



## Higher National Graded Unit specification

### General information for centres

This Graded Unit has been validated as part of the HND in Garden Design. 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**                      Garden Design: Graded Unit 2

**Graded Unit code:**                  F2D6 35

**Type of Graded Unit:**              Project

**Assessment Instrument:**          Practical Assignment

**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 National 1 to Doctorates.*

**Purpose:** This Graded Unit is designed to provide evidence that the candidate has achieved the following principal aims of the HND in Garden Design:

- ◆ is able to solve problems, undertake analysis, synthesis and evaluation within the confines of existing understandings of the sector
- ◆ is able to operate in these ways to develop solutions, some of which will be innovative, to a variety of unpredictable problems within the confines of existing basic understandings of the sector
- ◆ has gained the knowledge and skills required to design, build, research and manage gardens
- ◆ has developed the awareness and competence to become a garden designer

**Recommended prior knowledge and skills:** It is recommended that the candidate should have completed or be in the process of completing all of the mandatory Units in the Group Award prior to undertaking this Graded Unit.

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

**Assessment:** This Graded Unit will be assessed by the use of a 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 this Graded Unit.

## Administrative Information

**Graded Unit code:** F2D6 35

**Graded Unit title:** Garden Design: Graded Unit 2

**Original date of publication:** August 2007

**Version:** 02

### History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Update of Conditions of Assessment	Jul 2018

**Source:** SQA

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## **Higher National Graded Unit specification: instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates**

**Graded Unit title:** Garden Design: Graded Unit 2

### **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.

Reasonable assistance is the term used by SQA to describe the difference between providing candidates with some direction to generate the required evidence for assessment and providing too much support which would compromise the integrity of the assessment. Reasonable assistance is part of all learning and teaching processes.

In relation to the assessment of Higher National Project-based Graded Units, assessors may provide advice, clarification, and guidance during the time between the distribution of the project instructions and the completion date, ie at each stage of the project.

Remediation allows an assessor to clarify candidate responses, either by requiring a written amendment or by oral questioning, where there is a minor shortfall or omission in evidence requirements. In either case, such instances must be formally noted by the assessor, either in writing or by recording, and be made available to the internal and external verifier.

In relation to Higher National Project-based Graded Units, candidates must be given the opportunity for remediation at each stage of the project.

The evidence for a Higher National Project-based Graded Unit is generated over time and involves three distinct stages, each of which has to be achieved before the next is undertaken. This means that any re-assessment of stages must be undertaken before proceeding to the next stage. The overall grade is derived from the total number of marks *across all* sections, and should reflect the ability of the candidate to work autonomously and the amount of support required. In relation to Higher National Project-based Graded Units, candidates who have failed any stage of the project and have been unable to provide the necessary evidence through remediation must be given the opportunity for re-assessment of that stage.

Any candidate who has failed their graded unit or wishes to upgrade their award must be given a re-assessment opportunity, or in exceptional circumstances, two re-assessment opportunities. In the case of project-based graded units, this must be done using a substantially different project.

The final grading given must reflect the quality of the candidate's evidence at the time of the completion of the graded unit. Candidates must be awarded the highest grade achieved — whether through first submission or through any re-assessment, remediation, and/or reasonable assistance provided.

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

**Graded Unit title:** Garden Design: Graded Unit 2

### **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

**Graded Unit title:** Garden Design: Graded Unit 2

Grade A	Grade C
Is a seamless, coherent piece of work which:	Is a co-ordinated piece of work which:
♦ Interprets and understands the project brief in a way that demonstrates insight and clear understanding of the issues	♦ Interprets and understands the project brief in a way that enables the candidate to meet the basic criteria required for topic and level of demand
♦ Has sufficient evidence for the three essential phases of the project, is produced to a high standard, and is quite clearly inter-related	♦ Has sufficient evidence of the three essential phases of the project, is produced to an adequate standard
♦ Is highly focussed and relevant to the tasks associated with the project brief	♦ Is focussed and relevant to the tasks associated with the project brief
♦ Demonstrates a comprehensive analysis of relevant information, by using underlying principles	♦ Identifies strengths and weaknesses and advantages and disadvantages in any analysis
♦ Demonstrates an understanding of the relationship between a situation and a range of solutions and can justify the choice of one solution over another	♦ Demonstrates an understanding of a situation and is able to offer a justifiable solution
♦ Is logically structured and coherently expressed throughout and language used is of a high standard in terms of level, accuracy and technical content as appropriate for a formal report	♦ Is satisfactorily structured and language used is adequate in terms of level, accuracy and technical content, although use is not always consistent
♦ Design and construction drawings are drawn according to convention and to an appropriate scale, with the level of accuracy necessary to allow the garden to be constructed and planted from the information supplied. A high level of accuracy and graphical competence is exhibited.	♦ Design and construction drawings are produced according to convention and to an appropriate scale, to a standard and level of accuracy necessary to allow the garden to be constructed and planted from the information supplied
♦ Design package has information and reports prepared in a comprehensive manner, design is functionally excellent, and originality and flair may be exhibited in the design	♦ Design package has all necessary information and design is functionally satisfactory

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

### Graded Unit title: Garden Design: Graded Unit 2

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.

Project stage	Minimum Evidence Requirements
Stage 1 — Planning 20% of total marks	An <b>Action Plan</b> which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ the candidate's interpretation of the brief</li><li>♦ any information gathered to clarify the brief</li><li>♦ aims of the practical assignment</li><li>♦ identification of information sources to be used</li><li>♦ identification of materials and resources required and how they will be accessed</li><li>♦ identification of the stages involved and the timescales for completion of each stage</li></ul> <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 60% of total marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ <b>Output</b> of the practical activity which meets required quality</li></ul> and <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ <b>Written record of the processes</b> underpinning the activity eg sketchbook, preliminary designs, logbook, diary.</li></ul>
	<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)

**Graded Unit title:** Garden Design: Graded Unit 2

Project stage	Minimum Evidence Requirements
Stage 3 — Evaluating 20% of total marks	<p><b>Evaluation Report</b> which should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ briefly outline the assignment</li><li>◆ review and update the action plan in light of experience</li><li>◆ summarise any unforeseen events and how they were handled</li><li>◆ identify any knowledge and skills which have been gained and / or developed</li><li>◆ assess the strengths and weaknesses of the output of the Practical Assignment</li><li>◆ determine to what extent the assignment met the original brief</li></ul> <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Evaluating stage.</i></p>

### Support notes

The practical assignment will normally involve design of a garden and production of a design package for a client encompassing the client's brief and any site restrictions. The assignment should include a site survey, client interaction to establish the brief, and presentation (normally graphic, written and oral) of the design to the client.

#### Stage 1 — Planning

This stage should include a visit to the project site and a meeting with the client. Following on from this, the candidate should be in a position to formulate an action plan for the project. The action plan could include or be in the form of a letter to the client explaining the design process to be undertaken and outlining the services which will be provided including charges, conditions of contract and timescales for delivery and presentation of the work. The action plan should outline the brief requirements, reasons for non-inclusion of client requirements that are not appropriate or practical, and identify services that may be required by other professionals.

#### Stage 2 —Developing

The **output** for this stage should be a design package produced to accepted professional standards to present the design, supported by information in forms that are appropriate to the context — plans, all design details, imaging appropriate to the design, supplementary report including outline costings. The presentation would normally take the form of a graphic, written and oral presentation to the client.

## Higher National Graded Unit Specification: instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

### Graded Unit title: Garden Design: Graded Unit 2

The design package could include the following:

- ◆ Location plan
- ◆ Site analysis
- ◆ Plan of existing site
- ◆ Design drawings for site
- ◆ Construction drawings
- ◆ Planting plan
- ◆ Perspective drawing/s eg a one or two point perspective of the proposed garden or an axonometric/isometric visualisation of the proposed scheme
- ◆ Images, cross sections, sketches as appropriate to demonstrate design
- ◆ Documentation of maintenance and procurement issues

The proposals should be fully justified and should include outline costings in line with the client's budget. Any information not contained on the plans should be provided in a supplementary written report.

### Written record of the processes underpinning the activity

The candidate should normally submit all rough work, sketch books, notes relating to information collected for the project as evidence of ownership and to demonstrate the progression of ideas. Preliminary / sketch designs may be shown to the client at an interim point. Feedback from the client at this stage can be helpful in design development.

### Stage 3 — Evaluating

This should normally be in the form of a supplementary reflective report submitted shortly after presentation of design work to the client.

### Open learning

Most of this Unit could be completed externally, as it is not necessary for all candidates to undertake a design for the same site. Presentation of the design package to the client could be done either at the centre or at off-centre locations as long as appropriate arrangements for assessment are made.

As a normal requirement of the Unit, the candidate is obliged to submit a written record of the processes underpinning the activity. This evidence can demonstrate the progression of ideas and ownership of the project.

### Equality and inclusion

This graded unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Equality and inclusion*, which is available on SQA's website: [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk).



## General Information for candidates

### Graded Unit title: Garden Design: Graded Unit 2

This Unit is designed to demonstrate that you can integrate, evaluate and apply knowledge from a range of units for the award of HND Garden Design. The award is designed to develop the knowledge and skills required to design, build, research and manage gardens to enable self employment as a garden designer or employment at management level.

It is recommended that you should have completed or be in the process of completing all of the mandatory Units in the Group Award prior to undertaking this Graded Unit.

The project will be in the form of a Practical Assignment. Your remit will be to design a garden, encompassing the client's brief and any site restrictions. You will assess the site and plan the work involved (20%), produce a complete design package for your client (60%), and evaluate the project (20%). The design package should be produced to accepted professional standards and should contain plans, all design details, imaging appropriate to the design, and a supplementary report including outline costings. The output will normally take the form of a graphic, written and oral presentation to the client.

The Graded Unit is a compulsory element of the Group Award and will be awarded at the following grades:

Grade A = 70%–100%

Grade B = 60%–69%

Grade C = 50%–59%

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. 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. This may not be possible in the same academic year as the first attempt.