and safety requirements

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ ride quiet, experienced horses demonstrating various school figures:
 - with an appropriate independent balance, depth and security of position in all paces
 - forward at the correct speed for each gait
 - with an appropriate rein length both with and without stirrups, and with reins in one hand
 - applying correct aids for transitions

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equitation

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome should be assessed as in the form of a practical assignment. It is recommended that the candidates ride two horses and be given an exercise that ensures that they include the Evidence Requirements. A check list could be used.

Outcome 2

Demonstrate riding a horse over fences

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Riding and jumping quiet, experienced horses
- ◆ Ability to ride safely in company
- ◆ Awareness of rules for riding in enclosed areas with others
- ◆ Appropriate length of stirrup for riding over undulating ground and a course of fences
- ◆ Effective use of leg aids when riding over undulating ground and around a course of fences
- ◆ Correct application of rein aids when riding over undulating ground and around a course of fences
- ◆ Correct use of the reins during all phases of the jump (approach, take off, flight, landing and departure)
- ◆ Correct forward jumping position when riding over undulating ground and around a course of fences
- ◆ Secure position when jumping
- ◆ Effective control of pace
- ◆ When and when not to use artificial aids (whip)
- ◆ Effective calm confident riding while jumping over fences of a maximum of 0.75m
- ◆ Awareness of the importance of correct canter leads
- ◆ Feedback on the horse's work as listed above
- ◆ All relevant Health and Safety requirements

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ ride quiet, experienced horses over a course of fences:
 - adopting safe procedures throughout
 - with an appropriate rein length and contact, correct length stirrup and ability to use the legs
 - with security and balance, showing fold and follow over a fence
 - show correct lines of approach towards and departures from fences whilst riding a course

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome should be assessed as one holistic assessment in the form of a practical assignment. It is recommended that the candidates ride two horses and jump a course of fences (maximum 0.75m) in one assessment event. A check list could be used.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equitation

Outcome 3

Demonstrate riding in the countryside and on the public highway

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Riding a quiet, experienced horse in the countryside and on public highways
- ◆ Correct dress and equipment for riding on public highway
- ◆ Correct checking of tack and shoes prior to mounting
- ◆ Safe and correct mounting and dismounting
- ◆ Control of horse
- ◆ Safe riding manner
- ◆ Appropriate gait and pace for surface and conditions
- ◆ Clear and correct hand signals
- ◆ Correct procedures at junctions
- ◆ Correct procedures for passing vehicles or objects
- ◆ Correct procedures used in bad weather
- ◆ Correct procedures used at hazards
- ◆ Correct procedures as laid down in Highway Code
- ◆ Correct practice as laid down in the Country Code
- ◆ All relevant Health and Safety requirements

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ ride a quiet, experienced horse in a safe and effective manner:
 - in the open countryside
 - on the public highway

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome should be assessed in the form of a practical assignment. It is recommended that the candidates ride one horse and be given an exercise that ensures that they include the Evidence Requirements. A check list could be used.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DP1R 34
Unit title: Equine Studies: Equitation
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equitation

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 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is primarily intended for candidates who plan to embark on a career in the riding industry. This Unit is primarily intended to develop the candidate Knowledge and/or Skills to enable them to ride quiet, experienced horses on the flat, over small fences, in the countryside and on the public highway.

Outcome 1. The Unit is aimed at the development of the candidate' riding skills. Candidates will receive instruction in riding horses on the flat using school figures:

- ◆ with an appropriate independent balance, depth and security of position
- ◆ forward at the correct speed for each gait
- ◆ with an appropriate rein length both with and without stirrups, and with reins in one hand
- ◆ applying correct aids for transitions
- ◆ in harmony

Holders of BHS Stage 2 may be eligible for accreditation of prior learning for this Outcome.

Outcome 2. Candidates will receive instruction in riding horses over fences:

- ◆ adopting safe procedures throughout
- ◆ with an appropriate rein length and contact, correct length stirrup and ability to use the legs
- ◆ with security and balance, showing fold and follow over a fence
- ◆ with harmony whilst riding correct lines of approach towards and departures from fences

Holders of BHS Stage 2 may be eligible for accreditation of prior learning for this Outcome.

Outcome 3. Candidates will receive instruction in riding in the countryside and on the public highway including a working knowledge of both the Highway Code and the Country Code. Candidates holding BHS Stage 2 or BHS Riding and Road Safety Certificate may be suitable for accreditation of prior learning for this Outcome.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equitation

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is designed to develop the candidate's skills required to ride quiet experienced horses on the flat, over fences, in the countryside and on the public highway. Most of this Unit will be covered practically in a riding situation. The use of video, slides and diagrammatic material may be of assistance.

This Unit can be delivered as a free standing Unit or as part of a Group Award.

All aspects of this Unit would require practical assessment which can be supplemented by oral questioning.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

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

Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by distance learning. However, it would require planning by the centre to ensure the sufficiency and authenticity of the candidate evidence.

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: Equitation

This Unit is designed to enable you to develop skills associated with the riding of horses. Areas that will be covered will be riding horses on the flat showing an appropriate balance and security of position, correct application of aids and harmony between horse and rider. When riding over fences the candidate should show that they can ride in balance with an appropriate rein and stirrup with an ability to use the legs effectively and show security and balance with fold and follow when jumping a course of fences. You will need to show harmony whilst riding, using correct lines of approach and departure from fences and adopt safe procedures throughout. When riding in open countryside you will need to show that you are aware of and can show control of the horse, correct procedures, a knowledge of safe clothing, tack and equipment and be aware of the safety of both your self and the horse.

In order to complete this Unit successfully, you will be required to give practical demonstrations of riding in various situations.

This Unit is organised into three Outcomes covering the following topics:

- 1 Demonstrate riding a horse on the flat.
- 2 Demonstrate riding a horse over fences.
- 3 Demonstrate riding in the countryside and on the public highway.

In **Outcome 1** you will learn how to demonstrate your Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that you can ride quiet, experienced horses demonstrating various school figures.

In **Outcome 2** you will learn how to demonstrate your skills and/or knowledge by showing that you can ride quiet, experienced horses over a course of fences (maximum 0.75m).

In **Outcome 3** you will learn how to demonstrate your Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that you can ride a quiet, experienced horse in the countryside and on the public highway.

Assessment will be practical for each of the three Outcomes. Oral questions may be included.