

National Unit Specification: General Information

UNIT Trees in the Environment (Intermediate 1)

NUMBER D905 10

COURSE

SUMMARY

This unit will enable the candidate to acquire a general knowledge of the use of trees and woodlands within the wider natural and social environment. This unit is pitched at an introductory level and should be seen as a basis for future work and development.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Identify the main tree species found in a given locality.
- 2 Outline the social and environmental importance of trees and woodlands.
- 3 Outline the legal position with regard to trees and woodland.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

There are no formal entry requirements for this unit.

CREDIT VALUE

1.0 Credit at Intermediate 1.

CORE SKILLS

Information on the automatic certification of any core skills in this unit is published in *Automatic Certification of Core Skills in National Qualifications* (SQA, 1999).

Administrative Information

Superclass: SG

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National unit specification: statement of standards

UNIT Trees in the Environment (Intermediate 1)

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 the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

OUTCOME 1

Identify the main tree species found in a given locality.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The component parts of a tree are identified correctly.
- (b) A simple tree key is used correctly.
- (c) 10 “local” trees are correctly identified by their recognised common names.

Evidence Requirements

Written and/or oral evidence of the candidate’s ability to produce identifications as detailed in Performance Criteria (a) to (c).

OUTCOME 2

Outline the social and environmental importance of trees and woodlands.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The principles of sustainable forestry management are correctly outlined.
- (b) The environmental benefits of trees and woodlands are correctly outlined.
- (c) The social benefits of trees and woodlands are correctly outlined.
- (d) Correctly identify the management objectives of a given woodland.

Evidence Requirements

Written and/or oral evidence of the candidate’s ability to identify and outline the information as detailed in Performance Criteria (a) to (d).

OUTCOME 3

Outline the legal position with regard to trees and woodland.

Performance Criteria

- (a) The legal basis and use of felling licences is correctly outlined.
- (b) The legal basis and use of Tree Preservation Orders is correctly outlined.
- (c) The correct legal position with regard to dangerous trees is outlined.
- (d) A brief and accurate explanation of a “prudent” tree owner is given.

Evidence Requirements

Written and/or oral evidence of the candidate’s ability to outline and briefly describe the information as detailed in Performance Criteria (a) to (d).

National unit specification: support notes

UNIT Trees in the Environment (Intermediate 1)

This part of the unit specification is offered as guidance. None of the sections of the support notes is mandatory.

GUIDANCE ON CONTENT AND CONTEXT

Outcome 1

The historical development of trees; a general outline of the biological function and processes and the link to the structure of trees. The general characteristics of tree flowers, buds, shoots, stem and wood structure in terms of name, location and function. The identification should be limited to ten trees of the locality. This should be an introductory level without a detailed scientific basis. This unit should be seen as a basis for future work and development.

Outcome 2

Candidates are introduced to the global, national and regional perspective of trees and forestry; the objectives of tree and forest management are identified and investigated; the changing emphasis on management objectives are explored. The concept of sustainable management is examined; the application and emphasis on management objectives are examined for different woodlands.

Outcome 3

Legal basis of tree ownership; trees with reference to boundaries; the legal position with reference to tree protection; the position with regard to dangerous trees. Certain case studies are examined.

GUIDANCE ON TEACHING AND LEARNING APPROACHES

Outcome 1

As well as formal lectures, use is made of tree specimens and the opportunity to examine trees and their component parts in the natural environment. Use is made of existing twig and flower specimens; visits to neighbouring woodlands and arboreta are carried out and use is also made of slides of tree specimens. Candidates are introduced to and given guidance in the use of simple tree keys and encouraged to produce tree collections based on specimens legitimately collected. Use is made of 'spotter' formative tests.

Outcome 2

Use is made of visits to woodlands and group or individual projects are set as formative exercises. Guest speakers are used as part of formal teaching sessions or linked to visits. Use is made of media material and compared and contrasted with referred sources.

National unit specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Trees in the Environment: (Intermediate 1)

Outcome 3

Formal lectures, handout materials and self study using reference sources. Case studies are discussed and the legal position made relevant.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT

Centres may use the instruments of assessments which are considered by the assessors to be most appropriate and fully satisfy the outcomes, performance criteria and range statements. Examples of instruments of assessment which could be used are as follows:

Outcome 1

Use of a practical identification test using numbered specimens, a degree of latitude should be built into the arrangement of the specimens to allow the candidate to achieve success without having to identify all correctly eg. identify 10 conifer cuttings from the 14 present. The present assessment should incorporate the labelling of tree components.

Outcome 2

An individual assignment exploring the general issues associated with the social and environmental importance of trees and woodlands, with comparisons made to a given woodland and the management objectives actually applied in that specific instance.

Outcome 3

A series of short answer questions covering the full range of performance criteria in the outcome.

SPECIAL NEEDS

This unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative outcomes for units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment and Certification Arrangements* (SQA, 1998).