



*Rewarding Learning*

**General Certificate of Secondary Education**

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## **Agriculture and Land Use**

### **Controlled Assessment Tasks**

#### **Unit 3: Controlled Assessment – Contemporary Issues in Agriculture and Land Use**

**[GAU31]**

**VALID FROM SEPTEMBER 2024 – MAY 2026**

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#### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Candidates are required to complete **two** controlled assessment tasks:

- a **practical investigation** (task 1); and
- a **research project** (task 2).

You can choose any one of the three titles listed for task 1 and any one of the three titles listed for task 2.

The titles listed are for submission in **May 2026** only.

#### **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

This unit carries a weighting of **50%** for Agriculture and Land Use.

The total mark of this unit is **148**; 60 marks for task 1 and 88 marks for task 2.

No more than 45 hours in total should be spent on the Controlled Assessment Tasks.

**Candidates' work to be submitted May 2026**

Controlled Assessment Tasks must comply with the Regulations as detailed in the Subject Specification.

NB: Some Controlled Assessment Tasks instructions may constitute more than one page.

Please check you have all the information you need to complete the task if printing from a computer.

## Task 1

Candidates are required to carry out a practical investigation relating to one of the titles given below. The investigation provides candidates with the opportunity to apply their skills, knowledge and understanding, including that gained in Units 1 and 2 of the specification.

For Task 1, candidates:

- plan an investigation and develop a risk assessment;
- carry out an investigation; and
- present a report.

The word limit is 2000 words maximum. Headings to be used in laying out the report and learning outcomes which make up this task are given in the specification, section 3.3.

<b>Titles for Task 1: Practical Investigation</b>
Investigate factors affecting the nutritional value and composition of grasses.
Investigate the effect of nutrients on plant growth and development.
Investigate water quality in a chosen environment/waterway.

## Task 2

Candidates research a contemporary issue in Agriculture and Land Use using one of the titles given below. The research will provide candidates with opportunities to apply the knowledge and understanding gained in Unit 1 and Unit 2 to a realistic context.

For Task 2, candidates:

- plan research into a contemporary issue in Agriculture and Land Use;
- carry out research using primary and secondary sources; and
- present a report.

The word limit is 3000 words maximum. Headings to be used in laying out the report and learning outcomes which make up this task are given in the specification, section 3.3.

<b>Titles for Task 2: Research Project</b>
Research mechanisation practices on livestock farms including the use of agricultural contractor services.
Research crop rotation practices on farms.
Research consumer views and attitudes on farm animal welfare.

Candidates' work to be submitted **May 2026**



