



## National Unit Specification

### General information

**Unit title:** Beekeeping: Practical Skills (SCQF level 5)

**Unit code:** HP9R 45

**Superclass:** SH

**Publication date:** July 2017

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

### Unit purpose

This unit allows learners to develop their practical beekeeping skills. This unit is appropriate for learners who wish to become beekeepers. It would also be suitable for someone who already has some practical experience and understanding of beekeeping and wishes a formal qualification.

The unit forms part of NPA Beekeeping (SCQF 5), but it can also be used on a stand-alone basis.

On successful completion of the unit the learner will be able to:

- 1 Subdue and manipulate bees.
- 2 Explain methods of swarm prevention and control.
- 3 Apply systems for increasing numbers of bee colonies.
- 4 Demonstrate how to assemble frames.

### Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 5: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5)

### Recommended entry to the unit

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

## **National Unit Specification: General information (cont)**

**Unit title:** Beekeeping: Practical Skills (SCQF level 5)

### **Core Skills**

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the support notes for this unit specification.

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

### **Context for delivery**

If this unit is delivered as part of a group award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the group award to which it contributes.

This unit can be delivered as part of the NPA Beekeeping or as a stand-alone unit.

### **Equality and inclusion**

This unit specification 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 our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements).

## National Unit Specification: Statement of standards

### Unit title: Beekeeping: Practical Skills (SCQF level 5)

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

Subdue and manipulate bees.

##### Performance criteria

- (a) Use protective clothing to provide protection from stings during the manipulation of bees.
- (b) Use smoke in subduing bees.
- (c) Describe the effect of too little or excess smoke, on the colonies.
- (d) Use manipulating cloths.
- (e) Handle and manipulate bees appropriately and correctly.
- (f) Remove ripe honey from bee colonies and store correctly.
- (g) Correctly make up sugar syrup and fondant to feed bees for comb building, stimulation, winter stores and emergency feeding.
- (h) Take samples of bees for disease examination.
- (i) Explain the correct procedures for successfully wintering bees in the UK.
- (j) Describe how to recognise robbing of bee colonies and how to prevent and control this problem.
- (k) Describe how to select and maintain permanent apiary sites.
- (l) Demonstrate how to deal effectively with bee stings.

#### Outcome 2

Explain methods of swarm prevention and control.

##### Performance criteria

- (a) Explain the use of management systems to control colonies.
- (b) Describe a system of swarm prevention.
- (c) Cage, clip and mark queen bees.

#### Outcome 3

Apply systems for increasing numbers of bee colonies.

##### Performance criteria

- (a) Make up nucleus stock for increase.
- (b) Demonstrate an artificial swarm technique.
- (c) Explain how to collect and hive a swarm of bees.

## National Unit Specification: Statement of standards

**Unit title:** Beekeeping: Practical Skills (SCQF level 5)

### Outcome 4

Demonstrate how to assemble frames.

#### Performance criteria

- (a) Identify the parts of a frame.
- (b) Assemble frames and fit foundation to deep and shallow frames.

#### Evidence requirements for this unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that learners have achieved all outcomes and performance criteria.

It is recommended that Outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4 are delivered holistically with a practical checklist and by oral examination. However, aspects of Outcome 2 could be assessed in the form of an essay if required.

To achieve Outcome 1 learners must correctly:

- (a) use protective clothing to provide protection from stings during the manipulation of bees.
- (b) use smoke in subduing bees and describe the effect of too little or excess smoke, on the colonies.
- (c) use manipulating cloths.
- (d) handle and manipulate bees.
- (e) remove the ripe honey from bee colonies and store.
- (f) make up sugar syrup and fondant to feed bees for comb building, stimulation, winter stores and emergency feeding.
- (g) take samples of bees for disease examination.
- (h) explain how to successfully winter bees in the UK.
- (i) describe how to recognise robbing of bee colonies and how to prevent and control this problem.
- (j) describe how to select and maintain permanent apiary sites..
- (k) describe how to deal effectively with bee stings.

To achieve Outcome 2 learners must:

- (a) explain how the use of management systems can be used to control colonies during the active season.
- (b) describe a system of swarm prevention.
- (c) demonstrate how to cage, clip and mark a queen.

To achieve Outcome 3 learners must correctly:

- (a) make up nucleus stock for increase.
- (b) demonstrate an artificial swarm technique.
- (c) explain how to collect and hive a swarm.

## **National Unit Specification: Statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Beekeeping: Practical Skills (SCQF level 5)

To achieve Outcome 4 learners must be able to:

- (a) identify the parts of a frame.
- (b) assemble frames and fit foundation to deep and shallow frames.



## National Unit Support Notes

**Unit title:** Beekeeping: Practical Skills (SCQF level 5)

Unit support notes are offered as guidance and 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 has been created to run parallel to and complement the existing Scottish Beekeeper Association training. Although this unit provides a basic practical background to beekeeping, when delivered in association with the other units of the NPA Basic Beekeeping course it will also help to prepare students for the national Scottish Beekeepers' Examination. Learners wishing to undertake this examination should register with the SBA. Further information can be found on their website or at: <https://www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk/learn/exams-dates-fees>

### Guidance on approaches to delivery of this unit

It is important that any practical aspects of learning take place under the supervision of experienced and qualified apiculturists. Partnerships with land based education providers, beekeeping associations or training providers are likely to provide the most appropriate settings. Prior to commencement, a risk assessment should be conducted of the site to be used, as well as any personal protective equipment that could be required.

### Guidance on approaches to assessment of this unit

Evidence can be generated using different types of assessment. The following are suggestions only. There may be other methods that would be more suitable to learners.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of centre-devised assessments would help to ensure that the national standard is being met. Where learners experience a range of assessment methods, this helps them to develop different skills that should be transferable to work or further and higher education.

It is recommended that Outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4 are delivered holistically with a practical checklist and by oral examination. However, aspects of Outcome 2 could be assessed in the form of an essay if required.

## **National Unit Support Notes (cont)**

**Unit title:** Beekeeping: Practical Skills (SCQF level 5)

### **Opportunities for 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 learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the evidence requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at [www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment](http://www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment).

### **Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills**

There may be an opportunity to develop the core skill of *Problem Solving, Communication* and *Working with Others* at SCQF level 5 as part of this unit.

## History of changes to unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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## General information for learners

### Unit title: Beekeeping: Practical Skills (SCQF level 5)

This section will help you decide whether this is the unit for you by explaining what the unit is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the unit and opportunities for further learning and employment.

This unit is designed to provide you with a practical introduction to beekeeping and includes the subduing and manipulation of colonies of bees, swarm prevention and control and how to increase numbers of bee colonies and demonstrate how to make frames.

On completion of the unit you will be able to:

- ◆ subdue and manipulate bees.
- ◆ explain methods of swarm prevention and control.
- ◆ apply systems for increasing numbers of bee colonies.
- ◆ demonstrate how to assemble frames.

This is a stand-alone unit but also makes up part of the NPA in Beekeeping. Upon successful completion of this unit, you may wish to go onto complete the NPA, or if studying further with the Scottish Beekeepers' Association, to take the formal SBA Basic Beekeeping examination.