



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Horse Care: Assist with Grooming a Quiet Horse (SCQF level 4)

Unit code: H1LS 10

Superclass: SH

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Summary

The purpose of this Unit is to enable the candidate to groom a quiet horse in preparation for work. The candidate will develop a knowledge and understanding of the reasons for grooming a horse and will understand and adhere to current health and safety regulations, adopting safe working practices while grooming the horse. The candidate will learn to use grooming tools effectively.

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 FV9J 11 *Horse Grooming and Clothing*.

The 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 reasons for grooming a horse.
- 2 Identify and care for items of the grooming kit and describe their use.
- 3 Assist in grooming a quiet horse.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would benefit from having completed FV5K 11 *Horse Care: Safe Horse Handling* (SCQF level 4)

General information (cont)

Unit title: Horse Care: Assist with Grooming a Quiet Horse (SCQF level 4)

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

Unit title: Horse Care: Assist with Grooming a Quiet Horse (SCQF level 4)

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 reasons for grooming a horse.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Provide reasons for grooming a horse.
- (b) Identify abnormalities likely to be found when grooming a horse.

Outcome 2

Identify and care for items of the grooming kit and describe their use.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify essential items of the grooming kit.
- (b) Describe the use of essential items of the grooming kit.
- (c) Clean grooming kit.

Outcome 3

Assist in grooming a quiet horse.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe health and safety practices for working with horses.
- (b) Wear PPE and work safely.
- (c) Assemble grooming kit.
- (d) Assist in securing a horse safely.
- (e) Pick out feet into a suitable container.
- (f) Assist in grooming a horse safely and effectively.
- (g) Check for abnormalities likely to be found when grooming.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Horse Care: Assist with Grooming a Quiet Horse (SCQF level 4)

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

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

Oral/written and performance evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidates have achieved all of the Outcomes and Performance Criteria. Adherence to health and safety regulations is required at all times during all 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

Oral/written evidence which must include:

- ◆ A description of four reasons for grooming horses effectively, one of which must be checking for injury. Three others must be from the following list: appearance, comfort, prevention of rub injuries in areas where tack will be in contact with the horse, socialising the horse, bonding with the horse.
- ◆ The identification of three abnormalities which may be found when grooming a horse from the following: saddle sores, girth calls, obvious lumps or bumps, lost shoe.

Outcome 2

Oral/Written and performance evidence which must include:

- ◆ The identification of essential items of the grooming kit and an accurate description of their use. The list must include: hoof pick, dandy brush, body brush, plastic curry comb, mane comb, sponge, bucket.
- ◆ Cleaning two brushes from the grooming kit, to remove grease and dirt.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Horse Care: Assist with Grooming a Quiet Horse (SCQF level 4)

Outcome 3

Performance/written/oral evidence which must include:

- ◆ A description of the health and safety codes of practice applicable to working with horses.
- ◆ Wearing PPE and carrying out all practical work safely in accordance with current legislation.
- ◆ Assembly of essential items of the grooming kit.
- ◆ Assisting in securing a quiet horse safely and effectively according to industry standard.
- ◆ Picking out all four feet into skip or a similar receptacle.
- ◆ Use of the grooming kit effectively to assist in grooming one quiet horse to remove dirt and mud in preparation for work.
- ◆ Carrying out a check for any abnormalities likely to be found when grooming a horse.

Candidates must be able to carry out these activities successfully on one occasion.

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

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

Eq 101 Assist with cleaning and grooming horses ('This standard is about regular grooming and cleaning of horses. It may be carried out before or after exercise or at other times as required. The work described in this standard would be carried out under the direction of a supervisor. You will need to be fully aware of the importance of health and safety in connection with this work.')

Activities will be carried out in a stable yard environment and much of the Unit will involve hands on practical activities. Candidates must wear appropriate protective clothing, strong footwear and a riding hat to current safety standards and must adhere to current health and safety guidelines.

Before attempting this Unit it is advisable that candidates have completed XXXX XX *Horse Care: Safe Horse Handling* (SCQF level 4).

Quiet horses only will be used although candidates must be made aware that all horses may act unpredictably. The tutor should be aware of any likely changes in behaviour and take appropriate action at all times being aware of the safety of the candidates and the horse. Candidates should be able to respond to any changes in the horse's behaviour, according to the instructions given by the tutor.

Candidates will be introduced to the reasons for grooming horses which should include the health and welfare benefits — cleaning coat to minimise risk of rub injuries from tack, checking to make sure that no objects are trapped in the hoof, shoe in place if shod to minimise lameness and discomfort, foreign matter in eyes and nose cleaned for comfort and the socialising/bonding aspects of a horse of being handled and brushed.

Candidates will also be made aware of the obvious injuries/abnormalities which may be observed when grooming and should be reported, these should include cuts, rubs, lumps and bumps and lost or loose shoes. Candidates should become familiar with the essential items of the grooming kit, their uses and learn how to clean the brushes effectively to remove hair, grease, mud.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Horse Care: Assist with Grooming a Quiet Horse (SCQF level 4)

When assisting with the grooming of the horse, candidates will learn the importance of and how to secure a horse safely and effectively, to prevent the horse from moving around too much. Candidates will be encouraged to handle the horse in a confident but quiet manner, to use the kit effectively and the importance of reporting any abnormality felt or observed when grooming. Time taken to groom will depend on how dirty the horse is, if horse is not too muddy this should be 30 minutes approximately — this will include picking out the feet.

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, other people and the horse.

Appropriate protective clothing must be worn. It is recommended that candidates have completed XXXX XX *Horse Care: Safe Horse Handling* (SCQF level 4) to ensure that they understand how to work around quiet horses safely.

Horses used must be easy to handle and quiet, although candidates must be made aware that any horse can be unpredictable at times. The teaching area should be large enough that the candidate can work around the horse easily and safely.

For all Outcomes the approach to learning should be mainly practical.

Outcomes 1 and 2 could be delivered in the stable yard or in a classroom. The use of IT and literature would be useful in showing common abnormalities which may be observed when grooming horses.

Outcome 3 should be delivered in the stable yard with demonstrations followed by practice and therefore access to horses and stables is necessary.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Outcome 1 — oral/written

Outcome 2 — practical and oral/written

Outcome 3 — practical and oral/written

All Outcomes could be assessed holistically in one practical exercise.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

Outcome 1 would be suitable for delivery via a Virtual Learning Environment

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

In this Unit candidates will learn how to identify the grooming kit, use it effectively to clean the horse and be able to check for common and obvious abnormalities while helping to groom a quiet horse.

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

Essential Skills

Candidates will develop a knowledge and understanding of Horse Care which should enhance their employability skills in this occupational area.

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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