Group Award Specification for:

Professional Development Award (PDA) in Competition Horse Care at SCQF level 7

Group Award Code: GP2W 47

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Contents

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 Professional Development Award (PDA) in Competition Horse Care at SCQF level 7 has been developed to provide a formal qualification for those wishing to be or already responsible for the care of horses before, during and following competitions.

Three Higher National Units are required to achieve the PDA, the SCQF level 7 units were developed as part of the Higher National Certificate and Higher National Diploma (HNC/HND) in Equine Studies. For learners who wish to further their studies the PDA will contribute to the achievement of the HNC or HND.

In addition to the industry specific and general employability skills the learners will also have the opportunity to develop their Core Skills, with opportunities to demonstrate both practical and theoretical knowledge and skills.

2 Qualification structure

This group award requires 24 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7, consisting of 16 SCQF credit points from the mandatory section and a further 8 SCQF credit points from the optional section. All the units are at SCQF level 7.

2.1 Structure

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
Mandatory units (16 SCQF credit points required)					
HG52	34	Care of the Competition Horse	1	8	7
J1BR	34	Equine: Lungeing	1	8	7
Optional units					
DP1N	34	Equine Selection	1	8	7
DP1J	34	Equine Fitness	1	8	7

3 Aims of the qualification

The principal aim of this PDA is to provide a qualification which gives recognition to the specialist knowledge and skills required to work effectively in an Equine Competition environment.

3.1 General aims of the qualification

- develop transferable skills, including Core Skills
- demonstrate interpersonal skills and the ability to work with others
- develop personal effectiveness
- develop critical thinking skills
- progress within the SCQF framework and into higher education
- provide opportunities for career progression

3.2 Specific aims of the qualification

The specific aims of the PDA in Competition Horse Care are to:

1 provide an industry specific qualification at SCQF level 7.
2 enable employment within a stud yard.
3 develop the knowledge and skills required to care for horses prior to, during and following competition.
4 develop the knowledge and skills required to maintain and improve on competition horse fitness.
5 develop the knowledge and skills required to ensure the Health and Safety of the learner, riders and others.
6 develop the knowledge and skills required to ensure the safety and wellbeing of horses at all times.

4 Recommended entry to the qualification

Entry to this qualification is at the discretion of the centre. The following information on prior knowledge, skills, experience or qualifications that provide suitable preparation for this qualification has been provided by the Qualification Design Team as guidance only.

Learners would benefit from having attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by one or more of the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

♦ NPA Horse Care at SCQF level 4 or equivalent
♦ NC Horse Care at SCQF level 5 or equivalent
♦ NPA Horse Care at SCQF level 6 or equivalent
♦ Experience of working with a range of horses and/or within a competition environment

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	5	Written responses and research, communication with event organisers, colleagues, etc.
Numeracy	4	Calculations for feed, etc and horse value.
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	4	Research and producing reports, etc.
Problem Solving	5	Adapting to changing circumstances, working with animals in unfamiliar environs.
Working with Others	5	Working with team members and competition staff.

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
HG52 34	Care of the Competition Horse	X	X	X	X	X	X
J1BR 34	Equine: Lungeing	X	X	X		X	X
DP1N 34	Equine Selection	X	X			X	X
DP1J 34	Equine Fitness	X	X	X	X	X	X

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

Code	Unit title	National Occupational Standard								
		LANEq213	LANEq203	LANEq221	LANEq241	LANEq346	LANEq212	LANEq320	LANEq324	LANEq402
HG52 34	Care of the Competition Horse	X	X	X		X				
J1BR 34	Equine: Lungeing				X	X	X	X	X	
DP1N 34	Equine Selection									X
DP1J 34	Equine Fitness				X	X		X	X	

LANEq213	Care for Horses after Exercise
LANEq203	Carry Out Routine Care and Monitor the Health and Welfare of Horses
LANEq221	Assist with the Care of Horses at Competition
LANEq241	Long Rein Harness Horses for Exercise under Supervision
LANEq346	Prepare Horses for Competitions
LANEq212	Lunge a Horse Under Supervision
LANEq320	Contribute to the Training of Horses from the Ground
LANEq324	Exercise and Improve the Performance of Horses Using Lungeing or Long Reining
LANEq402	Select Horses and Identify their Suitability for Specific Purposes

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
HG52 34	Care of the Competition Horse	X		X					X	X		X	
J1BR 34	Equine: Lungeing	X		X					X	X		X	
DP1N 34	Equine Selection	X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X	
DP1J 34	Equine Fitness	X			X	X	X		X	X		X	

5.4 Assessment strategy for the qualification

Unit	Assessment		
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3
Care of the Competition Horse	Practical assessments supported by written/recorded oral evidence.		
Equine: Lungeing	Practical assessments supported by written/recorded oral evidence.		
Equine Selection	Written and/or recorded oral report.		
Equine Fitness	Practical assignment supported by written and/or recorded oral evidence.		

6 Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment

6.1 Sequencing/integration of units

The sequencing and integration of units is at the discretion of the delivering centre.

The PDA has been designed to provide a coherent qualification and the while the component units can be delivered on a stand-alone basis learners would benefit from integrated delivery and assessment of the three units. This would help to highlight the interconnected nature of the units and to build a better appreciation of the sector as a whole.

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:
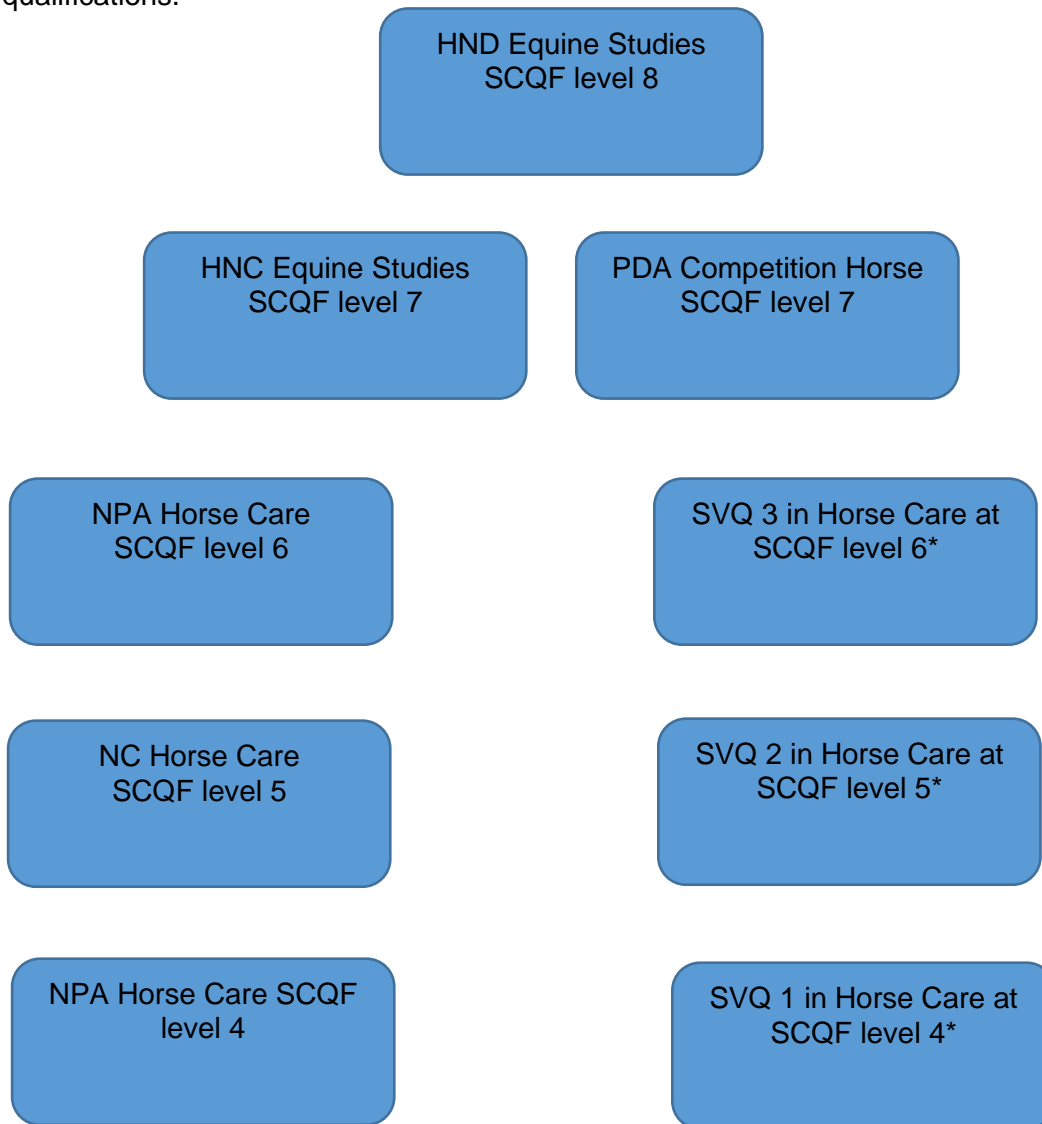
♦ HN Graded Units
♦ Course and/or external assessments
♦ Other integrative assessment units (which may or not be graded)
♦ Certain types of assessment instruments where the standard may be compromised by not using the same assessment method outlined in the unit
♦ Where there is an existing requirement 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

There are opportunities to progress directly on to the HNC or HND in Equine Studies, learners in employment may also wish to consider the SVQs in Horse Care or Horse Care Management. The table below illustrates the relationship of the PDA to other equivalent qualifications.

HND Equine Studies
SCQF level 8

HNC Equine Studies
SCQF level 7

PDA Competition Horse
SCQF level 7

NPA Horse Care
SCQF level 6

SVQ 3 in Horse Care at
SCQF level 6*

NC Horse Care
SCQF level 5

SVQ 2 in Horse Care at
SCQF level 5*

NPA Horse Care SCQF
level 4

SVQ 1 in Horse Care at
SCQF level 4*

6.3   Opportunities for e-assessment

There may be opportunities to develop evidence using e-assessment across the units that make up the PDA. In addition to e-assessment, an e-portfolio could be used to collate and present a range of evidence.

6.4   Support materials

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

6.5   Resource requirements

In addition to suitably qualified and experienced staff centres will require access to the following resources in order to effectively deliver the PDA:

♦ Range of appropriate horses
♦ Stable yard
♦ Suitable equipment (including lungeing aids)

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

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:

♦ candidates 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 candidates whom they expect to complete the group award during the defined lapsing period

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 candidates 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 Professional Development Award (PDA) in Competition Horse Care at SCQF level 7 has been designed to provide formal recognition of the knowledge and skills required to work effectively within a specialist sector of the equine industry. If you work, or wish to work, on a competition yard or similar environment or simply wish to start taking your own horses to competition

Three units are required to achieve the PDA, everyone will complete Care of the Competition Horse and Equine Lunging, you will then complete a unit on either Equine Selection or Equine Fitness depending on the resources available and particular area of interest.

You will be assessed using a range of methods, including both theory and practical assessments which will allow you to demonstrate your practical ability and the knowledge which underpins it.

The units included in the PDA are also part of the HNC and HND in Equine Studies so completion of the PDA could also represent the first step towards a higher level qualification. You may also wish to undertake relevant SVQs if you are in employment in the sector.