

# Innovating Equine Graded Unit 1: Peer Assessment 'Digipals', Moodle & Mahara



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## Introduction

SQA's Graded Unit is a mandatory element of the framework of all HNC and HND frameworks. Both staff and students find the complexity of the Graded Unit requirements in comparison to other units within the framework challenging.

With the funding from SRUC's Pedagogical Funding Stream, the project team have created a transferable and flexible online model in Moodle, which includes the use of Mahara (e-Portfolio software) to collect and collate information for the investigative and practical elements of the HNC Graded Unit. The delivery also includes student support through anonymous peer assessment.

The project has the full backing from SQA who wish to use the model for the sector and is also involved with their Digital Evidence Project.

## New Scaffolding Framework Design

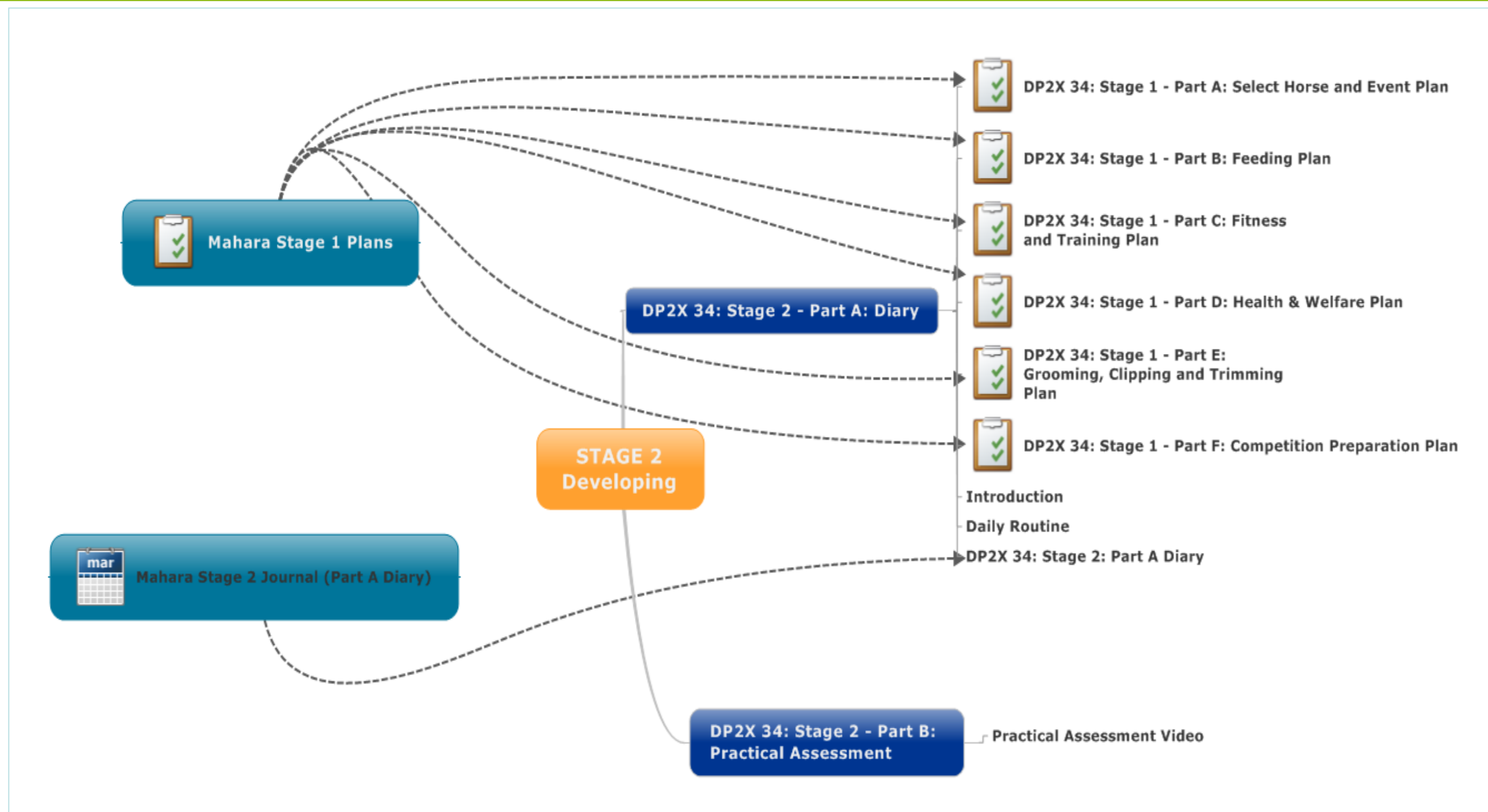


Fig 1.0 :Stage 2 New Scaffolding Framework Design

The team reconstructed Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Graded Unit assessment with a scaffolding framework approach through analysing SQA's assessment descriptor and hand-picked student's highly graded paper based Graded Unit 1 assessments from previous years.

## Peer Assessment Anonymous 'Digipals'

The Moodle Workshop activity was utilised as the online Peer Assessment tool where the HND Equine students successfully anonymously peer reviewed the HNC Equine student's draft Stage 1 document submissions.

Evidence states: **50% of the HND students passed Graded Unit 2 last year, where 91% of this year's HND students passed their Graded Unit 2 assessment.**

## Graded Unit 1 Support & Statistics

- **Video User Guides** – A total of 14 Video user guides were created.
- **PDF User Guides** - A total of 21 PDF document user guides were created.
- **MoodleTxt** - Over 1200 mobile texts sent and received, which contained announcement and support related texts.
- **Moodle Support Forum** - A total of 113 discussion/announcement posts and replies.
- **Questionnaires** - A total of 8 questionnaires were created for all stages of the Graded Unit assessment.
- **Average Graded Unit 1 Stage's Grades:**
  - Stage 1: 61.17% (B Grade)
  - Stage 2: 68.50% (B Grade)
  - Stage 3: 70.75% (A Grade)
- **Overall Graded Unit 1 Average Grade** – 66.98% (B Grade), with a **27% increase of A-Grades** compared to last academic year.

## Equine Graded Unit 1 Project Online Report



Access the interactive Equine Graded Unit Project Outline Report, which provides highlights of the project including the new scaffolding design, Peer Assessment phase, Examples of HNC Student's submissions, Moodle gradebook and much more...

<http://goo.gl/MfYMZE>

## Moodle & Mahara

- **Stage 1 Planning** –The students fruitfully engaged with Mobile Image and Video Apps populated their media rich Mahara pages and submitted these to Moodle for assessment, which were marked using online Rubrics.

The screenshot shows a Mahara page titled 'DP2X 34: Stage 1 Planning'. It includes sections for 'Patch's Measurements' with a photo of a horse and 'Patch's Weight' with a photo and calculations. The page is part of a Moodle assignment.

Fig 2.0: HNC Student Stage 1 Mahara example with embedded images created through using mobile Apps

- **Stage 2 Developing** - The HNC students created their own Mahara page for an online reflective Journal and an additional Mahara page self critiquing their annotated, time-lapsed, voice-over videos for their practical based assessment.

The screenshot shows a Mahara page titled 'DP2X 34: Stage 2 Developing'. It includes embedded videos for 'Washing - Legs & Tail' and 'Platting - Mane & Tail'. Below the videos, there is a feedback section with comments from a student.

Fig 3.0: HNC student Stage 2 Mahara Part B Page with embedded practical videos and self reflection

- **Stage 3 Evaluating** - HNC students used Word processing packages and saved their completed Stage 3 Evaluating reports as a PDF documents. These PDF document reports would be uploaded to the Stage 3 Moodle Assignment, this allows the Lecturer to annotate directly within the student's PDF documents in Moodle. All three stages marked using online Rubrics within Moodle automatically synching to the Moodle Gradebook.

First name / Surname	Status	Grade	File submissions	Last modified (grade)	Feedback comments	Annotate PDF
Shannon	Submitted for grading	A (76.67%)	Evaluation.pdf Turnitin ID: 45000153	Friday, 22 May 2015, 8:04 PM	A good piece of work showing understanding and reflection on performance, well done. 😊	Shannon_33681_0.pdf Export to Mahara View annotated PDF...
Hollie	Submitted for grading	A (83.33%)	Stage 3 Evaluation Report.pdf.pdf Turnitin ID: 44999196	Friday, 22 May 2015, 7:49 PM	Well done a level of reflection that is consistent throughout this section, good. 😊	Hollie_33673_0.pdf Export to Mahara View annotated PDF...
Lisa	Submitted for grading	A (73.33%)	Stage 3 Evaluation Report.pdf.pdf Turnitin ID: 45018614	Saturday, 23 May 2015, 9:28 AM	A good piece of work, remember to cover all the point asked for. 😊	Lisa_33661_0.pdf Export to Mahara View annotated PDF...

Fig 4.0: Lecturer's view of Stage 3 Moodle Assignment Submission Panel with Annotate PDF and Turnitin