

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Police Operations: Road Traffic Legislation

Unit code: DN68 34

Unit purpose: This unit is designed to enable candidates to apply current road traffic legislation correctly to situations relevant to the work of a police officer.

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

1. Explain and apply current road traffic legislation to situations relating to driving vehicles on public roads.
2. Explain and apply current road traffic legislation relating to the use of vehicles on public roads.
3. Explain and apply current road traffic legislation to situations relating to operating goods carrying vehicles and passenger carrying vehicles on public roads.

Credit points and level: 0.5 Credit at SCQF level 7: (4 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF 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 points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Candidates should have a good working knowledge of general police procedures with respect to the enforcement of legislation. This is likely to have been gained through experience of working as a police officer. Candidates should have successfully completed their probationary period as a police officer and associated training courses.

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 a mandatory unit in the Professional Development Award: Diploma in Road Policing Operations. It is recommended that it should be taught and assessed as part of this group award. This is a preparatory underpinning unit and is normally delivered at the beginning of the course.

Assessment: This unit should be assessed holistically using a single instrument of assessment which should be an examination. This should reflect the fact that candidates are expected to be able to accurately recall and apply relevant legislative requirements when dealing with potential breaches of legislation. It is a preparatory underpinning unit which may be assessed prior to other units being completed.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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

(If you think holistic assessment is the best assessment strategy for the Unit and you wish to state *Knowledge and/or Skills* and *Evidence requirements* for the Unit as a whole, please add the following statement here: ‘Please refer to *Knowledge and/or skills for the Unit* and *Evidence requirements for the Unit* after the Outcomes.’)

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

Explain and apply current road traffic legislation to situations relating to driving vehicles on public roads

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Definition of a motor vehicle
- ◆ Classification of motor vehicles
- ◆ Driving licences – types; permitted usage
- ◆ Disqualified driving – types of disqualification; endorsements and penalty points
- ◆ Drink driving – definition; dealing with suspects
- ◆ Police powers in relation to relevant legislation
- ◆ Offences and defences relating to relevant legislation

Outcome 2

Explain and apply current road traffic legislation to situations relating to using vehicles on public roads

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Vehicle lighting regulations
- ◆ Insurance requirements
- ◆ Vehicle excise – classes of vehicles; exemptions
- ◆ Methods and requirements of vehicle registration
- ◆ Trade licences/plates
- ◆ Police powers in relation to relevant legislation
- ◆ Offences and defences relating to relevant legislation

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Police Operations: Road Traffic Legislation

Outcome 3

Explain and apply current road traffic legislation to situations relating to operating goods carrying vehicles and passenger carrying vehicles on public roads

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Public service vehicles – definition/exemptions; operators' licences; fitness and testing
- ◆ Public service vehicles – local service; permit operations; basic international operations
- ◆ Plating – manufacturer's plates; ministry plates; type approval
- ◆ Goods vehicle testing
- ◆ Weighing of vehicles
- ◆ Driver's hours – EC regulations; domestic regulations
- ◆ Police powers in relation to relevant legislation
- ◆ Offences and defences relating to relevant legislation

Evidence requirements for the Unit

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can obtain a mark of 75% on a written examination covering all knowledge and skills items in all three Outcomes.

The examination should take 75 minutes and consist of 50 multiple choice questions drawn from all three Outcomes. Each question will require candidates to select the correct option from four possible responses. It is not necessary to cover all knowledge and or skills items but one quarter of the questions should come from each Outcome. At least 4 knowledge and/or skills items in each Outcome should be covered. The questions should test knowledge and understanding of road traffic legislation and enable candidates to demonstrate that:

- ◆ they are aware of the precise requirements of provisions of road traffic legislation
- ◆ they can apply road traffic legislation to situations faced by police officers
- ◆ they are aware of precise extent of relevant police powers under road traffic legislation
- ◆ they can identify the exact nature of offences and defences associated with road traffic legislation
- ◆ they can synthesise different aspects of the legislation.

The evidence must relate to legislation which is in force at a date specified to candidates prior to the examination. The examination should be closed book and held in controlled conditions.

Assessment guidelines for the unit

This is a theoretical unit and assessment should consist of an examination which tests the knowledge and understanding of candidates on the content and application of the legislation. The most suitable time for assessment is likely to be at the end of the unit. At this stage, candidates will have had the opportunity to become fully aware of all aspects of the legislation and how it can be applied to the work of a police officer. It may be helpful to carry out several formative assessments during the delivery of the unit. In this way candidates can monitor their progress against each knowledge and/or skills item.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DN68 34
Unit title:	Police Operations: Road Traffic Legislation
Superclass category:	ZA
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Police Operations: Road Traffic Legislation

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 20 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This unit is intended for police officers who carry out road policing operations. Candidates will normally be following a recognised training programme on road traffic legislation such as the Distance Learning Programme developed by the Road Policing Division of the Scottish Police College.

The unit is one of six units which make up the Professional Development Award: Diploma in Road Policing Operations. Candidates would normally begin the PDA with this unit.

The content of the unit is based on the Distance Learning Programme on road traffic legislation developed by the Road Policing Division of the Scottish Police College. The following notes give some additional information on each Outcome. For all Outcomes, candidates should be aware of the powers granted to the police under the relevant legislation. They should also, where appropriate, be aware of the offences detailed in the legislation and any defences stated in the legislation. Throughout, the legislation should be that which is in force at the time the unit is delivered.

Outcome 1

Classification of motor vehicles: invalid carriage; motor cycle; motor car; heavy motor car; motor tractor; light locomotive; heavy locomotive; articulated goods vehicle; dual purpose vehicle; works truck; trailer and towed vehicle.

Driving licences: evolution of the driving licence; general provisions; categories and groups of vehicles; pictorial driving licence; provisional driving licence; duration of licences; minimum ages; learner drivers; compulsory basic training; disability; foreign licences.

Disqualified driving: types of disqualification; endorsements and penalty points; removal of disqualification.

Drink driving: definitions (driving, attempting to drive, in charge, motor vehicle, mechanically propelled vehicle, road, public place); prescribed limits; aiding and abetting; post incident drinking; breath tests; powers of arrest, entry to premises and detention.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcome 2

Vehicle lighting regulations: fitting and maintenance of lamps, reflectors, rear markings and devices; type approval; colour of light and movement of lamps and reflectors; steady light; fitting of warning beacons and special warning lamps; obligatory warning beacons; use of front and rear position lamps, rear registration plate lamps, side marker lamps, headlamps and fog lamps; testing and inspection; Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme (VDRS)

Insurance requirements: exemptions; issue and surrender of certificates; duty to give information; forgery and false statements; Motor Insurers' Bureau

Vehicle excise: classes of vehicles; exemptions; duration, display and alteration of licences; forgery and false information; rates of duty

Methods and requirements of vehicle registration: registration documents; alteration of vehicle; change of ownership; registration marks; visiting vehicles

Trade licences/plates: holders of a trade licence; probationary licence; restrictions

Outcome 3

Public service vehicles: hire and reward/separate fares; exemptions; operator's licence; fitness and testing of public service vehicles

Public service vehicles: local service and exemptions; permit operations and their application; international operations and paperwork (ASOR Waybill); alcohol on public service vehicles

Plating: definitions (goods vehicle, goods, goods carrying vehicles, articulated vehicle, trailer, goods pulling vehicles, maximum gross weight, gross train weight, 'bi-purpose' vehicle); Manufacturer's Plate; Goods Vehicle National Type Approved Scheme; Ministry Plate; EC Plates

Weighing of vehicles: unladen weight; repayment for loss; overweight vehicles

Goods vehicle testing: goods vehicles and trailers

Driver's hours: EC regulations; domestic rules; limits; breaks; rest periods; emergencies

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This unit can be delivered on a stand-alone basis or as part of a training programme for police officers involved in road policing operations. Candidates should be encouraged to gain as detailed a knowledge as possible of the necessary legislation. This level of knowledge will enable them to operate more effectively when dealing with actual incidents which occur as part of road policing operations. For this reason, wherever possible, candidates should aim to apply their knowledge to practical situations.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Police Operations: Road Traffic Legislation

Assessment should test the ability of candidates to recall relevant knowledge and also their capacity to relate it to situations which could be encountered by police officers engaged in road traffic operations. Formative assessment may be a valuable way of helping candidates to prepare for the final summative assessment. One way to provide this is through self-assessment tasks which form part of the Distance Learning Programme referred to above.

Open learning

This unit is particularly suitable for Open Learning as candidates should be able to acquire the relevant knowledge by working through distance learning material. Appropriate arrangements would need to be made for assessment and quality assurance.

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Police Operations: Road Traffic Legislation

This unit forms part of the Diploma in Road Policing Operations which is a Professional Development Award accredited by SQA.

The legislative framework is fundamental to road policing operations and, as a result, this unit comes at an early stage in the Diploma. It is intended to enable you to become thoroughly familiar with all aspects of current legislation relating to driving, using and operating motor vehicles on public roads. Throughout, the emphasis is on how the legislation can be applied to help you deal with road traffic situations and incidents. You will be given support material to help you work on this unit on your own.

After you have completed your study of the legislation, you will be tested on your knowledge of it. You will be expected to achieve a mark of 75%, or better, on a test consisting of 50 multiple choice questions on road traffic legislation. The examination will last for 75 minutes.

You will have succeeded in meeting all the requirements of this unit if you pass this assessment.