



Higher National Graded Unit specification

General information for centres

This Graded Unit has been validated as part of the HND Agriculture. 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: Agriculture: Graded Unit 3

Graded Unit code: F3R5 35

Type of Graded Unit: Examination

Assessment Instrument: Examination

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.*

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

- ◆ to provide vocational skills and knowledge required for employment at supervisory/junior managerial level within the agricultural industry and for self-employment in farming or other land-based sectors
- ◆ to ensure that candidates gain the skills, knowledge and understanding of animal and crop production technology, farm mechanisation, business management and managing people which are necessary for a position as a trainee/assistant farm manager or equivalent
- ◆ to ensure that candidates have a sound appreciation of animal welfare, environmental and conservation issues and understand the concept of sustainability
- ◆ to facilitate progression to degree level education based on a sound foundation in applied science and technology, business management, Core Skills, and an understanding of the multifunctional nature of agriculture

General information for centres

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 these specific aims prior to undertaking this Graded Unit:

F2E4 35	<i>Agricultural Produce: Quality and Processing</i>
F1Y5 53	<i>Crop and Livestock Mechanisation</i>
F2G7 35	<i>Farm Buildings and Controlled Environments</i>
F1Y7 35	<i>Farm Manures, Wastes and the Environment</i>
F2EB 35	<i>Livestock Management Systems</i>
F2EC 35	<i>Livestock Nutrition</i>
F1YB 35	<i>Pasture Management</i>
F1JH 35	<i>Plant Protection: Integrated Approaches</i>

Core Skills: There are no Core Skills embedded in this Graded Unit specification.

Assessment: This examination-based Graded Unit is closed-book assessment. It will consist of an examination of 3 hours. The grade given will reflect the candidate's achievement on the first assessment event. A candidate may wish to retake the Group Award Graded Unit but this should be based upon a significantly different examination.

Administrative Information

Graded Unit code: F3R5 35
Graded Unit title: Agriculture: Graded Unit 3
Original date of publication: August 2008
Version: 01

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2008

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: Agriculture Graded Unit 3

Conditions of assessment

The assessment is based on a closed-book assessment examination lasting 3 hours.

If a candidate does not achieve a pass or if a candidate wishes to upgrade, this must be based on a significantly different examination from that given originally. A candidate's grade will be based on his/her achievement on the new assessment event using a significantly different examination, if this results in a higher grade.

The examination should be unseen and the assessment should be conducted in controlled and invigilated conditions.

At all times, the security, integrity and confidentiality of examinations must be ensured.

The questions will be unseen by the candidate until the time of the examination. The examination paper will be divided in three sessions, with a break allowed between the sessions. Where this is the case, candidates will only be permitted to see the sections which are being examined in that session. To achieve this Unit, candidates should attain 50% of the available marks with achievement being graded according to marks attained.

Instructions for designing the assessment task:

The examination should be designed to assess the candidate's critical knowledge and understanding of the topics relating to the specific aims which this Graded Unit is designed to cover. The questions and corresponding marks should be designed in accordance with the ranges indicated in the table that follows. However, the overall total mark for the examination is 100.

The questions in the examination should be based on subject material drawn from the Units from the HND Agriculture which comprise the Recommended Prior Knowledge and Skills.

The format of the examination should be designed to meet the following requirements.

- 1 The examination paper should be in three sections.
- 2 Each section will comprise four questions.
- 3 Candidates will be required to attempt two from four questions in each section.
- 4 The examination paper must cover both aspects of integration and problem solving from an operational and managerial perspective.
- 5 At least one aspect within each of the three topics areas of crops, livestock and mechanization should be covered.
- 6 Questions may be split into several parts and each part given a separate mark.
- 7 Section 1 of the examination will comprise the subject area of crops with its associated mechanisation. Section 2 will comprise the subject area of livestock with its associated mechanisation. Section 3 will comprise of two parts: (Part A), two questions relating to quality issues relevant to the subject areas of crops, livestock and mechanisation and (Part B), two questions relating to environmental issues relevant to the subject areas of crops, livestock and mechanisation. The candidate must answer one question from part A and part B.

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

Key topics	Level of demand	Percentage weighting for each topic
Section 1 — Four questions to be set, two of which must be answered by the candidate		
Crops and associated mechanization	Integrate knowledge and understanding to identify, explain and analyse issues arising from given situations.	32
	Integrate knowledge and understanding to justify actions which could be taken to respond to issues.	
Section 2 — Four questions to be set, two of which must be answered by the candidate		
Livestock and associated mechanisation	Integrate knowledge and understanding to identify, explain and analyse issues arising from given situations.	32
	Integrate knowledge and understanding to justify actions which could be taken to respond to issues.	
Section 3 — Two questions to be set for each section, one from each section to be answered by the candidate		
Section A Applying quality concepts Standards and requirements, quality assurances schemes. Penalties and rewards.	Apply knowledge and understanding of quality requirements to explain the relation between production and market requirements.	18
	Apply knowledge and understanding of quality requirements to explain the penalties and rewards of quality assurance schemes for prescribed enterprise situations.	
Section B Applying environmental concepts Pollution from crop treatments, livestock treatments, wastes and production processes. Sources of information. Policy.	Apply knowledge and understanding to explain how environmental issues may arise.	18
	Apply knowledge and understanding to explain consequences of environmental issues.	
	Apply knowledge and understanding to explain how environmental issues may be resolved.	

The examination will be marked out of 100. Assessors will aggregate the marks achieved by the candidate to arrive at an overall mark for the examination. Assessors will then assign a grade to the candidate for this Graded Unit based on the following grade boundaries:

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

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

Guidance on grading candidates

Candidates who meet the minimum Evidence Requirements will have their achievement graded as a C (competent), 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:

Grade A	Grade C
<p>Is an exam script which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ explicitly addresses the main elements of a question ◆ gives conclusions and demonstrates precise use of terminology ◆ has responses with a logical structure and precisely related to the question ◆ has concepts which are accurately and precisely related to the question ◆ has consistent, accurate identification of factors relevant to the question ◆ gives reasons that are supported by relevant concepts, explained in a manner to convey understanding of the concepts ◆ clearly justifies the conclusions, with relevant reasons ◆ has predictions and suggestions which are supported by relevant reasons and are realistic and practical ◆ gives both advantages and disadvantages which are valid ◆ draws on a range of topics from several different areas and identifies, explains or analyses situations correctly 	<p>Is an exam script which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ recognises the main elements of a question ◆ uses relevant terminology ◆ has structured responses ◆ applies concepts ◆ contains relevant factors ◆ gives reasons with limited relationship to relevant concepts and convey understanding of the concepts ◆ contains conclusions with relevant references ◆ limited justification and credibility for suggestions made ◆ provides answers that give either advantages or disadvantages, with limited validity ◆ identifies, explains and analyses integrated situations based on only single or limited concepts

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

Support notes

The subject areas to be examined may be drawn from the material covered by the Units listed in the Recommended Prior Knowledge and Skills section. As the questions integrate topics from different Units, problem solving skills are developed. An example could be where a candidate is required to explain the changes necessary to a dairy enterprise where it is decided to keep and rear the calves right through to slaughter, compared to current practice of selling calves at a week old. Candidates would be expected to refer to factors such as equipment and housing, nutrition, health and profitability. Another example could be the implications of an arable farmer entering a cereal quality scheme.

It is recommended that the examination is divided into separate sessions, with candidates having a break between sessions. Candidates will not be allowed to view the questions from another session until the start of that session.

It is recommended that the Graded Unit examination is delivered towards the end of the academic year, when the candidates will have completed the Units listed in Recommended Prior Knowledge and Skills.

It is recommended that during the delivery of the programme, the candidates are given an incremental introduction to the skills needed to undertake a closed-book examination. Students may gain experience of taking closed-book examinations in assessments given for Units studied prior to the Graded Unit.

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.

General information for candidates

This Graded Unit will provide evidence that you have achieved the principal aims of the HND Agriculture. This HND Agriculture Graded Unit 3 is closed-book assessment conducted in controlled and invigilated conditions. It will consist of an examination of three hours. The questions will be unseen until the time of the examination. The examination paper may be divided in three sessions, with a break allowed between the sessions. Where this is the case, you will only be permitted to see the sections which are being examined in that session.

To achieve this Graded Unit, candidates should attain 50% of the available marks with achievement being graded according to marks attained. The examination will be marked out of 100. Assessors will aggregate the marks to arrive at an overall mark for the examination. Assessors will then assign a grade to you for this Graded Unit based on the following grade boundaries:

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

Section one of the examination will comprise the subject area of crops with its associated mechanisation. Section two will comprise the subject area of livestock with its associated mechanisation. Section three will comprise two parts: (Part A) relating to quality issues relevant to the subject areas of crops, livestock and mechanisation and (Part B) relating to environmental issues relevant to the subject areas of crops, livestock and mechanisation.

During the delivery of the programme, will be given an incremental introduction to the skills needed to undertake a closed-book examination. You may also gain experience of taking closed-book examinations in assessments given for Units studied prior to the Graded Unit.