

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Women and Sociology

Unit code: DH4K 34

Unit purpose: This unit should enable the candidate to understand sociological theories of gender, in particular how we acquire gender identities through the socialisation process. This knowledge is then built upon to explain gender differences at work and in the family.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

1. Compare and contrast two sociological theories of gender socialisation.
2. Compare and contrast two sociological theories of gender in the labour market.
3. Compare and contrast two sociological theories of gender in the family.

Credit points and level: 2 HN Credits at SCQF level 7: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: It would be beneficial if candidates had undertaken an introductory sociology unit but this is not essential, as many candidates will have relevant work and personal experience to draw upon.

Ultimately, entry is at the discretion of the centre.

Core skills: There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards core skills in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of core skills or core skills components.

Context for delivery: This unit is included in the framework for PDA Women's Studies. It may also be suitable for delivery as a stand-alone unit.

Assessment: This unit will be assessed using two instruments of assessment as follows:

1. Outcome 1 requires candidates to produce one open book essay of around 1500 words. This will not be conducted under supervision. The topic and question will not be known in advance.

General information for centres (cont)

2. Outcomes 2 and 3 require candidates to complete one closed book assessment consisting of two short essays of 1000 words each.

The essay questions will be unseen, although the topic area will be known approximately one week prior to the assessment date. Candidates may take into the assessment one A4 page of notes, which they will have prepared for their own use. The use of textbooks, handouts and other materials will not be permitted. The A4 page will be submitted with the completed assessment.

The assessment will be completed under supervision. It is recommended that the assessment is undertaken in one sitting of approximately two hours' duration.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Women and Sociology

Unit code: DH4K 34

The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and evidence requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Compare and contrast two sociological theories of gender socialisation

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Major sociological theories relating to gender socialisation
- ◆ Acquisition of gender identity
- ◆ Gendered personality
- ◆ How we acquire sexual identity
- ◆ Changes in gender norms and structures

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need to investigate and compare and contrast two theories of gender socialisation. Evidence will be presented that demonstrates the two theories have been comprehensively compared and contrasted.

- ◆ Describe the key aspects, including **relevant concepts** of **two** sociological theories of gender
- ◆ State similarities and differences in relation to **both theories**.
- ◆ Compare the two theories and state the strengths and weaknesses of both theories.

Candidates' evidence will show an ability to clearly explain how the gender behaviour of an individual can be understood in relation to the chosen theory.

In order to achieve Outcome 1, the candidate is required to produce one open book essay of around 1500 words. This essay must cover **all** the knowledge and/or skills for **two** theories. The exercise will not be conducted under supervision.

The evidence requirements for Outcome 1 are assessed on a sample basis. All **five** theories and corresponding key concepts must be taught and available for assessment, although candidates need only discuss **two** theories and the corresponding key concepts within the essay.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Women and Sociology

Assessment guidelines

Assessment guidelines for this Outcome are contained within the Evidence requirements. Where a resit assessment is required, candidates should provide evidence relating to different theories from those used in the first attempt.

Outcome 2

Compare and contrast two sociological theories of gender in the labour market

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Major sociological theories relating to gender in the labour market
- ◆ Social construction of masculinity
- ◆ Segregated labour markets
- ◆ Gender and social issues affecting emotion/caring work
- ◆ Gender and pay

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need to investigate and compare and contrast two theories of gender in the labour market. Evidence will be presented that demonstrates the two theories have been comprehensively compared and contrasted.

Candidates' evidence will show an ability to clearly explain how the gender of an individual affects their position in the labour market and how their treatment at work can be understood in relation to a chosen theory.

- ◆ Compare and contrast the key aspects of **two** sociological theories of gender division in the labour market.
- ◆ State similarities and differences in relation to **both theories**.
- ◆ Compare the two theories and state the strengths and weaknesses of both theories.

The assessment for Outcome 2 will be integrated with Outcome 3. In order to achieve Outcomes 2 and 3, candidates are required to complete one closed book assessment consisting of two short essays, one for each Outcome. Each essay will be approximately 1000 words in length.

Candidates will be told the topic areas approximately one week prior to the assessment date, however the precise essay questions will not be known in advance.

Candidates may take into the assessment one page of A4 notes which they have prepared for their own use. The use of textbooks, handouts and other materials will not be permitted. The A4 page will be submitted with the completed assessment.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Women and Sociology

The assessment will be conducted under supervision and in one sitting of two-three hours' duration.

Assessment guidelines

Assessment guidelines for this Outcome are contained within the Evidence requirements. Where a resit assessment is required, candidates should provide evidence relating to different theories from those used in the first attempt.

Outcome 3

Compare and contrast two sociological theories of gender in the family

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Major sociological theories relating to gender in the family
- ◆ Gender roles in families including the domestic labour debate
- ◆ Why women mother
- ◆ Patriarchy
- ◆ Social class and family life

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need to investigate and compare and contrast two theories of gender and family life. Evidence will be presented that demonstrates the two theories have been comprehensively compare and contrasted.

Candidates' evidence will show an ability to clearly explain how the gender of an individual affects their position in the family and that their roles and responsibilities in the family can be understood in relation to the chosen theory.

- ◆ Discuss the key aspects of **two** sociological theories of gender division in the family
- ◆ State similarities and differences in relation to **both theories**.
- ◆ Compare the two theories and state the strengths and weaknesses of both theories.

The assessment for Outcome 2 will be integrated with Outcome 3.

Assessment guidelines

Assessment guidelines for this Outcome are contained within the Evidence requirements. Where a resit assessment is required, candidates should provide evidence relating to different theories from those used in the first attempt.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DH4K 34
Unit title:	Women and Sociology
Superclass category:	FB
Date of publication:	October 2004
Version:	01
Source:	SQA

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2004

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of Higher National qualifications.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. The cost for each Unit specification is £2.50. (A handling charge of £1.95 will apply to all orders for priced items.)

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Women and Sociology

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This unit is intended to provide candidates with knowledge of differential gender role socialisation, the sociological factors that contribute to the gender identity of an individual and of the process of gender socialisation in society as a whole.

This unit will allow candidates to consider how different sociological theories explain the development of gender identity. Candidates should be given an overview of sociological theory and related concepts to enable them to select theories for further investigation and compare and contrast.

Examples of how gender issues such as low pay can be understood using knowledge from sociological theory should be provided to allow candidates to see the application of theory.

Outcome 1 – candidates should understand that sociological interest in gender is relatively recent. Gender issues were for a long time either ignored altogether or submerged in the sociology of the family. The emphasis was formerly on **difference** rather than on **inequality**, with the rather optimistic suggestion often being advanced of a progressive convergence in roles. The rise of the women's movement since 1970 has had a major influence on sociology, and the sociology of gender can largely be seen as the sociology of women.

Candidates may be introduced to theory in relation to the following perspectives; Functionalist theory, Feminist theory, Marxist theory, Post-Structuralist theory, Social Learning theory.

Candidates should be encouraged to consider the wider significance of differences in sexuality in terms of the way they are used to control and oppress women. Candidates should consider the role of the media, and should be encouraged to consider masculinity and homosexuality as part of the debate on sex and gender.

Outcome 2 – the main sociological concerns in this area are women's earnings, patterns of employment and relationships between home and work.

Candidates should consider these topics in relation to the following theories and perspectives; Functionalist theory, Feminist theory, Marxist theory, Gendered Labour market theory, Dual Labour Market theory.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Women and Sociology

Outcome 3 – candidates should explore gender roles within the family and the domestic division of labour with reference to the following theories and perspectives; Functionalist theory, Feminist theory, Marxist theory, Post-Structuralist theory, Social Learning theory.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit covers a range of sociological theories of gender. Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for the assessment.

The Unit can be delivered in a flexible way to best suit lecturer expertise, candidate's needs and time constraints. This could include formal lectures, group discussions, class exercises, tutorials and the use of audio/visual stimuli.

Open learning

The Unit could be delivered by open or distance learning. However, it would require planning by the centre to ensure sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence. Arrangements would have to be made to ensure that the assessment was conducted under supervision. For further information on Open and Distance Learning, please refer to the SQA publication, *Assessment and Quality Assurance of Open and Distance Learning* (SQA, 2000).

Candidates with additional support needs

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Additional Support Needs* (BA 2399, SQA, due 2004).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Women and Sociology

At the end of this unit you should have an understanding of the key aspects of sociological theories of gender and be able to identify key contributions to the sociological debate on gender issues.

You will undertake two assessments as follows:

1. An open book essay of around 1500 words. This will be prepared in your own time.
2. One closed book assessment consisting of two short essays, one each for Outcomes 2 and 3. Each essay will be approximately 1000 words long. The essay questions will be unseen, although the topic areas will be known approximately one week prior to the assessment date.

You may take into the assessment one A4 page of notes which you have prepared for your own use. Textbooks, handouts and other materials will not be permitted. The A4 page will be submitted with the completed assessment. The assessment will be conducted under supervision. It will be undertaken in one sitting of approximately two-three hours duration.