



## Higher National Unit specification

### General information for centres

**Unit title:** Equine Studies: Equine Grassland Management

**Unit code:** DP3D 35

**Unit purpose:** This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to identify and describe grass species and plan the establishment, maintenance, utilisation and conservation of grassland. Activities will be centred on planning the establishment, maintenance, conservation and utilisation of grassland for equine use.

The Unit provides a solid base on which further grassland management skills can be built. The candidate will enhance their underpinning knowledge of the correct procedures and should be able to relate this to a practical situation.

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

- 1 Identify and describe grass species and plan the establishment of grassland.
- 2 Describe how to maintain and utilise grass for grazing by horses.
- 3 Explain grass conservation systems.

**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 will be 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.

This Unit forms part of the mandatory units of the HND in Equine Studies.

In this Unit the term 'horse' includes thoroughbred and non-thoroughbred horses and ponies.

## **General information for centres (cont)**

**Assessment:** All Outcomes in this Unit should be assessed in one holistic assessment as a project. This could take the form of a case study which will enable the candidate to demonstrate their knowledge and skills of annual maintenance and conservation procedures for grassland.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards**

**Unit title:** Equine Studies: Equine Grassland Management

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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**

Identify and describe grass species and plan the establishment of grassland

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Grass species
- ◆ Characteristics of grass species including those suitable for grazing and those suitable for conservation
- ◆ Grasses suitable for a variety of types of land
- ◆ Grasses suitable for a variety of purposes
- ◆ A variety of grass establishment procedures
- ◆ Weeds and noxious plants

#### **Evidence Requirements**

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

- ◆ identify grass species, weeds and noxious plants
- ◆ describe the characteristics of grass species, weeds and noxious plants
- ◆ identify the potential of the grass species
- ◆ select a grass seed mixture appropriate for a specific site and purpose
- ◆ plan grass establishment procedures for a specific site

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

All Outcomes should be assessed holistically by a case study, whereby candidates will follow the progress of a field over a period of time to collect evidence for all Outcomes.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Equine Studies: Equine Grassland Management

### **Outcome 2**

Describe how to maintain and utilise grass for grazing by horses

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Grass maintenance procedures including fertiliser treatment, topping and weed control
- ◆ Assessment of quality of sward and feeding value of grass for horses
- ◆ How to utilise and maintain grassland including mixed grazing, parasite control, permanent pasture and rotational grazing

#### **Evidence Requirements**

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

- ◆ describe grass maintenance procedures
- ◆ assess quality of sward

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

All Outcomes should be assessed holistically by a case study, whereby candidates will follow the progress of a field over a period of time to collect evidence for all Outcomes.

### **Outcome 3**

Explain grass conservation systems

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Procedures used to conserve grass including cutting, drying, baling, wrapping and storing
- ◆ Methods used to conserve grass including hay, haylage and silage
- ◆ Assessment of the quality and suitability of conserved grasses for horses
- ◆ Production costs of conserving grass

#### **Evidence Requirements**

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

- ◆ describe methods and procedures used to conserve grass
- ◆ assess the quality of conserved grass for equine use
- ◆ estimate the production costs for conserved grass

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

All Outcomes should be assessed holistically by a case study, whereby candidates will follow the progress of a field over a period of time to collect evidence for all Outcomes.

## Administrative Information

**Unit code:** DP3D 35

**Unit title:** Equine Studies: Equine Grassland Management

**Superclass category:** SD

**Original date of publication:** August 2004

**Version:** 01

### History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

**Source:** SQA

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## Higher National Unit specification: support notes

### Unit title: Equine Studies: Equine Grassland Management

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 to enable them to identify and describe grass species and plan the establishment, maintenance, utilisation and conservation of grass.

Lectures and tutorials should be supported by farm visits to inspect grass at all stages of growth and to observe establishment and seasonal maintenance procedures. It would also be helpful if candidates could observe hay, haylage and silage production.

### Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

**Outcome 1** identifies grass species and the suitability of individual species for grazing and conservation. Species of grass should include: perennial rye-grass, Italian rye-grass, timothy, cocksfoot, meadow fescue, red clover and white clover.

Candidates will gain the knowledge to enable them to select a suitable seed mixture for grazing and conservation and explain the procedures required to establish grass on a specific site.

**Outcome 2** enables the candidate to develop the skills and knowledge required to plan an annual maintenance programme.

In **Outcome 3** the candidate should recognise the importance of a suitable method of conservation and have an understanding of the production costs involved.

**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.

### 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 student completes work away from the centre, regular contact with tutors will be necessary. This may take the form of visits by the tutor to the student or vice versa. It is at the discretion of the centre as to whether assessments take place at the centre, workplace or at home.

## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)**

**Unit title:** Equine Studies: Equine Grassland Management

### **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](http://www.sqa.org.uk)).

## **General information for candidates**

### **Unit title:** Equine Studies: Equine Grassland Management

This Unit is designed to enable you to develop the skills and knowledge required to identify and describe grass species and to plan the establishment, maintenance, utilisation and conservation of grass for equine use.

It covers three main areas: planning the establishment of grass to include the selection of grass species suitable for grazing and conservation, annual maintenance procedures and systems of conservation.

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

Assessment may take the form of one holistic assessment covering all Outcomes. The type of assessment could be by means of a case study where you will produce a report on field management and hay/haylage production.