



Group Award Specification for:

**National Progression Award (NPA) in Beekeeping at
SCQF level 5**

Group Award Code: GM73 45

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1 Introduction

This document was previously known as the Arrangements document. The purpose of this document is to:

- ◆ assist centres to implement, deliver and manage the qualification.
- ◆ provide a guide for new staff involved in offering the qualification.
- ◆ inform course managers teaching staff, assessors, learners, employers and HEIs of the aims and purpose of the qualification.
- ◆ provide details of the range of learners the qualification is suitable for and progression opportunities.

The importance of beekeeping

The value of honey bees and bumblebees as pollinators of commercially grown, insect-pollinated crops to the UK has been estimated at over £200 million per year. In the UK approximately 70 crops are dependent on, or benefit from, pollination by bees. In addition to the direct crop benefits, bees also pollinate the flowers of many plants which become part of feed for farm animals.

However, bees are in danger of disappearing from our environment. Farming practices continue to disturb natural habitats and forage of solitary and bumblebees at a rate which gives them little chance for re-establishment. The honey bee is under attack from the pests and diseases it is only the treatment and care provided by beekeepers that is keeping colonies alive. Most wild honey bee colonies have died out as a result of this disease.

The above, coupled with a decline in the number of beekeepers in the UK, have prompted the development of this National Progression Award (NPA) and its associated units, both to raise the profile of beekeeping in Scotland and the UK as a whole, but also to encourage more individuals to keep their own hives and to do so in a responsible and appropriate manner.

This group award is suitable for a wide range of learners, from the interested amateur to pupils still at school.

With regards to the latter, studying bees adds significantly to the wider education of pupils.

For example:

- ◆ Bees are useful in explaining food chains, as they are pollinators vital to the food chain. One third of the food we eat would not be available but for bees.
- ◆ The evolution of the limbs and mouthparts of bees into tools, are good examples of adaptation and engineering.
- ◆ Honey, pollen, wax and propolis has nutritional, craft, manufacturing, and medical applications.
- ◆ The social life of the honey bee colony provides a controversial start to thinking about the structure of societies, and gender roles!

The group award would be an ideal follow on for the *Skills for Work: Rural Skills* at National 4, although the units also could stand alone within many land based group awards, such as the NC Rural Skills.

Group award content has been mapped to the Scottish Beekeeping qualification framework, and learners that successfully complete the group award will be ideally prepared for their final exam should they chose to register.

2 Qualification structure

This group award is made up of 3 SQA unit credits. It comprises 18 SCQF credit points all of which are at SCQF level 5. A mapping of Core Skills development opportunities is available in Section 5.3.

2.1 Structure

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
HP9P	45	Beekeeping: An Introduction	1	6	5
HP9R	45	Beekeeping: Practical Skills	1	6	5
HP9T	45	Beekeeping: Theory	1	6	5

3 Aims of the qualification

The aim of this qualification is to provide an opportunity for schools and colleges to work with the Scottish Beekeepers' Association (SBA) and associated individuals to increase awareness and expertise within this area.

3.1 General aims of the qualification

The NPA in Beekeeping is designed to provide an introduction to:

- ◆ the basics of beekeeping theory.
- ◆ the identification and use of associated equipment, and
- ◆ understanding the subduing and manipulation of colonies of bees.

3.2 Specific aims of the qualification

- 1 Describe the range and uses of beekeeping equipment.
- 2 Name the principal nectar and pollen producing plants available locally and nationally.
- 3 Explain how to subdue and handle bees under supervision.
- 4 Describe the principal pests and diseases affecting bees in the UK.
- 5 Subdue and manipulate bees with confidence and expertise.
- 6 Describe and explain methods of swarm prevention and control.
- 7 Apply systems for increasing numbers of bee colonies.
- 8 Demonstrate how to assemble frames.
- 9 Explain the science and practice of beekeeping.
- 10 Understand the role of *Apis mellifera* in the overall agricultural economy of the UK.

4 Recommended entry to the qualification(s)

Entry to this qualification is at the discretion of the centre, though learners should be prepared for study at level 5. Entry may be subject to interview.

4.1 Core Skills entry profile

The Core Skill entry profile provides a summary of the associated assessment activities that exemplify why a particular level has been recommended for this qualification. The information should be used to identify if additional learning support needs to be put in place for learners whose Core Skills profile is below the recommended entry level or whether learners should be encouraged to do an alternative level or learning programme.

Core Skill	Recommended SCQF entry profile	Associated assessment activities
Communication	4	Report writing, portfolio, poster presentation, oral exam
Numeracy	4	Calculations of crop pollination requirements
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	4	Report writing, portfolio, poster presentation
Problem Solving	4	Practical assessments
Working with Others	4	Group work for assessments

5 Additional benefits of the qualification in meeting employer needs

This qualification was designed to meet a specific purpose and what follows are details on how that purpose has been met through mapping of the units to the aims of the qualification. Through meeting the aims, additional value has been achieved by linking the unit standards with those defined in National Occupational Standards and/or trade/professional body requirements. In addition, significant opportunities exist for learners to develop the more generic skill, known as Core Skills through doing this qualification.

5.1 Mapping of qualification aims to units

Code	Unit title	Aims									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
HP9P 45	Beekeeping: An Introduction	X	X	X	X						
HP9R 45	Beekeeping: Practical Skills					X	X	X	X		
HP9T 45	Beekeeping: Theory									X	X

5.2 Mapping of National Occupational Standards (NOS) and/or trade body standards

Code	Title	National Occupational Standards		
		Establish a Honey Bee Hive	Monitor and Maintain a Honey Bee Hive	Collect Products from Honey Bees
HP9P 45	Beekeeping: An Introduction	K2, K3, K16, K20	K1, K2, K6, K7, K23	K2
HP9R 45	Beekeeping: Practical Skills	K13, K16, K17, P2, P6, P7, P9	K23, K22, K21, K18, K17, K16, K15, K3, K11, P2	K2, K4, P2, P3, P4, P6,
HP9T 45	Beekeeping: Theory	K10, K15	K8, K17, K20, P4	K10

LANLP40 *Establish a Honey Bee Hive*

LANLP4 *Monitor and Maintain a Honey Bee Hive*

LANLP42 *Collect Products from Honey Bees*

5.3 Mapping of Core Skills development opportunities across the qualification

Unit code	Unit title	Communication			Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving			Working with Others	
		Written (Reading)	Written (Writing)	Oral	Using Number	Using Graphical Information	Accessing Information	Providing/Creating Information	Critical Thinking	Planning and Organising	Reviewing and Evaluating	Working Co-operatively with Others	Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
HP9P 45	Beekeeping: An Introduction	S	S			S	S	S	S	S		S	
HP9R 45	Beekeeping: Practical Skills	S	S	S						S		S	
HP9T 45	Beekeeping: Theory	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

5.4 Assessment strategy for the qualification

The following is provided as guidance, centres may generate evidence which meets the evidence requirements

Unit	Assessment			
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4
Beekeeping: An Introduction	Practical assessment	Portfolio evidence	Checklist	Report
Beekeeping: Practical Skills	Holistic practical assessment (with option of essay for Outcome 2)			
Beekeeping: Theory	Closed book test	Report or poster presentation		

6 Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment

6.1 Sequencing/integration of units

It is strongly recommended that the *Beekeeping: An Introduction* unit is delivered prior to the delivery of the *Beekeeping: Practical Skills* and *Beekeeping: Theory* unit, though they can also be delivered together should it be required. The practical unit in particular is very weather and season dependent and this should be taken into account when planning delivery.

6.2 Recognition of prior learning

SQA recognises that learners gain knowledge and skills acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning contexts.

In some instances, a full group award may be achieved through the recognition of prior learning. However, it is unlikely that a learner would have the appropriate prior learning and experience to meet all the requirements of a full group award.

The recognition of prior learning may **not** be used as a method of assessing in the following types of units and assessments:

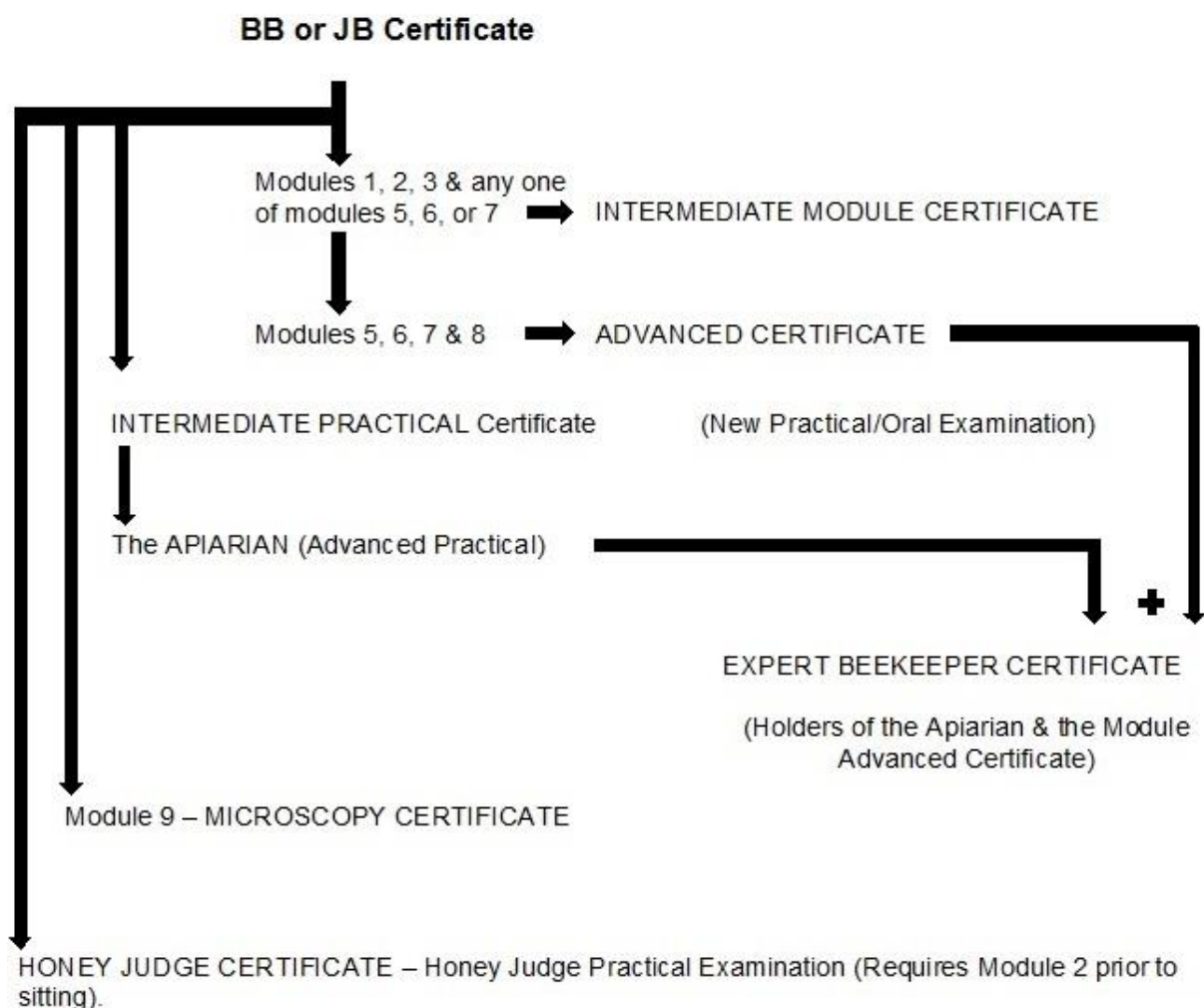
- ◆ HN Graded Units
- ◆ Course and/or external assessments
- ◆ Other integrative assessment units (which may or not be graded)
- ◆ Certain types of assessment instruments where the standard may be compromised by not using the same assessment method outlined in the unit
- ◆ Where there is an existing requirement for a licence to practice
- ◆ Where there are specific health and safety requirements
- ◆ Where there are regulatory, professional or other statutory requirements
- ◆ Where otherwise specified in an assessment strategy

More information and guidance on the *Recognition of Prior Learning* (RPL) may be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk.

The following sub-sections outline how existing SQA unit(s) may contribute to this group award. Additionally, they also outline how this group award may be recognised for professional and articulation purposes.

6.2.1 Articulation and/or progression

Learners that have successfully completed the NPA in Beekeeping who wish to progress to the SBA Basic Beekeeping certificate route can follow the programme below.



NB: BB = Basic Beekeeper
JB = Junior Beekeeper (under 16)

6.2.2 Professional recognition

If learners wish to register for the SBA Basic Beekeeping Exam, it is recommended that all three units should be completed before doing so.

6.3 Opportunities for e-assessment

Whilst reports can be submitted electronically, due to the practical nature of some of the assessments, this will not be possible for all learning outcomes.

6.4 Support materials

A list of existing ASPs is available to view on SQA's website.

6.5 Resource requirements

Learners will require access to examples of Personal Protective Equipment, model hives, and functioning hives. It is strongly recommended that the NPA Beekeeping is delivered in partnership with a local Beekeepers Association or equivalent.

7 General information for centres

Equality and inclusion

The unit specifications making up this group award have been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners will 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.

Internal and external verification

All instruments of assessment used within this/these qualification(s) should be internally verified, using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in *SQA's Guide to Assessment* (www.sqa.org.uk/GuideToAssessment).

8 Glossary of terms

ASP — Assessment Support Pack

Embedded Core Skills: is where the assessment evidence for the unit also includes full evidence for complete Core Skill or Core Skill components. A learner successfully completing the unit will be automatically certificated for the Core Skill. (This depends on the unit having been successfully audited and validated for Core Skills certification.)

Finish date: The end of a group award's lapsing period is known as the finish date. After the finish date, the group award will no longer be live and the following applies:

- ◆ learners may not be entered for the group award
- ◆ the group award will continue to exist only as an archive record on the Awards Processing System (APS)

Lapsing date: When a group award is entered into its lapsing period, the following will apply:

- ◆ the Group Award will be deleted from the relevant catalogue
- ◆ the Group Award specification will remain until the qualification reaches its finish date at which point it will be removed from SQA's website and archived
- ◆ no new centres may be approved to offer the group award
- ◆ centres should only enter learners whom they expect to complete the group award during the defined lapsing period

SBA: The Scottish Beekeepers' Association

SQA credit value: The credit value allocated to a unit gives an indication of the contribution the unit makes to an SQA group award. An SQA credit value of 1 given to an SQA unit represents approximately 40 hours of programmed learning, teaching and assessment.

SCQF: The Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) provides the national common framework for describing all relevant programmes of learning and qualifications in Scotland. SCQF terminology is used throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk.

SCQF credit points: SCQF credit points provide a means of describing and comparing the amount of learning that is required to complete a qualification at a given level of the Framework. One National Unit credit is equivalent to 6 SCQF credit points. One National Unit credit at Advanced Higher and one Higher National Unit credit (irrespective of level) is equivalent to 8 SCQF credit points.

SCQF levels: The level a qualification is assigned within the framework is an indication of how hard it is to achieve. The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. HNCs and HNDs are available at SCQF levels 7 and 8 respectively. Higher National units will normally be at levels 6–9 and graded units will be at level 7 and 8. National Qualification Group Awards are available at SCQF levels 2–6 and will normally be made up of National Units which are available from SCQF levels 2–7.

Subject unit: Subject units contain vocational/subject content and are designed to test a specific set of knowledge and skills.

Signposted Core Skills: refers to opportunities to develop Core Skills arise in learning and teaching but are not automatically certificated.

History of changes

It is anticipated that changes will take place during the life of the qualification and this section will record these changes. This document is the latest version and incorporates the changes summarised below. Centres are advised to check SQA's APS Navigator to confirm they are using the up to date qualification structure.

NOTE: Where a unit is revised by another unit:

- ◆ No new centres may be approved to offer the unit which has been revised.
- ◆ Centres should only enter learners for the unit which has been revised where they are expected to complete the unit before its finish date.

Version Number	Description	Date

Acknowledgement

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of this qualification.

9 General information for learners

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

The value of honey bees and bumblebees as pollinators of commercially grown, insect-pollinated crops to the UK has been estimated at over £200 million per year. In the UK approximately 70 crops are dependent on, or benefit from, pollination by bees. In addition to the direct crop benefits, bees also pollinate the flowers of many plants which become part of feed for farm animals.

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