



Higher National Graded Unit specification

General information for centres

This Graded Unit has been validated as part of the Poultry Production HNC. 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: Poultry Production: Graded Unit 1

Graded Unit code: F4TG 34

Type of Graded Unit: Project

Assessment Instrument: Case Study

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 National 1 to Doctorates.*

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

- ◆ to develop candidates who have an understanding not only of appropriate production techniques and technologies, but a general knowledge of the scientific and business principles which underpin the industry and of the environmental context in which the sector operates
- ◆ to develop production management skills, independence of thought and an enquiring mind
- ◆ to provide candidates with a firm foundation in the global poultry production industry and detailed understanding of current production systems and technologies
- ◆ to develop relevant scientific understanding
- ◆ to develop an understanding of poultry welfare and behaviour
- ◆ to develop Core Skills
- ◆ to prepare candidates for employment in the poultry sector and for further vocational training in the industry

General information for centres (cont)

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:

Unit Code	Unit Title
F43B 34	<i>Poultry Meat Production Systems</i>
F43A 34	<i>Poultry Egg Production Systems</i>
F43D 34	<i>Poultry Welfare and Behaviour</i>
F43C 34	<i>Poultry Nutrition and Feed Formulation</i>
F4SE 34	<i>Poultry Health</i>
F423 34	<i>Poultry Buildings and Mechanisation</i>
D75X 34	<i>Information Technology: Applications Software 1</i>

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Problem Solving, Numeracy* and *Communication*, all at SCQF level 5, and *Information Technology* at 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 case study. The developed case study 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: F4TG 34

Graded Unit title: Poultry Production: Graded Unit 1

Original date of publication: August 2008

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: Poultry Production: Graded Unit 1

Conditions of assessment

The candidate should be given a date for completion of the case study. 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)

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

The assessment task must be a case study requiring the candidate to act as an independent adviser and interpret and analyse business and scientific information in the area of poultry production. They must also respond to a scenario by making recommendations. The case study must be based on a review of the management and resulting productivity of a poultry Unit, in a specified global context. The production techniques and technologies should be described to candidates, including information on:

- ◆ stocking density
- ◆ building location, construction and design
- ◆ environmental context
- ◆ feeding and watering systems
- ◆ performance records
- ◆ mortality rate

The candidate must be required to organise the data and identify the relevant interactions within the information provided, when drawing up the recommendations. These recommendations must relate to achieving optimum productivity which conforms to breed standards, through consideration of production techniques and technologies relating to health, welfare, nutrition, building and mechanisation issues within the poultry production Unit. Environmental, legislation and health and safety issues should be incorporated as appropriate. The candidate must provide all evidence detailed for the three stages of the project.

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 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.

Grade A	Grade C
<p>Is a seamless, coherent piece of work which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ has sufficient evidence for the three essential phases of the project, is produced to a high standard and is quite clearly inter-related ◆ demonstrates an accurate and insightful interpretation of the project case study ◆ demonstrates a thorough and comprehensive use of current information ◆ considers a wide range of factors that affect the developed scenario ◆ is clear and well structured throughout using language of a high standard in terms of level, accuracy and technical content ◆ effectively consolidates and integrates required knowledge and skills ◆ demonstrates a high level of self motivation throughout the case study and completes the stages of the project with infrequent and minimal tutor support ◆ clearly articulates possible areas for improvement 	<p>Is a co-ordinated piece of work which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ has sufficient evidence of the three essential phases of the project and is produced to an adequate standard ◆ demonstrates an acceptable interpretation of the project case study ◆ demonstrates some use of information ◆ considers a limited range of factors that affect the developed scenario ◆ is satisfactorily structured using adequate standard of language in terms of level, accuracy and technical content ◆ consolidates and integrates knowledge and skills but this may lack some continuity, consistency and accuracy ◆ demonstrates a satisfactory level of self motivation throughout the case study but requires tutor intervention to keep the project on track ◆ contains recognition of some areas for improvement

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.

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

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%	<p>An action plan which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ the aims of the case study ◆ the identification and justification of the tasks to be undertaken ◆ identification of the information sources to be used ◆ a timescale to manage and complete subsequent stages <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%	<p>A case study report that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ collection and collation of information ◆ analysing relevant information to fulfil the aims of the case study ◆ appropriate recommendations for future action ◆ evidence to justify the case study recommendations ◆ consideration of Legislation and Health and Safety requirements <p>The report should also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ a contents page ◆ a list of acknowledgements of sources and references <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Developing stage.</i></p>
Stage 3 — Evaluating 20%	<p>An evaluation report which should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ briefly summarise the case study ◆ identify any deviation from the initial plan (if appropriate) ◆ assess the effectiveness of the action plan in achieving the projected timescale ◆ identify knowledge and/or skills which have been gained or developed ◆ identify any areas for improvement <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Evaluating stage.</i></p>

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

Support notes

The project for *Poultry Production* Graded Unit 1 could involve the development of recommendations for optimising productivity of a poultry production Unit. The project would require candidates to consider production techniques and technologies, and analyse information relating to stocking density, building location, building construction and design, environmental context, feeding and watering systems, performance records for the stock and mortality rate when drawing up their recommendations. The project could be based on either the poultry meat or poultry egg sector.

It is recommended that this Graded Unit is introduced to candidates early in the academic year whilst completing the two poultry production HN Units (*Poultry Meat Production Systems* and *Poultry Egg Production Systems*). These will provide underpinning knowledge of production issues within both sectors of the industry. The two HN Units should also involve site visits to assist in consolidating the lecture material and develop candidates' understanding of poultry production units.

Candidates should be encouraged to keep an activity log or to keep a diary of their progress. This would facilitate the reflective component and help to ensure that the case study is completed in a business-like manner within the timescales set for each stage. It is recommended that there are regular scheduled meetings between the tutor and candidates to review progress, and to provide appropriate guidance. The guidance must not be such that it influences the final grading, but indicating the consequences of significant deviation from the plan during the development phase, for example, would be legitimate. It is desirable for notes of the meetings to be made for the purpose of clarity and this will also further simulate the working environment. Notes should be agreed upon by the tutor and candidate.

Tutor questions may be used to ascertain candidates' understanding of the issues contained in the case study report and to probe the validity of the report and its recommendations.

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.

General information for candidates

This is a single credit Graded Unit at SCQF level 7 (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7).

This Graded Unit is a project: case study, to be completed towards the end of your HNC. It is designed to assess your ability to integrate and apply knowledge and understanding from the following Units, in order to meet the principal aims of the Poultry Production HNC.

- ◆ F43B 34 *Poultry Meat Production Systems*
- ◆ F43A 34 *Poultry Egg Production Systems*
- ◆ F43D 34 *Poultry Welfare and Behaviour*
- ◆ F43C 34 *Poultry Nutrition and Feed Formulation*
- ◆ F4SE 34 *Poultry Health*
- ◆ F423 34 *Poultry Buildings and Mechanisation*
- ◆ D75X 34 *Information Technology Applications Software 1*

You could be asked to produce a report containing recommendations for achieving optimum productivity in a production Unit through a review of production techniques and technologies. This would include consideration of health, welfare, nutrition, building and mechanisation issues. You will be given a case study brief containing information on a production Unit within either the poultry meat or poultry egg sector.

This case study will require you to provide a planning document indicating key milestones, prepare a development plan and then evaluate your management and effectiveness in producing the final recommendations. You will be given a high degree of autonomy during all stages of the case study, although your tutor will be available for guidance and support as and when required. After submission of your case study report, your tutor may discuss this with you to probe your understanding of the issues contained in your report and the validity of your proposal.

The case study will be assessed in three stages:

1	Planning	20 marks
2	Developing	60 marks
3	Evaluating	20 marks

You will need to pass the planning stage of your case study (by achieving at least 10 marks out of the 20 available) before you can progress to the developing stage. You will then need to pass the developing stage (by achieving at least 30 marks out of the 60 available) before you continue to the evaluating stage.

The project will be marked out of 100. Assessors will mark each stage of your case study, taking into account the criteria outlined within the Unit specification. The marks will then be aggregated to arrive at an overall mark for your project. Assessors will then assign an overall grade to you for this Graded Unit based on the grade boundaries shown below. To pass you must achieve 50% of the total marks and fulfil all the minimum Evidence Requirements for each of the three phases of the work. You may be required to answer questions from the assessor to validate evidence.

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

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Problem Solving*, *Numeracy* and *Communication*, all at SCQF level 5, and *Information Technology* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit.