



Higher National Graded Unit Specification

General Information for Centres

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

Graded Unit Title: Equine Studies: Graded Unit 1

Graded Unit Code: DP2X 34

Type of Graded Unit: Project

Assessment Instrument: Practical Assignment

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.*

Purpose: This Graded Unit is designed to provide evidence that the candidate has achieved the following principal aims of the HNC Equine Studies:

- ◆ to provide a qualification which meets the current needs of the horse industry and also those seeking an entry route to higher education
- ◆ to provide a qualification that offers an integrated course of theory and practice which will equip students to work effectively in the wide ranging field of the horse industry

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 the above specific aims prior to undertaking this Graded Unit:

- ◆ *Equine Studies: Equine Nutrition*
- ◆ *Equine Studies: Equine Facility Management*
- ◆ *Equine Studies: Equine Fitness*
- ◆ *Equine Studies: Equine Selection*
- ◆ *Equine Studies: Equine Health*
- ◆ *Equine Studies: Preparation of Horses for Competition*

General Information for Centres (cont)

Core Skills: There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or a Core Skill component as part of this Graded Unit. However, there may be opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Problem Solving*.

Assessment: This Graded Unit will be assessed by the use of practical assignment. The developed practical assignment should provide the candidate with the opportunity to produce evidence that demonstrates she/he has met the aims of the Graded Unit that it covers.

Administrative Information

Graded Unit code: DP2X 34
Graded Unit title: Equine Studies: Graded Unit 1
Original date of publication: August 2004
Version: 01

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2004

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of Higher National qualifications.

Additional copies of this Graded Unit specification if sourced by the Scottish Qualifications Authority can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Customer Contact Centre for further details, telephone 0845 279 1000.

Higher National Graded Unit Specification: Instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates

Graded Unit Title: Equine Studies: Graded Unit 1

Conditions of Assessment

The candidate should be given a date for completion of the practical assignment. However, the instructions for the assessment task should be distributed to allow the candidate sufficient time to assimilate the details and carry out the assessment task. During the time between the distribution of the assessment task instructions and the completion date, assessors may answer questions, provide clarification, guidance and reasonable assistance. The assessment task should be marked as soon as possible after the completion date. The final grading given should reflect the quality of the candidate's evidence at the time of the completion date. Reassessment of this Graded Unit should be based on a significantly different assessment task.

The evidence for the project is generated over time and involves three distinct stages, where each stage has to be achieved before the next is undertaken. Thus any re-assessment of stages must be undertaken before proceeding to the next stage.

If a candidate fails the project overall or wishes to upgrade, then this must be done using a *substantially different* project, ie all stages are undertaken using a new project, assignment, case study, etc. In this case, a candidate's grade will be based on the achievement in the re-assessment, if this results in a higher grade.

At this level, candidates should work independently. It is up to Centres to take reasonable steps to ensure that the project is the work of the candidate. For example, Centres may wish to informally question candidates at various stages on their knowledge and understanding of the project on which they have embarked. Centres should ensure that where research etc, is carried out in other establishments or under the supervision of others that the candidate does not receive undue assistance.

Instructions for designing the assessment task

The assessment task is a project. The project undertaken by the candidate must be a complex task which involves:

- ◆ variables which are complex or unfamiliar
- ◆ relationships which need to be clarified
- ◆ a context which may be familiar or unfamiliar to the candidate

The assessment task must require the candidate to:

- ◆ analyse the task and decide on a course of action for undertaking the project
- ◆ plan and organise work and carry it through to completion
- ◆ reflect on what has been done and draw conclusions for the future
- ◆ produce evidence of meeting the aims which this Graded Unit has been designed to cover

Guidance on grading candidates

Candidates who meet the minimum Evidence Requirements will have their achievement graded as C — competent, or A — highly competent or B somewhere between A and C. The grade related criteria to be used to judge candidate performance for this Graded Unit is specified in the following table.

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

Grade A	Grade C
<p>Is a seamless, coherent piece of work which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ produces evidence for the three essential stages of the practical assignment which is of a high quality and clearly inter related ◆ is highly focused and demonstrates an insightful interpretation and a balanced, integrative approach ◆ is tightly structured, relevant to the content of the units and displays a high level of subject/occupational expertise ◆ effectively applies integrated and consolidated knowledge, understanding and skills from the course units to complex situations 	<p>Is a co-ordinated piece of work which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ produces documentation for the three essential stages of the practical assignment which shows some integration between them ◆ demonstrates an acceptable interpretation from a balanced integrative approach ◆ is reasonable well structured and displays an adequate level of subject/occupational expertise ◆ applies integrated and consolidated knowledge, understanding and skills with some lack of continuity and consistency

The project will be marked out of 100. Assessors will mark each stage of the project, taking into account the criteria outlined. The marks will then be aggregated to arrive at an overall mark for the project. Assessors will then assign an overall grade to the candidate for this Graded Unit based on the following grade boundaries.

A = 70% — 100%
 B = 60% — 69%
 C = 50% — 59%

Note: the candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified below for each stage of the project in order to achieve the Graded Unit.

Evidence Requirements

The project consists of three stages: planning; developing; and evaluating. The following table specifies the minimum evidence required to pass each stage.

Note: The candidate must achieve **all of the minimum evidence** specified below for each stage of the project in order to pass the Graded Unit.

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

Project stage	Minimum Evidence Requirements
Stage 1 — Planning	<p>The planning stage is assessed by a short planning document and an individual interview. The tutor's role is as a facilitator and so to gain high marks the candidate must demonstrate a high degree of autonomy in planning activities</p> <p>Produce a written plan which includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Justification of selection of horse and event. 2 A detailed plan for the daily routines for one month to include feeding, fitness and training, health and welfare, grooming, clipping, trimming and competition preparation. 3 Realistic timescales for carrying out the activities. 4 A discussion of the methods to be used. <p>The plan should be between 750–1,000 words and could take the form of charts, tables where appropriate.</p> <p>This stage is worth 30 marks.</p> <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Planning stage.</i></p>
Stage 2 — Developing	<p>Produce a diary detailing the actual programme followed for the month which should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Be based on the plan which should be completed prior to the activity taking place. 2 Demonstrate the ability to manage the programme for the specified timescale without causing detriment to the horses health and welfare. 3 Demonstrate the ability to produce a horse for a suitable public event to a high standard. This would involve actually demonstrating skills of clipping, trimming, pulling manes, grooming and turnout which could be evidenced by photo's, video or witness testimony. 4 Demonstrate suitable methods and approaches for all tasks. 5 Is verified by the placement supervisor as an authentic record of what actually took place. <p>The diary should be between 1,000–1,500 words.</p> <p>This stage is worth 40 marks.</p> <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Developing stage</i></p>

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

Project stage	Minimum Evidence Requirements
Stage 3 — Evaluating	<p>Produce a written evaluation of the activity which includes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 An assessment of the effectiveness of the original plan. 2 An assessment of own strengths and weaknesses. 3 Identification of any problems encountered and skills gained. 4 A review of the evaluation tools and methods used. <p>This report should be between 500–750 words.</p> <p>This stage is worth 30 marks.</p> <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Evaluating stage.</i></p>

Assessment is based on the **product** and the **process**.

Candidates must:

- ◆ interpret the brief
- ◆ gather information to clarify the brief
- ◆ decide on the activity/event/process to develop
- ◆ carry out the activity/event/process to develop
- ◆ evaluate the activity/event/process

The project brief should sample the Outcomes of the following mandatory units of the Group Award:

Unit Title	Outcome Number	Outcome Title
<i>Equine Studies: Equine Nutrition</i>	3	Formulate and evaluate the effectiveness of rations to meet the nutritional requirements of the horse
<i>Equine Studies: Equine Facility Management</i>	1	Formulate and evaluate the effectiveness of rations to meet the nutritional requirements of the horse
<i>Equine Studies: Equine Fitness</i>	2	Design a specific fitness programme for a horse
<i>Equine Studies: Equine Selection</i>	1	Identify the qualities of horses for specific purposes
<i>Equine Studies: Preparation of Horses for Competition</i>	1	Identify the qualities of horses for specific purposes
<i>Equine Studies: Equine Health</i>	2	Identify ailments in relation to both performance and non performance horses

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

Support notes

Project brief: Practical Assignment

This assignment involves selecting a horse from the yard in which the candidate is working and preparing it for a suitable event in 1 month's time. It will cover feeding, fitness and training, health and welfare, grooming, clipping, trimming and turnout on the day. When selecting a suitable event for the horse, conformation, breed or type, action and ability of the horse should be taken into consideration. The type of event could be competitive or non competitive, affiliated or non-affiliated and this should be taken into account when selecting the horse.

Stage 1: Planning

Select a horse for a suitable event and prepare it for a public appearance in one months time.

Plan a programme suitable for preparing a horse for a public event in one month with reference to:

- ◆ selection of horse
- ◆ selection of event
- ◆ requirements of event
- ◆ aims, objectives and timescales
- ◆ daily routines
- ◆ feeding programme
- ◆ fitness and training programme
- ◆ health and welfare
- ◆ preparation of horses for intended event ie clipping, trimming, plaiting

Stage 2: Developing

Give an account of the activity/event/process.

With reference to:

- ◆ selection of horse and event
- ◆ actual organisation of daily routine for one month
- ◆ implementation of feeding and fitness/training programmes
- ◆ preparation of horse for event
- ◆ monitoring health and welfare

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

Stage 3 Evaluating

Evaluate and review the activity/event/process.

With reference to:

- ◆ reflection on own practice
- ◆ reflection on own learning
- ◆ impact on participants
- ◆ effectiveness of original plan

The project will be marked out of 100.

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 assessment arrangements. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs*, which is available on SQA's website: **www.sqa.org.uk**.