



Environment and Nature PRE012410
This course is preparatory to TQA levels: 12 size value

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RATIONALE

This course is part of a suite of courses designed to provide basic skills to high needs students, many of whom have a learning difficulty.

The course has a whole-of-life approach and aims to offer better outcomes in all aspects of students lives and to assist people with disabilities to access achievable pathways to further training and or employment outcomes.

Some students may need this full suite of courses for study in both their years 11 and 12, some may need it for only part of their course load, and some may need some for year 11 before moving into other programs for Year 12.

This course is part of a suite of courses designed to provide basic skills to high needs students, many of whom have a learning difficulty.

PATHWAYS

This course provides very basic knowledge of the nature and the environment and the skills required to assist students experience the natural world.

It is preparatory to level 1 TQA courses.

COURSE SIZE AND COMPLEXITY

This course has been assessed as having a complexity level preliminary to TQA levels. It has a size value of 12.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The *Environment and Nature* course provides basic information, knowledge and skills required to prepare students for an understanding of the natural world, plants, animals and resources.

It provides students with opportunities to develop their awareness, understanding and involvement in resource management, identify and value the way plant use can sustain the environment and produce crops and care for animals.

The course is specifically designed for learners who require flexible and individualised programs. The skills, knowledge and understandings offered in this course will enable students to move toward a richer understanding of themselves in the world around them.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through the study of this course students will:

- develop knowledge and understanding of basic sustainability and managing resources
 - learn about plants and their importance in the environment
 - develop basic knowledge and understanding in animal care and management.
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COURSE CONTENT

UNITS

UNIT 1: Sustainability & resource management

- Natural and constructed resources
- Renewable and non renewable resources
- Resource use
- Recycling
- Causes and effects of pollution
- Safety and use of Personal Protective Equipment e.g. gloves, shoes, overalls.

UNIT 2: Plant care

- Plant use
- Plants & the environment
- Growing & propagating plants
- Garden maintenance
- Safe use of chemicals and equipment.

UNIT 3: Animal care

- Native animals
- Domestic animals
- Pet care
- Laws and animal care
- Looking after animals and related agencies
- Farming and animals related to production
- Safety when working with animals.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment in this course is performance based, measuring student achievement in skills and knowledge against a performance standard. For this course two ratings are available: '*pass standard*' or '*not yet passed standard*'. Assessment may be made at any point in the program.

Each criterion in this course is described by performance indicators. In judging whether a student has achieved a 'pass standard' an assessor will be guided by these indicators but final assessment will be an holistic, on-balance judgement based on validated evidence.

Assessment methodologies may include – but are not limited to – written, electronic and oral presentations/discussions, direct assessor observations of learners' skills and written and/or practical testing.

Assessment instruments/tools need *not* be restricted to any single criterion. An assessment instrument may assess more than one criterion at a time.

Learners who are assessed with a 'not yet passed standard' are provided with further opportunities to demonstrate achievement within the scope of the course's design time and TQA reporting requirements.

Internal assessment of all criteria will be made by the provider. Providers will report the student's rating for each criterion to the TQA.

QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCESSES

The following processes will be facilitated by the TQA to ensure that there is:

- a match between the standards for achievement specified in the course and the standards demonstrated by students
- community confidence in the integrity and meaning of the qualification.

Processes – The TQA will verify that the provider's course delivery and assessment standards meet the course requirements and community expectations for fairness, integrity and validity of qualifications the Authority issues. This will involve checking:

- student attendance records; and
- course delivery plans (the sequence of course delivery/tasks and when assessments take place):
 - assessment instruments and rubrics (the 'rules' or marking guide used to judge achievement)
 - class records of assessment
 - examples of student work that demonstrate the use of the marking guide
 - samples of current student's work, including that related to any work requirements articulated in the course document.

This process will usually also include interviews with past and present students.

It will be scheduled by the TQA using a risk-based approach.

CRITERIA

The assessment for this course will determine whether the student can:

- 1 Show how to use common resources efficiently
- 2 Grow some plants
- 3 Develop basic knowledge and understanding in animal care.

STANDARDS

Criterion 1: Show how to use common resources efficiently

Performance indicators

A learner can:

- Identify some energy saving practices (eg turning off lights when leaving the room, interpreting the energy ratings on electrical appliances)
- Contribute to recycling
- Identify some basic causes and effects of pollution (eg chemicals in the water supply, smoke in the atmosphere)

Criterion 2: Grow some plants

Performance indicators

A learner can:

- Name/recognise some plants
- Identify some purposes of plants in the environment (for food, for fibre, as ornamentals etc)
- Grow some plants
- Develop basic skills in garden maintenance (eg weeding, clipping)
- Show that they understand that some chemicals must be used with caution
- Use basic gardening equipment safely (hoes, cutters, fork)

Criterion 3: Develop basic knowledge and understanding in animal care

Performance indicators

A learner can:

- Identify some native and domestic animals
- Participate in pet care
- Describe agencies that look after animals
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of some farming practices involving animals.

QUALIFICATIONS AVAILABLE

Environment and Nature (*with the award of*):

SATISFACTORY ACHIEVEMENT

PRELIMINARY ACHIEVEMENT

AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Satisfactory Achievement:

3 Pass ratings

Preliminary Achievement:

2 Pass ratings

RELATIONSHIP OF QUALIFICATIONS TO TQA CERTIFICATES

Tasmanian Certificate of Education: The qualifications available have a level of complexity preliminary to that of TQA level 1. Achievement of the qualifications does not, therefore, contribute credit points towards meeting the participation and achievement standard of the Tasmanian Certificate of Education qualification.

Qualifications Certificate: The qualifications available can be listed on the Qualifications Certificate issued by the TQA.

COURSE EVALUATION

Courses are accredited for a specific period of time (up to five years) and they are evaluated in the year prior to the expiry of accreditation.

As well anyone may request a review of a particular aspect of an accredited course throughout the period of accreditation. Such requests for amendment will be considered in terms of the likely improvements to the outcomes for students and the possible consequences for delivery of the course.

The TQA can evaluate the need and appropriateness of an accredited course at any point throughout the period of accreditation.

COURSE DEVELOPER

The TQA acknowledges the leadership role undertaken by the Tasmanian Polytechnic in the development of this course.

ACCREDITATION

The accreditation period for this course is from 1 Jan 2010 until 31 Dec 2014.

VERSION HISTORY

Version 1 - Accreditation on 2 Dec 2009.

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