



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Horse Care: Horse Identification and Handling a Quiet Horse Safely (SCQF level 4)

Unit code: H1LP 10

Superclass: SH

Publication date: June 2012

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Summary

The purpose of this Unit is to develop the candidate's ability to identify a variety of horses and enable them to handle a quiet horse safely in an enclosed area. Candidates will also be able to recognise different horse behaviours and to describe suitable responses to these different behaviours. Candidates will develop an understanding of current health and safety regulations and be able to adopt safe working practices.

The Unit is suitable for candidates who are school leavers, adult returners, school pupils and for industry CPD. Candidates can progress from this Unit to FV5K 11 *Horse Care: Safe Horse Handling*.

This Unit is part of the National Progression Award in Horse Care (SCQF level 4) and can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

Outcomes

- 1 Identify horses correctly.
- 2 Describe suitable responses for a variety of horse behaviours.
- 3 Handle a quiet horse safely in an enclosed area under supervision.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would benefit from having some prior experience with horses.

General information (cont)

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Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 4: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4*)

**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.*

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

Identify horses correctly.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify common horse colours.
- (b) Describe how to calculate the size of horses.
- (c) Identify horses by height.
- (d) Identify common breeds and types of horses.
- (e) Identify the gender of a horse.

Outcome 2

Describe suitable responses for a variety of horse behaviours.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe a variety of horse behaviours.
- (b) Identify situations when horse behaviour may change.
- (c) Describe suitable responses to different horse behaviours.

Outcome 3

Handle a quiet horse safely in an enclosed area under supervision.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe and follow health and safety procedures for handling horses safely
- (b) Wear protective clothing.
- (c) Approach a horse safely in the stable.
- (d) Catch a horse safely in the stable and apply head collar with lead rope.
- (e) Lead a horse safely in an enclosed area.
- (f) Secure a horse safely in a designated area.
- (g) Release a horse safely into the stable.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

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

Oral recorded/written and performance evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidates have achieved all of the Outcomes and Performance Criteria. Candidates must adhere to all current health and safety legislation which includes wearing PPE, when carrying out practical activities.

Quiet horses only will be used for the purpose of assessment and gathering evidence although candidates must be made aware that all horses may act unpredictably.

The tutor will be aware of any likely changes in the horse behaviour and take appropriate action, at all times being aware of the safety of the candidates and the horse.

Outcome 1

Written, oral or recorded and performance evidence.

On one occasion candidates must be able to:

- ◆ Identify six common horse colours which must include: bay, grey, chestnut, coloured, brown and black.
- ◆ Describe the accepted method for calculating a horse's height accurately.
- ◆ Estimate the height of three horses of different size; this must be done in centimetres and 'hands' and accuracy should be within 15cms.
- ◆ Identify six horse breeds/types which must include: Welsh, Highland, Shetland, thoroughbred, Cob type and Hunter type.
- ◆ Identify gender of one horse, either a mare or a gelding.

Outcome 2

Written, oral or recorded and performance evidence.

On one occasion candidates must be able to:

- ◆ Identify five horse behaviours which must include: relaxed, happy, frightened, angry, stubborn.
- ◆ Describe five situations which can affect horse behaviour, this must include: feed times, being left on their own, new horse being introduced, loud noises, flapping/strange or new objects.
- ◆ Describe how to respond safely and effectively to a minimum of two different horse behaviours.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Horse Care: Horse Identification and Handling a Quiet Horse Safely (SCQF level 4)

Outcome 3

Evidence for all performance activities will be produced while the candidate is under supervision. On one occasion the candidate must be able to:

- ◆ Describe and follow the health and safety procedures necessary for handling horses safely.
- ◆ Wear safety clothing appropriate to handling horses according to instructions given.
- ◆ Approach a horse safely and in accordance with industry practice in the stable.
- ◆ Catch a horse safely and in accordance with industry practice.
- ◆ Apply a head collar with lead rope.
- ◆ Lead horse around an enclosed area.
- ◆ Secure horse with a quick release knot to a tie ring in a safe area.
- ◆ Release horse back into the stable safely and remove head collar and lead rope in accordance with industry practice.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Horse Care: Horse Identification and Handling a Quiet Horse Safely (SCQF level 4)

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

This Unit is aligned to the following Lantra Sector Skills Council's National Occupational Standards (NOS)

Eq 108 Assist with Catching and Leading Horses ('This standard is about the routine moving of horses between field and stable. It involves the identification of individual horses, catching and leading them and releasing them. The work described in this standard would be carried out under the direction of a supervisor. You will need to be fully aware of health and safety in connection with this work').

Before attempting this Unit, it is not necessary for the candidate to have any prior experience with horses but this would be an advantage.

Candidates will learn how to identify horses by colour, height, breed/type and gender. When checking for gender, this should be limited to practical identification of a mare and a gelding. They should not practically identify a stallion but should be made aware of the gender difference between a stallion and a gelding. When identifying a horse by height, it is not expected that they will measure a horse but should be aware of how a horse is measured and be able to identify a specified horse when a height is given. They should be accurate in this to within 15 cm.

They will learn how to behave around horses in a way which will show confidence to the horse and not alarm the horse. They will learn how to recognise the behaviour of the horse and to respond accordingly in a safe manner, horses used should be horses that are known to be normally of quiet and safe temperament. PPE will be worn at all times when working around the horses.

They will learn to identify situations which could cause the horse's behaviour to change and how to respond to this behaviour safely. They will learn how to approach a quiet horse in a stable and fit a head collar efficiently. They will also learn how to lead the horse safely around an enclosed area such as an indoor or outdoor school or small paddock. They will learn how to release the horse safely into the stable.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Horse Care: Horse Identification and Handling a Quiet Horse Safely (SCQF level 4)

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

Safe working practices and procedures should be adhered to at all times to avoid injury to the candidate and the horse. PPE should be used when working with horses, gloves should be used when leading the horses, hat and strong footwear should be worn when working around them.

It will be necessary to have access to horses, stables and an enclosed arena or small paddock for practical activities.

For all Outcomes the approach to learning should be mainly practical although the use of IT and literature would be useful in learning how to identify horses if the choice of available horses is limited. Demonstrations on catching and releasing horses and leading horses should be used followed by practice. Simulations could be used when learning how to respond to horse behaviour. Candidates would benefit from observing horses in the field, at feeding times, meeting new horses to see how horses can react and respond to different situations.

Practical experience of working with a variety of problems should be given when appropriate and safe opportunities should be taken to enable candidates to observe more experienced handlers deal with problems.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Outcome 1 — Practical and oral/written assessment

Outcome 2 — Oral/written assessment

Outcome 3 — Practical and oral assessment

Where insufficient variety of horses is available for Evidence Requirements in practical elements of Outcome 1 and Outcome 2, evidence can be provided by use of photographs and/or pictures.

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit — for elements of Outcome 1 and for Outcome 2. 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)*.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will identify a variety of horses — including height. They will behave appropriately around horses; learn to approach horses correctly when in the stable as well as catching and releasing a quiet horse. They will learn to recognise and how to respond to a variety of horse behaviours.

As they are doing this Unit candidates will be developing aspects of the Core Skills of *Problem Solving, Communication, Numeracy and Working with Others*.

Essential Skills: Candidates will learn how to handle a quiet horse safely in a stable setting and this should increase their awareness of sustainability issues in terms of the health and welfare of the animal and the maintenance of tools and equipment used in the handling of horses. They should become aware of the costs associated with keeping a horse and all the necessary equipment. The increased knowledge and skill on completion of this Unit should contribute towards the employability of the candidate.

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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