

### **Higher National Project-based Graded Unit Specification**

#### **General Information**

This Graded Unit has been validated as part of the HND Applied Chemical Sciences. Centres are required to develop a project-based assessment in accordance with this validated specification.

**Graded Unit title:** Applied Chemical Sciences: Graded Unit 2

(SCQF level 8)

Graded Unit code: H92L 35

Type of Project: Practical Assignment

Publication date: August 2018

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 04

## **Graded Unit purpose**

This Graded Unit is designed to provide evidence that the learner has achieved the following principal aims of the HND Applied Chemical Sciences:

- Prepare learners for an appropriate level of employment.
- Develop a range of contemporary vocational skills including investigative skills, developing health and safety skills in a practical environment and enhancing risk assessment skills.
- Prepare learners for progression to further studies.
- Provide learners with a wider range of practical laboratory skills.
- Develop study and research skills.
- Develop Core Skills such as Working with Others in a team environment and enhancing Communication Skills through the use of report writing and working in a laboratory environment.

## **Credit points and level**

2 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 8: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8)

# Higher National Project-based Graded Unit Specification: General Information (cont)

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## **Recommended entry to the Graded Unit**

It is recommended that the learner should have completed or be in the process of completing the following HN Units relating to the above principal aims prior to undertaking this Graded Unit:

Laboratory Skills for Science Industries
Fundamental Chemistry: Theory and Laboratory Skills
Inorganic Chemistry: Theory and Laboratory Skills
Organic Chemistry: Theory and Laboratory Skills
Physical Chemistry: Theory and Laboratory Skills
Instrumental Techniques 1
Applied Sciences: Graded Unit 1

#### And

Two of the Units below:

H8XP 33	Mathematics for Science 1
H8XR 34	Mathematics for Science 2
H8XT 33	Statistics for Science 1
H8XV 34	Statistics for Science 2

#### And

Two Units from each of the three sections below:

### Section A

H92N 35 H92P 35 H934 35	Aromatic Chemistry: Theory and Laboratory Skills Base-Catalysed and Organometallic Chemistry: Theory and Laboratory Skills Organic Stereochemistry: Theory and Laboratory Skills
Section B	
H939 35 H932 35 H92M 35	Transition Metal Chemistry: Theory and Laboratory Skills Main Group Inorganic Chemistry Applications of Transition Metal Compounds
Section C	
H92T 35 H935 35 H938 35	Electrochemistry Phase Equilibrium and Surface Chemistry Thermodynamics and Kinetics: Theory and Laboratory Skills

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### **Core Skills**

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following:

Complete Core Skill Problem Solving at SCQF level 6

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

### **Understanding Standards Materials**

Understanding Standards materials have been developed to assist the delivery of this Unit and to provide advice on general assessment and marking principles. These materials are available securely at the SQA Understanding Standards website

(http://www.understandingstandards.org.uk).

### **Equality and inclusion**

This Graded Unit has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

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#### **Assessment**

This Graded Unit will be assessed by the use of a project-based practical assignment developed by centres. The project should provide the learner with the opportunity to produce evidence that demonstrates they have met the aims of this Graded Unit.

The project undertaken by the learner must be a complex task which involves:

- variables which are complex or unfamiliar
- relationships which need to be clarified
- a context which may be unfamiliar to the learner

The project must require the learner 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

Learners must carry out the investigation individually, and learners should not produce joint evidence. Assessors must be satisfied that the work has been completed by the individual learner.

### Conditions of assessment

The learner should be given a date for completion of the project. However, the instructions for the project should be distributed to allow the learner sufficient time to assimilate the details and carry out the project. During the time between the distribution of the project 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 learners 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 learner 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 recording, and be made available to the internal and external verifier. In relation to Higher National Project-based Graded Units, learners must be given the opportunity for remediation at each stage of the project.

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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 learner to work autonomously and the amount of support required. In relation to Higher National Project-based Graded Units, learners 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 reassessment of that stage.

At SCQF level 8 learners should work independently. It is the responsibility of the centre to take reasonable steps to ensure that the project is the work of the learner. For example, centres may wish to informally question learners at various stages on their knowledge and understanding of the project on which they have embarked. Centres should ensure, where research, etc is carried out in other establishments or under the supervision of others, that the learner does not receive undue assistance.

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## **Evidence Requirements for this Graded Unit**

The project undertaken by learners will consist of three stages: Planning; Developing; and Evaluating. The following table specifies the minimum evidence required to pass each stage.

Project stage	Minimum Evidence Requirements	% Mark Allocation
Stage 1 — Planning	<ul> <li>The learner's development of the project brief. (1.1)</li> <li>A summary of background theory and principles. (1.2)</li> <li>A set of project aims/objectives. (1.3)</li> <li>Identification of materials and resources required and how they will be accessed. (1.4)</li> <li>Identification of the steps involved in the practical and write up phases of the development stage and the timescales for completion of each stage. (1.5)</li> <li>Identification of appropriate Health and Safety procedures and requirements. (1.6)</li> </ul>	20%
	The learner <b>must</b> achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Planning stage.	
Stage 2 — Developing	<ul> <li>Practical activities to produce collated scientific data.         <ul> <li>(2.1)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Output (scientific report) of the practical activities. (2.2)</li> <li>Record of the processes underpinning the activities, ie logbook/diary. (2.3)</li> </ul>	
	The learner <b>must</b> achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Developing stage.	
Stage 3 — Evaluating	<ul> <li>Evaluation report which:</li> <li>◆ Contains an abstract. (3.1)</li> <li>◆ Evaluates the output of the investigation. (3.2)</li> <li>◆ Evaluates the processes involved in producing the output of the investigation. (3.3)</li> <li>◆ Suggests potential development themes for the project. (3.4)</li> <li>The learner must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Evaluating stage.</li> </ul>	20%

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**Important Note:** Centres **must** complete the Grading Checklist on pages 14–17 for each Applied Chemical Sciences project. Completed checklists will be used as part of the external verification process to ensure the accuracy and consistency of grading between learners in the centre and across the centres.

### Assessing and grading learners

The overall project will be marked out of **100**. Only whole marks should be used.

The percentage of marks allocated to each stage of the project is outlined in the **Evidence Requirements**.

It is a requirement that learners must meet the minimum Evidence Requirements for the Planning stage before progressing to the Developing stage before progressing to the Evaluating stage. Assessors should use the Grade Related Criteria outlined below to judge learner performance.

Learners are required to work independently to meet the Evidence Requirements of the Graded Unit. At the same time, learners need appropriate support. SQA uses the term reasonable assistance to describe the balance between supporting learners in their project and not providing too much assistance.

At the end of each stage there should be opportunities for remediation and re-assessment of learners for that particular stage. This includes the final Evaluation stage. Any re-assessment should be carried out in line with the centre's own assessment policy.

To pass the Graded Unit learners must achieve:

#### Planning stage:

◆ A minimum of 50% of the total marks (10 marks) and all of the minimum Evidence Requirements.

#### Developing stage:

♦ A minimum of 50% of the total marks (30 marks) **and** all of the minimum Evidence Requirements.

#### Evaluating stage:

♦ A minimum of 50% of the total marks (10 marks) **and** all of the minimum Evidence Requirements.

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The Grade Related Criteria to be used to judge learner performance for this Graded Unit is specified in the following table.

Grade Related Criteria			
Grade A	Grade C		
Is a seamless, coherent piece of work:	Is a co-ordinated piece of work:		
<ul> <li>The project brief accurately specifies the project in both technical and non- technical terms and is prepared in a clear and concise manner.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The project brief includes accurate information about the main technical and non-technical requirements of the project.</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>The project objectives accurately and fully reflect the long term project targets.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The project objectives identify the key long term project targets.</li> </ul>		
♦ The initial project plan contains a comprehensive list of project activities and timings. The information in the initial plan is used to assess if the project can be completed within timescales.	◆ The initial project plan shows all essential project activities and timings. Evidence that the plan has been monitored on a number of occasions during the life of the project to inform on- going project planning and development should be available.		
<ul> <li>The learner develops a substantial knowledge base to support the demands of the project.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The learner develops a sound knowledge base to support the demands of the project.</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>The project demonstrates the learner's ability to work autonomously</li> <li>The learner identifies all known project</li> </ul>	The learner demonstrates independent learning with minimum support and revision during project		
risks, categorises them in terms of their likely level of occurrence and identifies actions for minimising such risks.  The learner undertakes all practical	<ul> <li>The learner identifies main risks that are likely to occur during the progress of the project and identifies main actions for minimising such risks.</li> </ul>		
activities according to current Health and Safety requirements and applies good laboratory practice to a high standard.	◆ The learner undertakes all practical activities according to current Health and Safety requirements and applies good laboratory practice to a standard regarded as acceptable in a scientific setting.		

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Grade Related Criteria			
Grade A	Grade C		
◆ Demonstrates appropriate use of a range of types of instrumentation/equipment to a complex level and a high standard (eg using the more advanced features of the equipment competently).	Demonstrates appropriate use of a range of types of instrumentation/equipment to a standard that is acceptable within a scientific setting.		
<ul> <li>Analysis of results is accurate and comprehensive, takes account of all known sources of error and is either substantiated in terms of known theory and/or identifies limitations in theory.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Analysis of results is sufficiently accurate and detailed and takes account of main sources of error and establishes key relationships between results and theory.</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>The diary is regularly maintained and provides a detailed record of results, calculations and conclusions.</li> </ul>	◆ The diary contains a sufficient level of details about project ideas, results and progress and there is evidence that entries have been made on a number of occasions during the life of the project.		
♦ The project report is well structured, contains only relevant information, is technically accurate, uses clear and correct English and has clear and accurate conclusions and recommendations.	◆ The project report meets acceptable standards in terms of structure, technical accuracy, use of English and has accurate conclusions and recommendations.		
<ul> <li>The project report includes a full analysis of results, and a comprehensive evaluation of the project against project objectives.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The project includes an analysis of results and an evaluation of the project against the project objectives.</li> </ul>		
♦ The learner identifies clear and full details of the new knowledge and skills they have developed as a result of doing the project such as project management skills, keeping to deadlines, recognising limitations of knowledge — approaching expert sources.	◆ The learner provides a number of examples of new knowledge and skills they have developed as a result of doing the project.		
◆ The learner demonstrates a high level of self-motivation throughout the project.	<ul> <li>The learner demonstrates an acceptable level of motivation throughout the project.</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>The learner undertakes additional research beyond that demanded by the project.</li> </ul>	The learner undertakes research demanded by the project.		

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The marks allocated to each stage will then be aggregated to arrive at an overall mark for the project. Assessors will then assign an overall grade to the learner for this Graded Unit based on the following grade boundaries.

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

These grade boundaries are fixed and should **not** be amended.

Any learner 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 learner's evidence at the time of the completion of the graded unit. Learners must be awarded the highest grade achieved — whether through first submission or through any re-assessment, remediation, and/or reasonable assistance provided.



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# Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment of this Graded Unit

In order to pass the Graded Unit a learner must pass each one of the three stages (Planning, Developing, Evaluating) ie they must achieve a minimum of 50% of the total marks for each stage, and achieve all of the minimum Evidence Requirements on at least one occasion for each stage. Centres should note that the grading checklist should be applied holistically and it is not a requirement that learners address all of the bullet points in the checklist.

### **Grading Checklist**

A grading checklist is presented below to facilitate the allocation of marks.



Graded Unit title:	Applied Chemical Sciences: Graded Unit 2 (SCQF level 8)
Applied Chemical Science	es: Graded Unit 2
Grading Unit Checklist	
Centre Name:	
Centre Number:	
Learner Name:	
Learner Number:	

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**Stage 1: Planning Stage** 

Gradin	g Criteria	Maximum mark	Mark
1.1 (a) 1.1 (b)	Evidence of analysing and interpreting what is involved in the practical project brief and presenting it in a clear and concise manner.	3	
1.1 (b)	The identification of the key factors influencing the project and their interrelationships.	2	
1.2	A summary of background theory and principles clarifying and exemplifying the brief, with identification of information sources.	3	
1.3	Set of project aims/objectives that accurately and fully reflect the long term project targets.	2	
1.4	Evidence that the learner has identified the material/resources required to complete the project, and where they can be accessed.	3	
1.5 (a)	Identification of the steps involved in the practical and write-up phases of the development stage.	2	
1.5 (b)	The initial project plan contains a comprehensive list of project activities and timings. The information in the initial plan is used to assess if the project can be completed within timescales.	2	
1.6	Identification of appropriate Health and Safety procedures and requirements. Identifies all known project risks, categorises them in terms of their likely level of occurrence and identifies actions for minimising such risks.	3	
Tot	al	20	

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**Stage 2: Developing Stage** 

Grading	Criteria	Maximum mark	Mark
2.1 (a)	Resources/materials and methods. Demonstrates appropriate use of a range of types of instrumentation/equipment and/or techniques to a complex level and a high standard.	4	
2.1 (b)	Performs a range of laboratory or field work and methods commensurate with 40 hours of lab/field time.	8	
2.1 (c)	Collection of data and appropriate quality.	6	
2.2 (a)	Title, contents page.	1	
2.2 (b)	Introduction, including underpinning theory, aims and objectives of the practical project. The aims and objectives should be developed and enhanced from those in the original plan in light of experience.	4	
2.2 (c)	Laboratory/field methods are accurately and fully described in report.	4	
2.2 (d)	Presentation of data is clear and well structured.	2	
2.2 (e)	Contains a full analysis/ interpretation of results that is accurate and comprehensive.	8	
2.2 (f)	Takes account of all known sources of error and is either substantiated in terms of known theory and/or identifies limitations in theory.	2	
2.2 (g)	The report has clear and accurate conclusions, discussions and recommendations.	5	

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Grading	Criteria	Maximum mark	Mark
2.2 (h)	Appropriate bibliography/referencing of sources and references including full and appropriate referencing within the report through use of an established system (eg Vancouver or Harvard).	4	
2.2 (i)	The report is clear and well structured, contains only relevant information, is technically accurate and uses clear and correct English.	2	
2.3	Record of the processes underpinning the practical activity, eg logbook, diary, progress report. The diary is regularly maintained and provides a detailed record of results, calculations and conclusions.	4	
2.4	Appropriate Health and Safety Assessments (eg risk, COSHH, Manual Handling) are produced and undertakes all practical activities according to Health and Safety requirements.	2	
2.5	Demonstrates a high level of self motivation/initiative throughout the project, as evidenced by:  ◆ Consistently demonstrating initiative.  ◆ Sourcing extra information.  ◆ Willingness to learn new techniques.  The learner undertakes additional research well beyond that demanded by the project.	2	

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Grading	Criteria	Maximum mark	Mark)
2.6	The learner undertakes the project with the minimum of supervision. Where the learner feeds back to their supervisor it is on a proactive basis, updating the supervisor on progress made and actions for the next stage of the project.	2	
Total		60	

## **Stage 3: Evaluation Stage**

Grading	g Criteria	Maximum mark	Mark
3.1	Contain an abstract (outline of the assignment).	4	
3.2 (a)	Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the output of the practical assignment.	2	
3.2 (b)	Determine and justify to what extent the assignment met the aims and objectives.	4	
3.3 (a)	Summary of any difficulties encountered and how they were handled.	2	
3.3 (b)	Identify knowledge and skills which have been gained and/or developed.	4	
3.4	Suggest potential development of the project/recommendations for the future.	4	
Tota	al	20	

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Centres are strongly advised to give learners adequate time to choose their topic and carry out the planning stage. Careful planning enables the learner to complete the following tasks of developing and of evaluating more effectively.

The briefing task sheet for the learners should include clear indications of how the Unit is being assessed so that the learner can provide all the evidence required to complete the Unit. It is strongly advised that learners are provided with a detailed description of the requirements of the planning stage to enable them to carry out the task prior to proceeding to the development stage. It is advisable that the planning stage should be assessed prior to the learner progressing to the developing stage.

However if the development stage does not progress as anticipated the learners may return to their plans and modify them. If changes to plans are needed during the developing stage this can be reflected on during the evaluation.

The evaluation stage develops the reflective skills of the learners.

### Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

This Unit has the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* embedded in it. This means that when learners achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 6.

The delivery and assessment of this Unit may also provide learners with the opportunity to develop the Core Skills of *Communication*, *Numeracy* and *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)*.

The precise nature and level of these will vary depending on the nature of the project topic, however some indicative examples are given below.

#### Communication — Writing at SCQF level 6

Learners will produce a written communication which presents, analyses, and evaluates a substantial body of information, and develop interpretations and conclusions in relation to an issue which is explored in depth.

### Communication — Writing at SCQF level 6

Learners will be required to extract, summarise, and provide a full explanation of the relationships between substantive information drawn from a range of different sources.

#### Numeracy — Using Graphical Information at SCQF level 6

Learners may use an appropriate form of complex table, chart, diagram, or qualitative form, to communicate complex information.

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# Information and Communication Technology (ICT)— Providing Information at SCQF level 5

Learners will select appropriate websites/data sources to research an issue and present findings in an appropriate format including referencing.

It is also to be expected that certain of the analytical instruments used will be operated via computer, and that databases may be deployed.

## **History of changes to Graded Unit**

Version	Description of change	Date
02	1. Graded Related Criteria table on page 7— Text 'The schedule is monitored on a regular basis to inform on-going project planning and development' removed from third bullet point under Grade A criteria.  2. Graded Related Criteria table on page 8— Text 'one or more types of instrumentation/ equipment' in the first bullet point under Grade A criteria.  3. Graded Related Criteria table on page 8— Text 'detailed record of results and learner's thinking as the project develops including reflective comments' changed to 'detailed record of results, calculations and conclusions' in third bullet point under Grade A criteria.  4. Graded Related Criteria table on page 8— Text 'one or more types of instrumentation/ equipment' changed to 'a range of types of instrumentation/ equipment' in the first bullet point under Grade C criteria.  5. Grading Criteria table on page 13— Text 'The schedule is monitored on a regular basis to inform on-going project planning and development' removed from grading criteria 1.5 (b).  6. Grading Criteria table on page 15— Text 'and learner's thinking as the project develops including reflective comments' changed to 'calculations and conclusions' under grading criteria 2.3.  7. Grading Criteria table on page 15— Text 'Undertakes all practical activities according to Health and Safety requirements (shows evidence of following risk assessment guidelines) and applies good laboratory practice (record keeping/waste disposal/calibration of equipment) to a high standard' changed to 'are produced and undertakes all practical activities according to Health and Safety requirements' under grading criteria 2.4.  8. Grading Criteria table on page 16— Text 'Summarise any unforeseen events should make reference to this in the evaluation, and provide justification' changed to 'Summary of any difficulties encountered and how they were handled' under grading criteria 3.3 (a).	12/04/16
03	'Assessment Support Pack' section on page 3 changed to 'Understanding Standards Materials' section and text changed to read 'Understanding Standards materials have been developed to assist the delivery of this Unit and to provide advice on general assessment and marking principles. These materials are available securely at the SQA Understanding Standards website (http://www.understandingstandards.org.uk).'	31/08/16
04	Update of Conditions of Assessment.	06/08/18

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### **General information for learners**

**Graded Unit title:** Applied Chemical Sciences: Graded Unit 2

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This is a 2 credit Unit at SCQF level 8. This Unit is project-based and will require you to undertake a laboratory and/or field investigation using a variety of research methods and techniques. You will be assessed both on the laboratory/field work undertaken, and on the report of that work. The topic of research will be left to your choice with advice from your lecturer. This enables you to find out more about an area that interests you particularly and may reflect some developing fields or an interest at your employment.

The project will be marked out of 100. To pass the Graded Unit you must achieve 50% of the total marks and all of the minimum Evidence Requirements for each of the three sections. The three sections are:

**The Planning Stage:** Where you will produce a plan outlining the nature of the project and the requirements to proceed.

**The Developing Stage:** Where you will undertake the practical project, keep a laboratory diary, and produce a comprehensive written report.

**The Evaluating Stage:** Where you will summarise the output of the developing stage (ie the report), and evaluate the project and the processes evolved in undertaking the project.

#### **Core Skills**

This Unit has the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 6 embedded in it. You may also have opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication, Numeracy* and *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)*.