



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Equine Studies: Evaluating an Equestrian Cross Country Course

Unit code: DP3E 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop the knowledge and skills to evaluate the design and layout of an equestrian cross country course for a recognised level of competition up to CCI One Star. Activities will be centred on visiting and assessing a number of cross country courses and where possible observing jump construction.

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

- 1 Explain the principles of design of cross country courses.
- 2 Evaluate cross country courses.

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: IT would be useful if the candidate had some experience of equestrian cross country courses. This may be evidenced by possession of an NC Unit or similar qualification, or relevant experience.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill 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 Optional framework of the HND in Equine Studies. It is a free standing Unit and may be delivered as such for the purposes of continuing professional development.

This Unit provides a solid base on which further cross country course evaluation skills can be built. It could also be used as an introduction prior to commencing cross country course construction training. It will enable candidates to understand the importance of correct construction and safety and enhance their underpinning knowledge of course design, allowing them to relate this to a practical situation. Candidates should visit cross country courses.

General information for centres (cont)

Assessment: All Outcomes in this Unit are assessed by one holistic assessment which should be a project. It should take the form of an investigation where the candidate will demonstrate their knowledge of the principles of cross country course design by analysing and evaluating a cross country course and producing a report of their findings.

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

Explain the principles of design of cross country courses

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ main features of cross country courses
- ◆ types of cross country jumps
- ◆ purpose of cross country obstacles
- ◆ risk assessment
- ◆ costs of labour and materials

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ describe the main features of cross country courses
- ◆ recognise types of cross country obstacles, using appropriate terminology
- ◆ clearly explain the purpose of a range of cross country obstacles
- ◆ identify potential risks/hazards
- ◆ estimate the cost of building fences

Assessment Guidelines

All Outcomes should be assessed as one holistic assessment in the form of an investigation.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Equine Studies: Evaluating an Equestrian Cross Country Course

Outcome 2

Evaluate cross country courses

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ variation in terrain including the severity of slope, natural vegetation, ground conditions and man made obstructions
- ◆ requirements for a variety of competitions, including the length of route, position of the obstacles, available escape routes and access for the public
- ◆ materials used for construction including wood, stone decorative features and advertising material
- ◆ construction methods used, including manual and machine aided
- ◆ health and safety requirements

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ evaluate the design of obstacles for the level of competition
- ◆ evaluate the layout of the course in accordance with the rules and regulations for the level of competition
- ◆ evaluate the suitability and safety of the materials used
- ◆ evaluate the safety of construction methods used

Assessment Guidelines

All Outcomes should be assessed as one holistic assessment in the form of an investigation.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DP3E 35
Unit title:	Equine Studies: Evaluating an Equestrian Cross Country Course
Superclass category:	NM
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Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

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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 aim of this Unit is to develop the candidate's skills and knowledge to evaluate the design and layout of an equestrian cross country course for a recognised level of competition.

Lectures and tutorials should be supported by practical exercises assisting with jump construction and visiting and assessing a number of cross country courses designed for different levels of competition.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Outcome 1 introduces the candidate to the main features of cross country courses and identifies the range of cross country jumps.

The main features of cross country courses should include the terrain, natural features, site of obstacles, layout of the course and type of going.

Types of cross country jumps would include verticals, parallels, ascending spreads, ditches, brush fences, steps, banks, drops, water and table.

The purpose of cross country obstacles should include warm up, use of natural features, variety of fences, test of horse and rider's boldness, test of horse's agility and obedience and spectator interest.

The risk assessment should consider hazards such as gaps, jagged edges, flimsy construction, unsound or uneven take off's and landings, hidden parts and frangible fences.

Candidates should understand the need for risk assessment and current safety features as covered by British Eventing rules. Particular attention should be paid to relevant aspects of Health and Safety.

It is recommended that the candidates visit a range of cross country courses taking notes so they may relate to these when producing their report.

In **Outcome Two** candidates will gain the opportunity to visit a range of cross country courses at different levels of competition

Candidates will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to evaluate the design, layout and suitability of courses

Candidates should recognise and evaluate the safety features standard of construction

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Equine Studies: Evaluating an Equestrian Cross Country Course

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill 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

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: Evaluating an Equestrian Cross Country Course

This Unit is designed to enable you to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to evaluate the design and layout of an equestrian cross country course for a recognised level of competition.

It covers two main areas: the principles of design of cross country courses and how to evaluate the course for construction, safety and suitability for the level of competition.

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, in the form of an investigation and report. For this assessment you will visit and assess a range of cross country courses to enable you to complete a report.