



Group Award Specification for:

HNC/D Equine Studies at SCQF level 7/8

Group Award Code: GP6F 15/GP6G 16

Validation date: April 2019

Date of original publication: May 2019

Version: 04 (November 2024)

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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 HNC and HND in Equine Studies have been designed to provide learners with the knowledge and skills required for current and future employment in the equine industry and for progression to higher level academic or professional qualifications in the sector.

The HNC in Equine Studies is designed for those who are able to work, unsupervised, in an equine establishment and for those who aspire to work at a supervisory level.

The HND in Equine Studies is designed for those with experience at a supervisory level who aspire to work at management level.

Both awards prepare learners for wider responsibilities in the industry and/or progression to further study.

The qualifications are suitable for those who work in or wish to work in a range of equine environments including stud yards, stables, leisure organisations, competition centres, racing stables, driving yards, eventing yards and riding for the disabled.

2 Qualifications structure

The HNC in Equine Studies at SCQF level 7 consists of 96 SCQF credit points, containing a mandatory section of 80 SCQF credit points including a graded unit of 8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7 and an optional section that requires a further 16 SCQF credit points.

The HND in Equine Studies at SCQF 8 consists of 240 SCQF credit points, containing a mandatory section of 160 SCQF credit points, including a graded unit of 16 SCQF credit points at SCQF 8; a restricted optional section that requires 16 SCQF credit points and an optional section that requires a further 64 SCQF credit points. The mandatory section contains 72 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8 ensuring the HND meets the requirements for a minimum of 64 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8.

2.1 Structure

HNC Equine Studies at SCQF level 7

96 SCQF credit points required

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
Mandatory units: 10 SQA unit credits (80 SCQF credit points) required					
DP1M	34	Equine Studies: Equine Nutrition	1	8	7
DP1J	34	Equine Studies: Equine Fitness	1	8	7
DP1N	34	Equine Studies: Equine Selection	1	8	7
DP1G	34	Equine Studies: Equine Anatomy and Physiology	2	16	7
J1PK	34	Equine Health	1	8	7
DP2X	34	Equine Studies: Graded Unit 1	1	8	7
HG52	34	Equine: Care of the Competition Horse	1	8	7
HG53	34	Equine Facility Management	2	16	7
Optional section: 2 SQA unit credits (16 SCQF credit points) required					
DP24	34	Equine Studies: The Brood Mare	1	8	7
DP25	34	Equine Studies: The Stallion	1	8	7
DP1P	34	Equine Studies: Equine Youngstock	1	8	7
DP1T	34	Equine Studies: Equitation for the Leisure Industry	1	8	7
DP1Y	34	Equine Studies: Preparation for Equestrian Vaulting	2	16	7
DP1F	34	Equine Studies: Driving the Single Turnout	2	16	7
J1BR	34	Equine: Lungeing	1	8	7
HG54	34	Equitation Instructional Techniques	2	16	7
D85F	34	Using Software Application Packages	1	8	7
H1F0	34	Creating a Culture of Customer Care	1	8	7
HJ4W	34	Work Placement	1	8	7
D75X	34*	Information Technology: Applications Software 1	1	8	7
H7MB	34*	Communication: Practical Skills	1	8	7

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
Optional section: Equitation Units: Up to 2 SQA unit credits (16 SCQF credit points) required					
DP1R	34	Equine Studies: Equitation	2	16	7
J8MR	34*	Equine Studies: Equitation Flatwork	1	8	7
J8MT	34*	Equine Studies: Equitation Jumping	1	8	7

HND Equine Studies at SCQF level 8

240 SCQF credit points required

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
Mandatory units: 20 SQA unit credits (160 SCQF credit points) required					
DP1M	34	Equine Studies: Equine Nutrition	1	8	7
DP1J	34	Equine Studies: Equine Fitness	1	8	7
DP1N	34	Equine Studies: Equine Selection	1	8	7
DP1G	34	Equine Studies: Equine Anatomy and Physiology	2	16	7
J1PK	34	Equine Health	1	8	7
DP3D	35	Equine Studies: Equine Grassland Management	1	8	8
DP2X	34	Equine Studies: Graded Unit 1	1	8	7
J1SF	35	Equine Studies: Graded Unit 2	2	16	8
HG52	34	Equine: Care of the Competition Horse	1	8	7
HG53	34	Equine Facility Management	2	16	7
HJ4W	34	Work Placement	1	8	7
J1BN	35	Equine Behaviour	2	16	8
J1BP	35	Managing an Equine Business	2	16	8
DP1X	35	Equine Studies: Planning Equine Facilities	2	16	8
Restricted optional units: 2 SQA unit credits (16 SCQF credit points) required					
H91J	34	Organising an Event	2	16	7
H91M	35	Managing an Event	2	16	8

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
Optional units: 8 SQA unit credits (64 SCQF credit points) required					
DP21	35	Equine Studies: Progressive Training Programmes for the Young Horse	2	16	8
DP3E	35	Equine Studies: Evaluating an Equestrian Cross Country Course	1	8	8
HC4C	35	Equine Studies: Riding and Training Techniques Over Fences	2	16	8
HC4D	35	Equine Studies: Riding and Training Techniques on the Flat	2	16	8
DP24	34	Equine Studies: The Brood Mare	1	8	7
DP25	34	Equine Studies: The Stallion	1	8	7
DP1P	34	Equine Studies: Equine Youngstock	1	8	7
DP1T	34	Equine Studies: Equitation for the Leisure Industry	1	8	7
DP1Y	34	Equine Studies: Preparation for Equestrian Vaulting	2	16	7
DP1F	34	Equine Studies: Driving the Single Turnout	2	16	7
J1BR	34	Equine: Lungeing	1	8	7
HG54	34	Equitation Instructional Techniques	2	16	7
D85F	34	Using Software Application Packages	1	8	7
J1BT	34	Supervision and Management	1	8	7
H7V4	34	Preparing to Start a Business	1	8	7
H7TK	34	Communication: Business Communication	1	8	7
F7BX	34	Marketing: An Introduction	1	8	7
H1F0	34	Creating a Culture of Customer Care	1	8	7
D75X	34*	Information Technology: Applications Software 1	1	8	7
H7MB	34*	Communication: Practical Skills	1	8	7
Optional section: Equitation Units: Up to 2 SQA unit credits (16 SCQF credit points) required					
DP1R	34	Equine Studies: Equitation	2	16	7
J8MR	34*	Equine Studies: Equitation Flatwork	1	8	7
J8MT	34*	Equine Studies: Equitation Jumping	1	8	7

*Refer to History of Changes Table

3 Aims of the qualifications

The principal aim of the HNC and HND in Equine Studies at SCQF level 7 and 8 is develop the knowledge and skills required to work and progress within the equine industry.

3.1 General aims of the qualifications

- ◆ To provide industry with a well-qualified and adaptable workforce
- ◆ To provide an academic progression route for those who wish to progress to management within the land-based sector
- ◆ To attract a wide range of learners into the industry
- ◆ To improve the standard of equine management

3.2 Specific aims of the qualifications

- 1 To provide learners with the knowledge and skills required to work in a professional manner at a supervisory level in the equine industry
- 2 To develop a high standard of knowledge, understanding and practical ability within the equine industry for those who wish to progress to a higher level of study
- 3 To develop and enhance the required competencies for those undertaking a supervisory role in an equine establishment
- 4 To develop specialist interests in equine studies by providing opportunities for in-depth study and investigation
- 5 To develop cognitive skills that can be applied to practical work situations
- 6 To develop a qualification which puts due emphasis on the importance of health and safety in the industry

3.3 Graded units

The HNC in Equine Studies contains a project-based graded unit of 8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7. The project takes the form of a practical assignment in which the learner is required to prepare a selected horse for a suitable event.

The HND in Equine Studies, in addition to the HNC Graded Unit 1, contains a project-based graded unit of 16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8. The project takes the form of a case study in which the learner is required to investigate, analyse and suggest improvements to an equine business.

4 Recommended entry to the qualifications

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 in Horse Care at SCQF level 5/6
- ◆ SVQ in Horse Care at SCQF level 5
- ◆ PDA in Competition Horse Care at SCQF level 7
- ◆ PDA in Equine Breeding at SCQF level 7
- ◆ Relevant Higher, especially English, Maths or Biology
- ◆ Other relevant group awards
- ◆ Experience of working in an equine 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 would 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	6	Written communication — reports, essays and extended response question; Oral communication — communication with customers and colleagues, presentations
Numeracy	6	Calculations regarding nutrition and required resources; financial calculations
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	6	Research, report writing
Problem Solving	6	Adapting to changing conditions and working with animals
Working with Others	6	Working with colleagues and customers

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 skills, 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
DP1M 34	Equine Studies: Equine Nutrition	X	X	X			
DP1J 34	Equine Studies: Equine Fitness	X	X				X
DP1N 34	Equine Studies: Equine Selection	X	X		X		X
DP1G 34	Equine Studies: Equine Anatomy and Physiology	X	X				
J1PK 34	Equine Health	X	X				
DP3D 35	Equine Studies: Equine Grassland Management	X	X	X	X	X	
HG52 34	Equine: Care of the Competition Horse	X	X		X	X	X
HG53 34	Equine Facility Management	X	X	X		X	X
H91M 35	Managing an Event					X	
HJ4W 34	Work Placement					X	X
J1BN 35	Equine Behaviour	X	X		X		
J1BP 35	Managing an Equine Business	X	X	X		X	X
DP1X 35	Equine Studies: Planning Equine Facilities	X	X	X	X	X	X

- 1 To provide learners with the knowledge and skills required to work in a professional manner at a supervisory level in the equine industry
- 2 To develop a high standard of knowledge, understanding and practical ability within the equine industry for those who wish to progress to a higher level of study
- 3 To develop and enhance the required competencies for those undertaking a supervisory role in an equine establishment
- 4 To develop specialist interests in equine studies by providing opportunities for in-depth study and investigation
- 5 To develop cognitive skills that can be applied to practical work situations
- 6 To develop a qualification which puts due emphasis on the importance of health and safety in the industry

5.2 Mapping of National Occupational Standards (NOS)

Code	Unit title	National Occupational Standard															
		301	302	303	304	305	306	307	310	312	313	317	320	324	326	228	
DP1M 34	Equine Studies: Equine Nutrition				X	X	X										
DP1J 34	Equine Studies: Equine Fitness	X	X				X										
DP1N 34	Equine Studies: Equine Selection		X														
DP1G 34	Equine Studies: Equine Anatomy and Physiology			X													
J1PK 34	Equine Health	X		X			X										
DP3D 35	Equine Studies: Equine Grassland Management										X						
HG52 34	Equine: Care of the Competition Horse						X	X		X							
HG53 34	Equine Facility Management					X											
J1BN 35	Equine Behaviour						X										
J1BP 35	Managing an Equine Business																
DP1X 35	Equine Studies: Planning Equine Facilities																
DP21 35	Equine Studies: Progressive Training Programmes for the Young Horse											X					
DP3E 35	Equine Studies: Evaluating an Equestrian Cross Country Course																
HC4C 35	Equine Studies: Riding and Training Techniques Over Fences												X				
HC4D 35	Equine Studies: Riding and Training Techniques on the Flat												X				
DP24 34	Equine Studies: The Brood Mare																
DP25 34	Equine Studies: The Stallion																
DP1P 34	Equine Studies: Equine Youngstock								X								
DP1R 34	Equine Studies: Equitation																
DP1T 34	Equine Studies: Equitation for the Leisure Industry														X	X	
DP1Y 34	Equine Studies: Preparation for Equestrian Vaulting							X									
DP1F 34	Equine Studies: Driving the Single Turnout							X									
J1BR 34	Equine: Lungeing							X					X	X			
		301	302	303	304	305	306	307	310	312	313	317	320	324	326	228	

NOS unit titles

LANEq301	Develop and implement a horse rehabilitation plan
LANEq302	Receive a horse and carry out an initial assessment
LANEq303	Deliver basic health care treatment to horses
LANEq304	Plan diets and implement feeding regimes for horses
LANEq305	Monitor and maintain stocks of feed and bedding
LANEq306	Promote the health and wellbeing of horses
LANEq307	Tack up horses for specialist work
LANEq308	Clip horses
LANEq309	Prepare horses for public appearance
LANEq310	Introduce young horses to equipment to aid training and development
LANEq312	Manage horses when turned out
LANEq313	Prepare and maintain grazing land for horses
LANEq317	Contribute to the design and implementation of a work programme for horses
LANEq320	Contribute to training of horses from the ground
LANEq222	Assist with the exercise and care for performance horses
LANEq223	Care for performance horses after strenuous exercise
LANEq324	Exercise and improve the performance of horses using lunging or long reigning
LANEq326	Prepare to lead a horse trek
LANEq228	Carry out pre and post horse trek activities

5.3 Mapping of Core Skills development opportunities across the qualifications

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
DP1M 34	Equine Studies: Equine Nutrition	X	X	X	X				X	X	X		
DP1J 34	Equine Studies: Equine Fitness	X	X	X					X	X	X		
DP1N 34	Equine Studies: Equine Selection	X	X	X	X				X	X	X		
DP1G 34	Equine Studies: Equine Anatomy and Physiology	X	X										
J1PK 34	Equine Health	X	X	X					X		X		
DP3D 35	Equine Studies: Equine Grassland Management	X	X		X								
HG52 34	Equine: Care of the Competition Horse	X	X	X					X	X	X	X	
HG53 34	Equine Facility Management	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
J1BN 35	Equine Behaviour	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
J1BP 35	Managing an Equine Business	X	X				X	X				X	X
DP1X 35	Equine Studies: Planning Equine Facilities	X	X	X	X	X				X	X		
DP21 35	Equine Studies: Progressive Training Programmes for the Young Horse	X	X	X								X	
DP3E 35	Equine Studies: Evaluating an Equestrian Cross Country Course	X	X		X	X							

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
HC4C 35	Equine Studies: Riding and Training Techniques Over Fences								SCQF level 6				
HC4D 35	Equine Studies: Riding and Training Techniques on the Flat								SCQF level 6				
DP24 34	Equine Studies: The Brood Mare	X	X						X	X			
DP25 34	Equine Studies: The Stallion								X	X			
DP1P 34	Equine Studies: Equine Youngstock	X	X		X	X			X	X			
DP1R 34	Equine Studies: Equitation	X	X									X	X
DP1T 34	Equine Studies: Equitation for the Leisure Industry	X	X						X	X		X	X
DP1Y 34	Equine Studies: Preparation for Equestrian Vaulting								X	X	X	X	X
DP1F 34	Equine Studies: Driving the Single Turnout	X	X			X			X	X			
J1BR 34	Equine: Lungeing	X	X						X	X		X	X

5.4 Assessment strategy for the qualifications

Unit	Assessment				
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	Outcome 5
Equine Studies: Equine Nutrition	Restricted response questions		Practical assignment		
Equine Studies: Equine Fitness	Practical assignment				
Equine Studies: Equine Selection	Practical/investigation				
Equine Studies: Equine Anatomy and Physiology	Restricted response questions/identification exercise		Practical investigation		
Equine Health	Short answer, restricted response and structured questions		Practical investigation		
Equine Studies: Equine Grassland Management	Project — Case study				
Equine: Care of the Competition Horse	Project — Practical exercise				
Equine Facility Management	Project — Case study				
Equine Behaviour	Short answer questions/essay	Short answer questions	Practical project		
Managing an Equine Business	Report/extended response questions	Report/extended response questions	Report/extended response questions	Report/extended response questions	Report/extended response questions
Equine Studies: Planning Equine Facilities	Project — Case study				
Equine Studies: Progressive Training Programmes for the Young Horse	Structured Questions	Project			
Equine Studies: Evaluating an Equestrian Cross Country Course	Project				
Equine Studies: Riding and Training Techniques Over Fences	Practical assignment		Report		

Unit	Assessment				
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	Outcome 5
Equine Studies: Riding and Training Techniques on the Flat	Practical assignment		Report		
Equine Studies: The Brood Mare	Structured questions				
Equine Studies: The Stallion	Report and practical	Report	Report		
Equine Studies: Equine Youngstock	Structured questions	Practical assignment	Structured questions		
Equine Studies: Equitation	Practical assignment	Practical assignment	Practical assignment		
Equine Studies: Equitation for the Leisure Industry	Practical assignment	Extended response questions	Practical assignment		
Equine Studies: Preparation for Equestrian Vaulting	Project — Practical assignment				
Equine Studies: Driving the Single Turnout	Project — Practical assignment				
Equine: Lungeing	Practical and identification exercise	Practical assignment	Practical assignment		

6 Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment

The delivery and assessment of the HNC and HND in Equine Studies should reflect the practical nature of the qualifications and the type of work learners are likely to be employed in. Wherever possible learners should be given the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in a practical context, with a range of horses in a realistic working environment.

6.1 Sequencing/integration of units

There is no prescribed sequence for delivering units as part of the HNC and HND however the following points are provided as guidance:

- ◆ Centres may wish to consider delivery of units that contribute to the graded units as early as possible to allow learners the maximum time to develop their graded unit projects.
- ◆ Centres should consider seasonality when planning unit delivery, for example delivery of *Equine Studies: The Brood Mare in the Spring* and *Equine Studies: Equine Grassland Management in the Autumn*.
- ◆ Delivery of SCQF level 8 units following the SCQF level 7 units that contain knowledge and skills that would contribute to the higher level unit, for example *Equine Studies: Equitation* and/or *Equitation Instructional Techniques* prior to *Equine Studies: Riding and Training Techniques Over Fences* and/or *Equine Studies: Riding and Training Techniques on the Flat*.

Centres are encouraged to consider integration of delivery and assessment of units wherever possible as this will help to reduce the assessment burden and increase opportunities for learners to gain an understanding of the subject 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

Learners may be able to progress, to Year 2 following completion of the HNC or Year 3 following the HND, to a range of degree programs, for example the Equine Business Management Degree at the University of the Highland and Islands.

6.2.2 Credit transfer

The most up to date units are included in the HNC and HND in Equine Studies, where learners have previously completed earlier versions credit transfer would be available for the following units:

Current unit	Code	Previous unit	Code
Equine Health	J1PK 34	Equine Studies: Equine Health	DP1L 34
Equine: Care of the Competition Horse	HG52 34	Equine Studies: Preparation of Horses for Competitions	DP20 34
Equine Facility Management	HG52 34	Equine Studies: Equine Facility Management	DP1H 34
Equine Studies: Riding and Training Techniques Over Fences	HC4C 35	Equine Studies: Riding Techniques Over Fences	DP3C 35
Equine Studies: Riding and Training Techniques on the Flat	HC4D 35	Equine Studies: Riding Techniques on the Flat	DP3A 35
Equitation Instructional Techniques	HG54 34	Equine Studies: Equine Instructional Techniques	DP1V 34
Marketing: An Introduction	F7BX 34	Marketing: An Introduction	DE3C 34
Creating a Culture of Customer Care	H1F0 34	Creating a Culture of Customer Care	DJ42 34
Work Placement	HJ4W 34	Work Experience	DV0M 34
Supervision and Management	J1BT 34	Supervision and Management	F5CP 34
Communication: Business Communication	H7TK 34	Communication: Analysing and Presenting Complex Communication	DE3N 34

The above list is not intended to be definitive and other opportunities for credit transfer and/or accreditation of prior learning should be considered on a case by case basis.

6.3 Opportunities for e-assessment

The practical nature of the HNC and HND in Equine Studies will not lend itself to e-assessment for a number of units but centres may wish to consider its use for the more theoretical units, for example:

- ◆ Equine Studies: Equine Anatomy and Physiology
- ◆ Managing an Equine Business
- ◆ Equine Studies: Planning Equine Facilities

An electronic portfolio may also be a useful way for learners to collect and organise evidence across a number of units.

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 trained staff centres will require access to a range of facilities and resources including, but not limited to:

A range of suitable horses
Stable/yard
Feed room
Tack including competition tack
Fields
Arena

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 assessments 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:

- ◆ 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)

Graded unit: Graded units assess learners' ability to integrate what they have learned while working towards the units of the group award. Their purpose is to add value to the group award, making it more than the sum of its parts, and to encourage learners to retain and adapt their skills and knowledge.

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

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
04	Addition of Optional Units: J8MR 34 Equine Studies: Equitation Flatwork, and J8MT 34 Equine Studies: Equitation Jumping have been added to the HNC and HND frameworks as alternatives to DP1R 34 Equine Studies: Equitation	25/11/24
03	Additional Unit: H7MB 34 Communication: Practical Skills has been added as an optional unit to the HNC and HND frameworks	07/02/24
02	Additional Unit: D75X 34 Information Technology: Applications Software 1 has been added to both frameworks	22/02/21

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 HNC and HND in Equine Studies have been designed to provide you with the knowledge and skills required for current and future employment in the equine industry and for progression to higher level academic or professional qualifications in the sector.

The HNC in Equine Studies might be suitable for you if you are able to work, unsupervised, in an equine establishment and if you plan to work at a supervisory level in the future.

The HND in Equine Studies might be suitable for you if you already have experience at a supervisory level and wish to work at management level in the future

Both awards will prepare you for wider responsibilities in the industry and / or progression to further study.

The qualifications are suitable if you are already working in or wishing to work in a range of equine environments including stud yards, stables, leisure organisations, competition centres, racing stables, driving yards, eventing yards and riding for the disabled.

In addition to the practical skills and knowledge you will develop in the HNC/D you will also have the opportunity to develop a range of Core Skills, including *Communication*, *Problem Solving* and *Working with Others*.