



Group Award Specification for:

**National Progression Award (NPA) in Investigation
of Modern Agriculture at SCQF level 5**

Group Award Code: GR1K 45

Validation date: February 2020

Date of original publication: March 2020

Version: 01

Contents

1	Introduction.....	1
2	Qualification structure.....	1
	2.1 Structure.....	1
3	Aims of the qualification.....	2
	3.1 General aims of the qualification.....	2
	3.2 Specific aims of the qualification.....	2
4	Recommended entry to the qualification.....	3
	4.1 Core Skills entry profile.....	4
5	Additional benefits of the qualification in meeting employer needs.....	5
	5.1 Mapping of qualification aims to units.....	6
	5.2 Mapping of National Occupational Standards (NOS) and/or trade body standards	6
	5.3 Mapping of Core Skills development opportunities across the qualification.....	6
	5.4 Assessment strategy for the qualification.....	7
6	Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment.....	8
	6.1 Sequencing/integration of units.....	8
	6.2 Recognition of prior learning.....	8
	6.3 Opportunities for e-assessment.....	9
	6.4 Support materials.....	9
	6.5 Resource requirements.....	9
7	General information for centres.....	10
8	Glossary of terms.....	11
9	General information for learners.....	13

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 higher education institutes (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 NPA in Investigation of Modern Agriculture at Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF level 5) has been designed as an engaging and relevant programme looking at the changing face of modern agriculture, the role of technology and opportunities for diversification within the sector. Learners will identify skills and qualifications required to enter into employment within the sector and will have the opportunity to engage directly with employers. The NPA is specifically designed to be inclusive of learners who have no prior knowledge or experience of the agricultural sector in the hope of gaining employees from a wider community than has been traditional. It is hoped that successful learners will progress onto full-time programmes such as National Certificates (NC) or Modern Apprenticeships (MA).

2 Qualification structure

The group award is made up of 3 SQA unit credits. It comprises 18 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5, all of which are mandatory.

2.1 Structure

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
J3X9	45	Agriculture: Investigation of Local Agriculture	1.5	9	5
J3XA	45	Agri-Tourism: An Introduction	0.5	3	5
J3XB	45	Agri-Tech and Precision Farming: An Introduction	1	6	5

3 Aims of the qualification

The principal aim is to introduce the learner to key elements of modern farming and agriculture and to identify key routes to employment within the sector.

3.1 General aims of the qualification

- ◆ To provide a nationally recognised, introductory qualification in agriculture
- ◆ To develop an awareness of agricultural opportunities in the learner's local area
- ◆ To develop an appreciation of the use of technology in agriculture
- ◆ To engage young learners who may not previously have felt they had a route into the agricultural sector
- ◆ To enable the learner to identify skills and experience required for employment in the sector
- ◆ To enable progression within the SCQF onto full-time programmes in agriculture

3.2 Specific aims of the qualification

The specific aims of the NPA are to develop:

- 1 an understanding of types of agriculture in the local area and reasons behind their development.
- 2 an understanding of local climate and soils and their impact on the potential for land use.
- 3 an understanding of the impact of population and infrastructure on agricultural development.
- 4 an understanding of business models, recruitment, supply chains and employee structures within agricultural businesses.
- 5 an understanding of skills, knowledge, qualifications and experience required for agricultural employment.
- 6 an understanding of the uses and benefits of technology and data in precision farming.
- 7 an understanding of the origins of agri-tourism businesses.
- 8 the skills to be able to identify opportunities for entrepreneurship.
- 9 an understanding of the place of environmental sustainability in agricultural businesses.
- 10 the skills necessary to perform a basic Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis.

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:

- ◆ National 5 qualifications in areas which would provide sufficient analytical skills and a background in animal biology, Core Skills in *Numeracy, Communication and Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* (or equivalent) at SCQF level 5.

The award has been specifically designed to encourage learners with and without prior agricultural experience to explore opportunities within this sector and this should be taken into consideration when enrolling learners.

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	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Produce short reports or academic posters/flow charts/presentations
Numeracy	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Process simple data and attach significance
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Assist with extracting of data from agri-tech equipment ◆ Produce a report/flow chart/academic poster ◆ Manipulate simple data in a spreadsheet ◆ Complete a portfolio pro forma
Problem Solving	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Identify areas of provision lacking in local agricultural provision and opportunities for enterprise ◆ Interpret simple data from agri-tech equipment
Working with Others	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The nature of gathering information from local businesses, setting up equipment and gathering data will necessitate working with others at many levels

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
J3X9 45	Investigation of Local Agriculture	X	X	X	X	X			X		
J3XA 45	Introduction to Agri-Tourism	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
J3XB 45	Introduction to Agri-Tech and Precision Farming		X				X		X		

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

The NPA in Investigation of Modern Agriculture is intended to introduce learners to modern agriculture and to encourage them to consider the industry for a career, as such it does not map directly to the specific skills covered by the relevant Agricultural National Occupational Standards (NOS). However, learners who complete the NPA will have developed good underpinning knowledge and experience which would be highly beneficial if they chose to progress to, for example, the SCQF level 5 Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) (or equivalent Modern Apprenticeship) in Agriculture.

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
J3X9 45	Investigation of Local Agriculture	X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	
J3XA 45	Introduction to Agri-Tourism	X	X	x			X	X	X		X	X	
J3XB 45	Introduction to Agri-Tech and Precision Farming	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	

5.4 Assessment strategy for the qualification

Unit	Assessment		
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3
Agriculture: Investigation of Local Agriculture	Academic poster, flow chart or short written assignment or presentation.	Academic poster, flow chart or short written assignment or presentation. Alternatively, a recorded interview of a person from a relevant business with questions prepared by the learner along with an introduction and summary. Outcomes 2 and 3 could be assessed holistically or separately.	
Agri-Tech and Precision Farming: An Introduction	Academic poster, flow chart or short written assignment or presentation.	Academic poster, flow chart or short written assignment or presentation. Alternatively, a recorded interview of a person from a relevant business with questions prepared by the learner along with an introduction and summary. Outcomes 2 and 3 could be assessed holistically or separately.	
Agri-Tourism: An Introduction	Both outcomes could be assessed through completion of an open-book portfolio which could be provided to the learner as a pro forma.		

6 Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment

This qualification has been designed that the *Investigation of Local Agriculture* unit should provide the learner with sufficient background on existing local provision and the types of agriculture common to the area. The learner will meet and engage with local agricultural businesses which may present opportunities to encounter areas of agri-tech usage and areas of diversification into agri-tourism.

6.1 Sequencing/integration of units

It is envisaged that the unit *Investigation of Local Agriculture* would be commenced first in delivery of the qualification but in doing so, the centre may find opportunities to integrate elements of the *Agri-Tech* and *Agri-Tourism* units.

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 will be opportunities for learners to progress to a range of qualifications within the land-based area, including:

- ◆ SVQ/MA in Agriculture at SCQF level 5
- ◆ National Certificate (NC) in Agriculture at SCQF level 6

6.3 Opportunities for e-assessment

The NPA in Investigation of Modern Agriculture lends itself to a blended learning approach. An electronic portfolio could be used to demonstrate that the learner has met the Evidence Requirements of all three units that make up the NPA.

6.4 Support materials

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

6.5 Resource requirements

As an introductory qualification there is no great demand for specific physical resources however delivery of the NPA will be greatly enhanced by access to a range of farms, agricultural businesses, guest speakers and other opportunities for learners to experience modern agriculture practices.

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)

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

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 National Progression Award: Investigation of Modern Agriculture is designed to provide you with an introduction to modern practices in agriculture and to encourage you to consider the industry as a viable career opportunity.

The award requires you to consider what forms of agriculture exist in your local area and how they have come to be (including the influences of factors such as soils, climate, population and infrastructure). You will explore the skills, knowledge, experience and qualifications required to be considered for employment within the sector.

You will develop an understanding of the use of agri-tech and precision farming as it plays a vital role in the modernisation of agriculture, reduction of waste and increase in profitability.

You will investigate diversification from traditional farming, identifying existing provision in agricultural tourism as well as opportunities for new enterprises in your local area.

Completion of the programme may be a useful progression route into a full-time agricultural course or apprenticeship.