



PART OF **nocn** GROUP

QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION

NOCN Level 1 Award and Certificate in Horticulture

NOCN Level 1 Award in Horticulture

Qualification No: 600/5890/0

NOCN Level 1 Certificate in Horticulture

Qualification No: 600/5891/2

Operational Start Date: 01/07/2012

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To know more about NOCN:

- Visit the NOCN website: www.nocn.org.uk
- Call the Customer Service Team: **0300 999 1177**

Introduction

NOCN is a market-leading awarding organisation that has been providing qualifications for a wide range of Centres, including FE colleges and training providers, for 30 years both in the UK and internationally.

We work with Centres to deliver a high quality and flexible service for learners to underpin our passionate belief in the power of education and its impact on communities and individuals.

We offer all the advantages of being with a national awarding organisation with a diverse portfolio of qualifications, alongside providing a personalised, bespoke, service to our Centres and learners.

As an accredited Leader in Diversity we are proud of our reputation as a provider of fully accessible, trusted and flexible qualifications.

About NOCN Group

NOCN is part of NOCN Group, a progressive educational charity whose core aims are to help learners reach their potential and organisations thrive. The group includes business units specialising in regulated UK and international qualifications, end point assessment, endorsed programmes and assured short courses, Smart job cards, assessment services, consultancy, and research.

NOCN Group shares a joint purpose to offer learners, training providers, employers, and FE Colleges a fully integrated range of learning and skills development products and services.

Information about all our courses and qualifications is available from our website:

www.nocn.org.uk/

Qualifications at a Glance

Title	Size
NOCN Level 1 Award in Horticulture	GLH - 90 TQT - 100 Credit - 10
NOCN Level 1 Certificate in Horticulture	GLH - 144 TQT - 160 Credit - 16
Purpose	Target Audience
The purpose of these qualifications is to equip learners with the knowledge and understanding to progress to further training in or progress into a job role in the horticulture industry.	These Level 1 qualifications are primarily for learners aged 14 and above and who want to continue their education and develop their knowledge/competencies and understanding of their role in horticulture or pursue a career in horticulture.
Content Overview	Entry Requirements
These Level 1 qualifications provide learners with a range of knowledge and skills. Learners will also develop an understanding of knowledge related to growing plants for working in the horticulture industry.	There are no formal entry requirements for learners undertaking these qualifications. The qualifications can be undertaken without any previous training or qualifications in this subject area.

Assessment	Additional Resources
<p>There are a variety of assessment methods used in these qualifications. Please see each unit for information on how it must be assessed.</p>	

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1. Overview of Qualification

These qualifications are vocationally based and as such, offers the opportunity for learners to demonstrate an achievement of practical skills, understanding and knowledge horticulture.

The qualifications will prepare learners to progress to a qualification in the same subject area but at a higher level or requiring more specific knowledge, skills and understanding. It will also enhance learners understanding and knowledge fi currently employed in the horticulture industry.

These qualifications are for:

The purpose of these qualifications is to equip learners with the knowledge and understanding to progress to further training in or progress into a job role in the horticulture industry. The target audience is wide ranging and includes school and college students, apprentices, offender learners in the prison estate, adults returning to work and those considering or engaging in a career change.

Entry Requirements

There are no formal entry requirements for learners undertaking these qualifications. The qualifications can be undertaken without any previous training or qualifications in this subject area.

Learners must be in a position to demonstrate the requirements of the qualification and have access to required assessment opportunities and relevant resources. Please refer to specific assessment requirements on individual components for more information.

Centres should undertake initial assessment activities with learners to ensure this is an appropriate qualification and they are capable of achieving the level they will be studying before enrolling them onto a programme of learning.

These qualifications are available to learners aged **14** years or over.

Progression Routes

Achievement of these qualifications confirms the learner has gained the knowledge and skills required to:

- Gain employment in roles such as:
 - Gardener.
 - Plant nursery worker.
 - Florist.
- Progress onto an apprenticeship in amenity or production horticulture.
- Employment in the horticultural field.

2. Qualification Details

2.1. Qualification Structure

The NOCN Level 1 Award in Horticulture is a 10 credit qualification with a Total Qualification Time (TQT) of 100 hours, including 90 Guided Learning Hours (GLH).

Learners **must** achieve all **4** credits from the **2** mandatory components in **Mandatory Group A** and a minimum of **6** credits from the **6** units in **Mandatory Group B**.

Mandatory Group A

Unit	M/O	Level	Ofqual Unit Ref	Credits	GLH	Assessment
Health and Safety in a Practical Environment	M	L1	Y/600/3239	1	9	Portfolio of Evidence
Understanding Soils and Growing Media	M	L1	K/504/0740	3	27	Portfolio of Evidence

Mandatory Group B

Unit	M/O	Level	Ofqual Unit Ref	Credits	GLH	Assessment
Pest Control	O	L1	M/503/8620	1	9	Portfolio of Evidence
Plant Propagation	O	L1	M/504/0755	3	27	Portfolio of Evidence
Plant Selection	O	L1	M/504/0738	3	27	Portfolio of Evidence
Plant Pruning	O	L1	R/505/0601	1	9	Portfolio of Evidence
Using and Maintaining Horticultural Hand Tools	O	L1	T/504/0742	3	27	Portfolio of Evidence
Weed Control	O	L1	A/504/0743	1	9	Portfolio of Evidence

The NOCN Level 1 Certificate in Horticulture is a 16 credit qualification with a Total Qualification Time (TQT) of 160 hours, including 144 Guided Learning Hours (GLH).

Learners **must** achieve all **4** credits from the **2** mandatory components in **Mandatory Group A** and a minimum of **4** credits from the **7** units in **Mandatory Group B**. The learners may also achieve a maximum of **6** credits from the **2** available units in **Optional Group C**.

Mandatory Group A

Unit	M/O	Level	Ofqual Unit Ref	Credits	GLH	Assessment
Health and Safety in a Practical Environment	M	L1	Y/600/3239	1	9	Portfolio of Evidence
Understanding Soils and Growing Media	M	L1	K/504/0740	3	27	Portfolio of Evidence

Mandatory Group B

Unit	M/O	Level	Ofqual Unit Ref	Credits	GLH	Assessment
Organic Soil Management	O	L1	L/504/0746	2	18	Portfolio of Evidence
Pest Control	O	L1	M/503/8620	1	9	Portfolio of Evidence
Plant Propagation	O	L1	M/504/0755	3	27	Portfolio of Evidence
Plant Selection	O	L1	M/504/0738	3	27	Portfolio of Evidence
Plant Pruning	O	L1	R/505/0601	1	9	Portfolio of Evidence
Using and Maintaining Horticultural Hand Tools	O	L1	T/504/0742	3	27	Portfolio of Evidence
Weed Control	O	L1	A/504/0743	1	9	Portfolio of Evidence

Optional Group C

Unit	M/O	Level	Ofqual Unit Ref	Credits	GLH	Assessment
Communication in the Workplace	O	L1	J/503/7618	3	27	Portfolio of Evidence
Customer Service Skills	O	L1	J/600/3236	3	27	Portfolio of Evidence

2.2. Total Qualification Time (TQT)

Through consultation with users, TQT has been agreed by considering the total number of learning hours required for the average learner to achieve these qualifications.

TQT is split into two areas:

Area	Example of activities
<p>1. Guided Learning Hours (GLH):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> learning activity under the immediate guidance or supervision of a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training includes the activity of being assessed if the assessment takes place under the immediate guidance or supervision of a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom-based learning supervised by a teacher Work-based learning supervised by a teacher Live webinar or telephone tutorial with a teach in real time E-learning supervised by a teacher in real time All forms of assessment which take place under the immediate guidance or supervision of an appropriate provider of training Exam time
<p>2. Other Learning Hours (OLH):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an estimate of the number of hours a learner will spend, as directed by (but not under the immediate guidance or supervision of) a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> preparatory work self-study any other form of education or training, including assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent and unsupervised research / learning Unsupervised compilation of a portfolio of work experience Unsupervised e-learning Unsupervised e-assessment Unsupervised coursework Watching a pre-recorded podcast or webinar Unsupervised work-based learning

2.3. Assessment and Evidence

These qualifications consist of internally set and internally assessed units.

Internal assessment (internally set and internally assessed)

Internal assessment activity must ensure evidence of achievement against **all** the requirements specified within each component.

For assessments that are internally set, the IQA will need to ensure pre-verification of assessment tasks take place prior to its use to ensure that it is an appropriate assessment tool, that it is inclusive to learners of all needs, that it meets the principles of assessment and does not hinder learner attainment of the NOCN assessment evidence requirements.

Refer to the **NOCN Quality Assurance Manual** for further information on the Internal Quality Assurance process. This can be found on the NOCN website at www.nocn.org.uk

Centres must ensure that knowledge-based learning is at the correct level for the qualifications.

Assessment activities must be robust in that the assessment decisions are made based on evidence, which is valid, authentic, current, sufficient and reliable regarding the assessment taking place:

- Valid** The validity of an assessment decision is ensuring that the right thing has been assessed in the right way to deliver an accurate assessment result.
- Authentic** The assessment process must ensure that all evidence of achievement is authentic in that it has been created solely by the learner (unless otherwise required) and has not been plagiarised. If work was not authentic, it would undermine the entire the assessment process and overall qualification system.
- Current** The assessment process must ensure that the evidence used to claim qualification or unit achievement reflects current industry/qualification practice. This can be done by ensuring that the evidence is relevant at the time of the assessment as well as ensuring that the assessor has used the most-up-date assessment documentation.
- Sufficient** The Assessor must review assessment evidence to judge whether the learner has generated enough evidence at the right level to confidently cover all relevant learning outcome or assessment criteria requirements. The Assessor must also ensure their records of the assessment are complete, legible and accurate.
- Reliable** The Assessor must ensure that they are making reliable and consistent assessment decisions across their learners and with other Assessors within the Centre. Assessment decisions must also be consistent over time and across academic/programme cycles. This can be supported by attending standardisation activities.

2.4. Fair and Equitable Assessment

Assessment must be designed to be accessible and inclusive and the assessment methodology must be appropriate for individual assessment, giving due consideration to any assessment requirements attached to individual components.

2.5. Learners with Particular Requirements

If you are a NOCN Recognised Centre and have learners with particular requirements, please see the **NOCN Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy and Procedure** found on the NOCN website at www.nocn.org.uk

This policy gives clear guidance on the reasonable adjustments and arrangements that can be made to take account of disability or learning difficulty without compromising the assessment criteria.

The NOCN Centre Approval process requires the Centre to hold policy statements on Equal Opportunities, Diversity and Disability Discrimination, which will be reviewed by NOCN.

Please refer to the **NOCN Quality Assurance Manual** for further details.

2.6. Recognised Prior Learning

Recognising Prior Learning is an assessment process that recognises learning that has its origins in a learner's experience and/or previous formal and informal learning contexts. This includes knowledge and skills gained within school, college, university and outside formal learning situations such as through life, employment, apprenticeships and other work experiences.

NOCN is committed to the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and has developed a policy and procedures to inform and support Centres. This is available on the NOCN website at www.nocn.org.uk

2.7. Assessment and Evidence for the Components

Forms and guidance for gathering learner evidence against the individual assessment criteria are available for download in Word format on the NOCN website:

www.nocn.org.uk/support/nocn-support/quality-assurance/

3. Centre Information

3.1. Required Resources for Delivering the Qualification

As part of the requirement to deliver these qualifications there is an expectation that staff undertaking roles as part of the delivery and assessment of the qualifications have a demonstrable level of expertise.

NOCN expects that Tutors and Assessors are able to demonstrate the following competencies:

3.1.1 Tutor Requirements

- Be technically competent/subject matter experts, hold or be registered as working towards, a recognised education and training qualification, have experience of delivering training within this subject area. The minimum expectation is that the level of competence of the Tutor should be at the same level as the training that is to be delivered.

3.1.2 Assessor Requirements

- Be technically competent, have experience of carrying out assessment activities and hold, or be registered as working towards, a recognised assessing qualification. The minimum expectation is that the level of competence of the Assessor should be at the same level as the qualification being assessed.

3.1.3 Internal Quality Assurer Requirements

Each centre must have internal quality assurance policies and procedures in place to ensure that decisions made by Assessors are appropriate, consistent, fair and transparent, and that they do not discriminate against any learner. The policies and procedures must be sufficient to secure the quality of the award, ensuring validity, reliability and consistency.

NOCN expects that an Internal Quality Assurer is able to demonstrate the following competencies:

They should:

- Have an understanding of the subject area, have experience in carrying out internal quality assurance activities and hold, or be registered as working towards, a recognised Internal Quality Assurance qualification. The minimum expectation is that the level of competence should be at the same level as the qualification being quality assured.

NOCN supports and recognises Centres' internal quality assurance systems which support the above; any system should include standardisation and sharing of good practice.

Centre staff may undertake more than one role, e.g. tutor, assessor or internal quality assurer, but they **cannot** carry out any quality assurance on work that they have previously assessed.

Refer to the **NOCN Quality Assurance Manual** for further information on the Internal Quality Assurance process. This can be found on the NOCN website at www.nocn.org.uk

3.1.4 Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Centres are expected to support their staff, ensuring that their subject knowledge remains current and that their members of staff are up to date with regards to best practice in delivery, assessment and quality assurance.

3.1.5 External Quality Assurance

Once recognised as a Centre, NOCN will allocate an External Quality Assurer. The External Quality Assurer will have ongoing responsibility for monitoring the Centre's compliance with the requirements of recognised Centre approval status.

The External Quality Assurer will make regular visits to all Centres. During these visits they will:

Monitor the Centre's compliance with the Centre approval criteria by reviewing course documentation, meeting managers, tutors, internal quality assurers, learners, and administrative staff.

Review the standard of the Centre's assessment and internal quality assurance practices and decisions to determine whether all assessment requirements are met to support safe and valid claims for certification.

Refer to the **NOCN Quality Assurance Manual** for further information on the External Quality Assurance process. This can be found on the NOCN website at www.nocn.org.uk

3.2. Offering the Qualification

Existing Centres

If you are already recognised to offer NOCN qualifications and would like more information about offering this qualification, please contact: business-enquiries@nocn.org.uk, alternatively use Horizon to add this qualification to your Centre.

New Centres

If you are interested in offering this qualification, but are not yet a NOCN Approved Centre and would like more information about becoming a NOCN Centre and offering this qualification please see **Become a Registered Centre** on our website <https://www.nocn.org.uk/customers/nocn-centres/> and click Become a Centre.

4. Component Information

Within the Suite of Level 1 Award and Certificate in Horticulture qualifications, the qualifications consist of Mandatory and Optional components. The qualification structures (**see section 2**) sets out the rules for achieving the qualifications.

To achieve these qualifications a learner must provide evidence of learning and achievement against all the assessment requirements within each of their chosen components.

A copy of all Mandatory and Optional components can be downloaded via the NOCN website.

[NOCN Level 1 Award in Horticulture - NOCN](#)

[NOCN Level 1 Certificate in Horticulture - NOCN](#)

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PART OF **nocn** GROUP

Acero Building
1 Concourse Way
Sheaf Street
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
England
S1 2BJ

Tel: 0300 999 1177

Email: nocn@nocn.org.uk

www.nocn.org.uk