



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Landscape Construction: An Introduction

Unit code: H1JY 11

Superclass: SL

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Summary

This Unit is designed to provide the candidate with an introduction to a range of hard landscape features and to allow them to develop the knowledge and skills to contribute towards their construction.

Outcomes

- 1 Describe a range of hard landscape features.
- 2 Construct a hard landscape feature as part of a team.
- 3 Lay an area of paving.

Recommended entry

Entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre.

Credit points and level

0.5 National Unit credits at SCQF level 5: (3 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5*)

**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.*

General information (cont)

Unit title: Landscape Construction: An Introduction

Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

National Unit specification: statement of standards

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Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

Outcome 1

Describe a range of hard landscape features.

Performance Criteria

- (a) A range of hard landscape features are correctly identified.
- (b) Uses for a range of hard landscape features are accurately described.

Outcome 2

Construct a hard landscape feature as part of a team.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The candidate's role in the hard landscape feature construction is accurately identified.
- (b) The candidate contributes effectively to the construction of a hard landscape feature.
- (c) The candidate works effectively as part of a team.
- (d) All activities are carried out in accordance with Health and Safety regulations.

Outcome 3

Lay an area of paving.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The foundations for the paving are prepared correctly.
- (b) The paving is laid using the correct techniques.
- (c) All activities are carried out in accordance with Health and Safety regulations.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Landscape Construction: An Introduction

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

For Outcome 1 written and/or recorded oral evidence is required for a minimum of five hard landscape features. At least two examples of how those features could be used should be provided.

For Outcomes 2 and 3 candidates are required to produce practical evidence to cover all Performance Criteria.

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

Relating to the Learning Outcomes:

- 1 Knowledge and observation of at least five features involved in hard landscape construction. This could include paths/ paving, steps, seating, walls, fencing, bollards, pools, cascades, outside plant containers.

Awareness of important sources of reference for hard landscape work, ie Cement and Concrete Associate literature, Industrial Design Index, Spons Landscape handbook.

- 2 Participation as a team in a landscape construction job. The teams to consist of 3–6 students each with a specific role to play in the work programme. Each student should during the course of the project effectively carry out the various different roles required in the project. As a basic aim to all landscape construction, knowledge of how to mix concrete/mortar for different jobs; both by hand and by cement mixer. Awareness of the properties of concrete in relation to moisture content and environmental conditions. Calculating the amount of material required for a concreting job from a simple table of specification.
- 3 Preparation and construction of the sub-base and laying out a small area of paving (a minimum of 3m²). Under normal circumstances this will mean the students working as pairs.

Throughout the Unit candidates must work safely in accordance with all relevant Health and Safety regulations.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

This is an introductory Unit which will allow candidates to sample a range of skills and work with a range of materials.

Candidates will learn by practical involvement in the construction of a hard landscape feature as a team.

Candidates, under guidance, will discuss at the outset how best to approach the job and the division of labour necessary. Ideally candidates should work in teams of three, but not more than six. Each member should have a specific role to play and should make an active contribution to the task.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Landscape Construction: An Introduction

Candidates should be aware of the importance of each person's role in contributing to the total job. By changing roles throughout the project each individual will obtain experience in different situations. Use of team leaders role play will also give experience to each candidate in minor management.

Candidates should become familiar with the laying of paving, a basic to all hard landscape construction. Candidates will probably use only one technique for laying, they should be made aware of other techniques, which might be appropriate in other situations. In the mixing of concrete — video/slide presentation may be used to illustrate all the important points on the subject. Above all each candidate must know how to mix concrete to the correct moisture content for the job in question.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

A practical approach to assessment is encouraged throughout this Unit, especially in Outcomes 2 and 3. Candidates could identify and describe the uses for a range of hard landscape features in situ for Outcome 1. Observation checklist could be used for Outcomes 2 and 3 to record the individual contribution of each candidate to the practical activities carried out.

If this Unit is delivered as part of the National Certificate in Horticulture (SCQF Level 5) or other relevant awards there may be opportunities to integrate the delivery and assessment of this Unit with other practical Units.

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components in this Unit, however there may be opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication*, *Numeracy*, *Problem Solving* and *Working with Others* at SCQF Level 4.

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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