



Component Specification

Combinable Crop Production

Level 5

5N1741

1. Introduction

The Further Education and Training Awards Council is the single national awarding body in further education and training in Ireland. It is responsible for determining the standards for named awards at levels 1 to 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications. All named awards are devised in line with the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland's determinations and guidelines.

2. The National Framework of Qualifications

The National Framework of Qualifications comprises 10 levels ranging from initial learning (level 1) to the most advanced levels of learning (level 10).

At each level there are one or more award types. An award type is a grouping of awards that share similar features. The National Qualifications Authority of Ireland has determined Award Type Descriptors for each award type. See www.nqai.ie. The Award Type Descriptor identifies the key strands and sub-strands of knowledge, skill and competence for that award type.

3. Guide to Level

Learning outcomes at this level include a broad range of skills that require some theoretical understanding. The outcomes may relate to engaging in a specific activity, with the capacity to use the instruments and techniques relating to an occupation. They are associated with work being undertaken independently, subject to general direction.

Strand	Sub-strand	Nature of learning
Knowledge	Breadth	Broad range of knowledge
	Kind	Some theoretical concepts and abstract thinking, with significant depth in some areas. Some underpinning theory
Know How & Skill	Range	Demonstrate a broad range of specialised skills and tools
	Selectivity	Evaluate and use information to plan and develop investigative strategies and to determine solutions to varied unfamiliar problems
Competence	Context	Act in a range of varied and specific contexts, taking responsibility for the nature and quality of outputs; identify and apply skill and knowledge to a wide variety of contexts
	Role	Exercise some initiative and independence in carrying out defined activities; join and function within multiple, complex and heterogeneous groups
	Learning to Learn	Learn to take responsibility for own learning within a managed environment
	Insight	Assume full responsibility for consistency of self- understanding and behaviour

Extract from 'Determinations for the Outline National Framework of Qualifications': NQAI (www.nqai.ie)

4. Award Specifications

FETAC determines the standards for all awards in partnership with relevant stakeholders. This award was developed in line with the Council policy on Standards Development published in September 2005.

Standards are published in the form of Award Specifications. A Specification is devised in respect of each named award. Each Specification provides a comprehensive description of the features, characteristics and standards of the award.

A **Certificate Specification** is published for each named **major award**.

A **Component Specification** is published for each named **minor award**. Please note that each component (i.e. minor award) is associated with one or more Certificates (i.e. major, special purpose or supplemental award). See www.fetac.ie.

A **Specific Purpose Specification** is published for each **special purpose award**.

A **Supplemental Specification** is published for each **supplemental award**.

Standards are expressed in terms of **learning outcomes** i.e. concise statements of what the learner is expected to know or be able to do in order to achieve that award.

Learning outcomes for all awards (i.e. major, special purpose, supplemental awards) are contained within the associated Component Specifications.

5. Component Details

Title	Combinable Crop Production
Teideal as Gaeilge	To be confirmed by FETAC (TBC)
Award Type	Minor
Code	5N1741
Level	5
Credit Value	30
Purpose	The purpose of this award is to equip the learner with the knowledge, skill and competence to produce a range of combinable crops under management in accordance with recommended standards, relevant legislation and good farming practice.
Learning Outcomes	Learners will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Describe combinable production in Ireland including types of combinable crops produced, areas sown and market outlets2 Discuss key indicators for measuring physical and financial performance for a range of combinable crops3 Describe the production of winter wheat, winter barley, and winter oats in a farm situation, including rotation, site selection, variety selection, crop establishment, nutrient requirements, pest control strategies, and harvesting procedures4 Describe the production of spring wheat, spring feed and malting barley, and spring oats in a farm situation, including rotation, site selection, variety selection, crop establishment, nutrient requirements, pest control strategies, and harvesting procedures5 Describe the production of oil seed rape in a farm situation, including rotation, site selection, variety selection, crop establishment, nutrient requirements, pest control strategies, and harvesting procedures6 Describe the production of peas in a farm situation, including rotation, site selection, variety selection, crop establishment, nutrient requirements, pest control strategies, and harvesting procedures7 Describe the production of beans in a farm situation, including rotation, site selection, variety selection, crop establishment, nutrient requirements, pest control strategies, and harvesting procedures

- 8 Describe farm storage of cereals, oilseed rape, peas and beans including crop storage requirements, types of storage facilities, and costs or benefit of storage versus sale off the combine
- 9 Outline the marketing of cereals, oilseed rape, peas, and beans including identification of market outlets, pricing arrangements, and factors affecting price determination
- 10 Identify the range of combinable crops grown on arable farms and their uses
- 11 Identify weeds of importance in combinable crops including selecting appropriate herbicides with the aid of herbicide charts
- 12 Identify pests of importance in combinable crops including selecting appropriate pesticides with the aid of pesticide charts
- 13 Identify diseases and disorders of combinable crops including appropriate control measures with the aid of fungicide charts
- 14 Identify growth stages in combinable crops with the aid of a key
- 15 Demonstrate stamina, initiative and independence through involvement in work on a commercial tillage farm
- 16 Operate effectively under management in a commercial farm situation.

Assessment

General Information

Details of FETAC's assessment requirements are set out in [Assessment Guidelines for Providers](#).

All FETAC assessment is criterion referenced. Successful achievement of the award is based on learners attaining the required standards of knowledge, skill or competence.

The techniques set out below are considered the optimum approach to assessment for this component. In exceptional circumstances providers may identify alternative assessment techniques through the provider's application for programme validation which are **reliable** and **valid** but which are more appropriate to their context.

Assessment of a number of components may be integrated across programmes for delivery, provided that the learning outcomes of each minor award are assessed.

Group or team work may form part of the assessment, provided each learner's achievement is separately assessed.

All providers are required to submit an assessment plan as part of their application for programme validation. Assessment Plans will include information relating to scheduling and integration of assessment. [See FETAC's Provider Guidelines for Programme Validation](#).

Assessment Techniques

In order to demonstrate that they have reached the standards of knowledge, skill and competence identified in all the learning outcomes, learners are required to complete the assessment(s) below.

The assessor is responsible for devising assessment instruments (e.g. project and assignment briefs, examination papers), assessment criteria and mark sheets, consistent with the techniques identified below and FETAC's assessment requirements.

Programme validation will require providers to map each learning outcome to its associated assessment technique. [See FETAC's Provider Guidelines for Programme Validation.](#)

All learning outcomes **must** be assessed.

Learner Record	10%
Examination - Theory	50%
Examination - Practical	40%

Description

Learner Record

A learner record is the learner's self-reported and self-reflective record in which he/she describes specific learning experiences, activities, responses and skills acquired.

The assessor will devise a brief that requires the learner to maintain a learner record for a minimum period of 220 hours work experience on a crop farm. Learners are required to record their application of all learning outcomes in a farm setting. The learner must pass this assessment to achieve the award

Examination - Theory

An examination provides a means of assessing a learner's ability to recall and apply knowledge, skills and understanding within a set period of time and under clearly specified conditions.

A theory-based examination assesses the ability to recall, apply and understand specific theory and knowledge.

The assessor will devise a theory based examination to assess learning outcomes 1 - 9.

Examination - Practical

An examination provides a means of assessing a learner's ability to recall and apply knowledge, skills and understanding within a set period of time and under clearly specified conditions.

A practical examination assesses specified practical skills demonstrated in a set period of time under restricted conditions.

The assessor will devise a practical examination based on learning outcomes 10 - 14.

Practical Tasks

Identify 8 out of 10 combinable crops and growth stages

Identify 8 out of 10 weeds and select appropriate control measure

Identify 8 out of 10 pests and select appropriate control measure
Identify 8 out of 10 diseases and disorders and select appropriate control measure

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	Learners may be assessed on the basis of their prior knowledge and experience. Providers must be specifically quality assured to assess learners by this means. To do so they must complete B10, see Provider's Quality Assurance Guidelines and be included on the Register of RPL approved providers. See RPL Guidelines at www.fetac.ie for further information and registration details.						
Grading	<table><tr><td>Pass</td><td>50% - 64%</td></tr><tr><td>Merit</td><td>65% - 79%</td></tr><tr><td>Distinction</td><td>80% - 100%</td></tr></table>	Pass	50% - 64%	Merit	65% - 79%	Distinction	80% - 100%
Pass	50% - 64%						
Merit	65% - 79%						
Distinction	80% - 100%						
Specific Validation Requirements	There are no specific validation requirements						
Supporting Documentation	None						
Access	To access programmes leading to this award the learner should have reached the standards of knowledge, skill and competence associated with the preceding level of the National Framework of Qualifications. This may have been achieved through a formal qualification or through relevant life and work experience.						
Transfer	Successful completion of this component award enables the learner to transfer to programmes leading to other certificates where this component is a mandatory or an elective requirement.						