



## National Unit specification: general information

**Unit title:** Horse Care: Yard Maintenance (SCQF level 5)

**Unit code:** FV9R 11

**Superclass:** SH

**Publication date:** November 2011

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 02

### Summary

The purpose of this Unit is to provide candidates with the knowledge and practical skills required for maintenance tasks on the yard, its equipment and associated facilities including riding surfaces. Current health and safety regulations and safe working practices will be adhered to at all times.

This Unit is optional within the National Certificate in Horse Care at SCQF level 5. It may also be studied as a free-standing Unit. This Unit is suitable for school leavers, adult learners, school pupils and for industry CPD.

### Outcomes

- 1 Assist with maintaining a riding surface.
- 2 Contribute to the maintenance of yard, equipment and facilities.

### Recommended entry

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

### Credit points and level

0.5 National Unit credit 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:** Horse Care: Yard Maintenance (SCQF level 5)

### **Core Skills**

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills component:

- ◆ Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4

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

## **National Unit specification: statement of standards**

**Unit title:** Horse Care: Yard Maintenance (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.

Compliance with current Health and Safety legislation is required at all times throughout this Unit.

### **Outcome 1**

Assist with maintaining a riding surface.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify the equipment required to maintain a selected riding surface.
- (b) Describe health and safety issues which must be considered prior to assisting with maintenance activities.
- (c) Assist with the maintenance requirements on a selected riding surface, complying with health and safety requirements at all times.

### **Outcome 2**

Contribute to the maintenance of yard, equipment and facilities.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Select the tools required to carry out specified maintenance tasks on the yard, equipment and facilities.
- (b) Identify the safety requirements when carrying out specified maintenance on the yard, equipment and facilities.
- (c) Assist with specified maintenance of the yard, equipment and facilities, complying with health and safety requirements at all times.

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

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

Written/oral or recorded and performance evidence will be required to demonstrate achievement of the Performance Criteria in Outcome 1 and 2.

For Outcome 1, one specified riding surface will be used to assess the learner.

Written/oral recorded and performance evidence must include:

- ◆ The identification of a minimum of two items of equipment required to maintain a riding surface.
- ◆ An accurate description of the health and safety issues which must be considered prior to carrying out any maintenance activity, including risk assessment awareness.
- ◆ Assisting effectively with a minimum of two activities involved in the maintenance of a selected riding surface, while complying with health and safety requirements at all times.

## National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

### Unit title: Horse Care: Yard Maintenance (SCQF level 5)

For Outcome 2 written/oral recorded and performance evidence is required which must include:

- ◆ Selection of the correct tools required for carrying out a minimum of two specified maintenance tasks.
- ◆ Accurate identification of a minimum of three health and safety requirements essential for carrying out maintenance activities safely and effectively.
- ◆ Assisting with specified maintenance tasks while complying with current health and safety legislation at all times:
  - Specified maintenance tasks will be dependent on the resources available however should include a minimum of six maintenance tasks which must involve a variety of maintenance in regards to the yard, equipment and facilities. These should include cleaning drains, water drinkers and troughs, weeding, vermin control, wash and/or paint stable walls, repairing/maintaining facilities such as fencing, horse walker, yard tools and equipment such as haynets, organising and tidying equipment and feeding areas.

## **National Unit specification: support notes**

**Unit title:** Horse Care: Yard Maintenance (SCQF level 5)

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 20 hours.

### **Guidance on the content and context for this Unit**

This is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Horse Care at SCQF level 5. It can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

In this Unit candidates are required to show practical skills and knowledge of yard maintenance in relation to the horse environment. This includes the ability to choose correct tools to complete maintenance tasks on riding surfaces, equipment, facilities and the yard with an emphasis on safety throughout.

Candidates would benefit from having Knowledge and/or Skills in using the equine yard, its equipment and associated facilities.

This Unit aligns to the following Equine Industry National Occupational Standards from Lantra:

- ◆ CU20: Maintain and Repair Structures and Surfaces

### **Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit**

For Outcome 1 it would be beneficial for candidates to be able to visualise and handle different surfaces, therefore having samples or visiting other yards may be appropriate for further depth of learning. Also candidates could be provided with the opportunity to watch horses being worked on surfaces to assess the horses' way of going and subsequent maintenance requirements. Group or individual tasks may be included to allow for research and investigation into current costs and maintenance requirements of different surfaces. Actual maintenance tasks and safety requirements for surfaces could be discussed and carried out.

A variety of practical activities should be planned and executed in regards to Outcome 2 to allow candidates to have experience of working with different equipment and how to deal with a variety of scenarios that could be commonly found in the equine yard environment.

### **Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit**

The following approaches to assessment are suggested:

Outcome 1: Oral interview and/or written question paper plus practical activity.

Outcome 2: Practical exercise and oral interview and/or written question paper.

Written evidence for all Outcomes could take the format of one assessment utilising short answer questions or under the format of several shorter assessments.

## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

### Unit title: Horse Care: Yard Maintenance (SCQF level 5)

For Outcome 1 it is suggested that the candidate is given a scenario, as one practical assessment, and asked to carry out maintenance on a given surface with oral questioning to back up skills shown in order to meet all Performance Criteria. Health and safety knowledge will be assessed by means of questions.

Dependent on the yard, equipment and facilities available will determine what maintenance will be assessed in Outcome 2 however each candidate should be assessed on the same level of task. The recording of the maintenance tasks completed could be achieved through the use of a log book, diary or simply a checklist to allow continual assessment of tasks as they are completed. This may also be utilised for identifying the safety requirements for each task completed or through the use of additional oral questioning. A group task may be presented with a given scenario to assess the maintenance of the yard as it is to assist with maintenance but care must be taken to ensure that all candidates are assessed fairly and equally. A minimum of six yard maintenance tasks must be completed by each candidate and could include; cleaning drains, water drinkers and troughs, weeding, vermin control, wash and/or paint stable walls, repairing/maintaining facilities such as fencing, horse walker, yard tools and equipment such as haynets, organising and tidying equipment and feeding areas.

### 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 e-checklists. 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

As candidates are doing this Unit they will be developing aspects of Core Skills in *Communication* and *Problem Solving*.

This Unit has the Problem Solving component of Critical Thinking embedded in it. This means that when candidates achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)

## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Core Skills Component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4 embedded.	28/11/2011

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