

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Police Operations: Road Traffic Patrols

Unit code: DN69 35

Unit purpose: This unit is designed to enable candidates to carry out road policing operations in a manner which is in accordance with all relevant police procedures and with relevant legislation.

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

1. Communicate with alleged offenders in accordance with police procedures
2. Enforce speed restriction legislation
3. Enforce drink and drugs driving legislation
4. Enforce vehicle weight restriction legislation
5. Deploy and retrieve a Hollow Spike Tyre Deflation System (HOSTYDS) device

Credit points and level: 2 Credits at SCQF level 8: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8*)

**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 be able to demonstrate good driving skills. Candidates who have successfully completed the Standard Police Driving Course and who are eligible for entry to the Advanced Police Driving Course should possess the necessary level of driving ability. Candidates should also be fully conversant with general police procedures achieved through work as a police officer. Candidates should have successfully completed their probationary period as a police officer and associated training courses. Candidates should also possess good interpersonal and communication skills.

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.

General information for centres (cont)

Assessment: This is a practical unit but one which is based on extensive underpinning knowledge. Assessment for Outcomes 1 – 4 should consist of practical work in a police operating environment. For Outcomes 2 – 4 this practical work should be supplemented with written reports. In addition, there should be two integrated practical tests, one for Outcome 3 and one for Outcome 5 and one written test to assess the underpinning knowledge required for Outcome 3.

With the exception of Outcome 1, each of the Outcomes covers a discrete area of road traffic patrol operations. For this reason, it may be easiest to assess each Outcome separately although Outcome 1 could be assessed in conjunction with Outcomes 2 – 4, since each of these can involve dealing with alleged offenders.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Police Operations: Road Traffic Patrols

Unit code: DN69 35

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

Communicate with alleged offenders in accordance with police procedures

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Explanation of alleged offence(s)
- ◆ Warning alleged offender(s)
- ◆ Requesting information from alleged offender(s)
- ◆ Answering questions from alleged offender(s)
- ◆ Probing for additional information as required

Evidence requirements

Candidates must provide evidence which relates to all the knowledge and/or skills items in this Outcome. It should consist of performance evidence to show that in a police operational environment, candidates can:

- ◆ communicate with alleged offenders politely using a pleasant manner and tone of voice
- ◆ provide clear, concise and accurate answers to questions from alleged offenders
- ◆ ensure that all requisite information is obtained from alleged offenders
- ◆ enforce current legislation relating to dealing with alleged offenders

All actions taken must be consistent with current legislation, relevant Crown Office Guidelines and police procedures, including the Vehicle Defect Registration Scheme (VDRS) and the Conditional Offer Scheme. Where these procedures require accompanying documentation, evidence in the form of correctly completed documentation is required.

To ensure full coverage of all knowledge and/or skills items, oral evidence in the form of responses to specific assessor questions on underpinning knowledge and understanding may be used to supplement the performance and written evidence.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Police Operations: Road Traffic Patrols

Assessment guidelines

Assessment for this Outcome should be by actual performance evidence generated by the candidate during normal police operations. It could be undertaken once candidates are familiar with all the relevant legislation, guidelines and procedures. This Outcome could be assessed in conjunction with Outcome 2, 3 or 4, each of which provides an opportunity to deal with alleged offenders and to complete appropriate documentation.

Outcome 2

Enforce speed restriction legislation

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Selection of location
- ◆ Checking and calibrating speed measuring equipment
- ◆ Using speed measuring equipment – speed restrictions
- ◆ Instructions – Force and relevant equipment manufacturers’
- ◆ Completion of relevant documentation

Evidence requirements

Candidates must provide evidence which relates to all the knowledge and/or skills items in this Outcome. It should consist of performance evidence to show that, in a police operational environment, candidates can enforce current legislation pertaining to speed restriction. All actions taken must be consistent with current legislation, Force Instructions and equipment manufacturers’ instructions. In addition, candidates must provide documentation relating to the performance evidence. This should be in the required format and correctly completed in accordance with relevant procedures.

To ensure full coverage of all knowledge and/or skills items, oral evidence in the form of responses to specific assessor questions on underpinning knowledge and understanding may be used to supplement the performance and written evidence.

Assessment guidelines

Assessment for this Outcome can be actual performance evidence generated by the candidate during normal police operations. It can be undertaken once candidates are familiar with all the relevant legislation, guidelines and procedures. It would be possible to assess Outcome 1 in conjunction with this Outcome if desired.

A Standard Police Report would be a suitable format in which to provide documentation of performance evidence.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Police Operations: Road Traffic Patrols

Outcome 3

Enforce drink and drugs driving legislation

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Testing of suspected persons – roadside; police station; hospital
- ◆ Drug Influence Recognition Process – Field Impairment Test
- ◆ Completion of relevant documentation

Evidence requirements

Candidates must provide evidence which relates to all the knowledge and/or skills items in this Outcome.

Evidence for this outcome will consist of:

- ◆ Performance evidence to show that, in a police operational environment, candidates can enforce legislation pertaining to driving while under the influence of drink (alcohol). Candidates must also demonstrate that they know how to detect alleged offenders. All actions taken must be consistent with current legislation and Force Instructions. Candidates must provide documentation relating to the performance evidence in the required format and correctly completed in accordance with relevant procedures.

- ◆ Evidence that the candidate can carry out a Field Impairment Test and interpret the results of it correctly.

Candidates must also achieve a mark of 75% in a written examination on their knowledge of, and ability to carry out, Field Impairment Tests. The examination will consist of 25 multiple choice questions to be completed in 38 minutes. The examination should be closed book and held in controlled conditions.

To ensure full coverage of all knowledge and/or skills items, oral evidence in the form of responses to specific assessor questions on underpinning knowledge and understanding may be used to supplement the performance and written evidence.

Assessment guidelines

Candidates should complete a test of their knowledge of Field Impairment Tests and their ability to carry them out. This can be completed during the delivery of a training programme.

Other assessments for this Outcome should be actual performance evidence generated by the candidate during normal police operations. It can be undertaken once candidates are familiar with all the relevant legislation, guidelines and procedures. It would be possible to assess Outcome 2 in conjunction with this Outcome if desired.

A Standard Police Report would be a suitable format in which to provide documentation of performance evidence.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Police Operations: Road Traffic Patrols

Outcome 4

Enforce vehicle weight restriction legislation

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Selection of location
- ◆ Direction of vehicles to be weighed
- ◆ Procedures for safe and effective weighing of vehicles
- ◆ Overweight vehicles – identification; taking action
- ◆ Completion of relevant documentation

Evidence requirements

Candidates must provide evidence which relates to all the knowledge and/or skills items in this Outcome. It should consist of performance evidence to show that, in a police operational environment, candidates can enforce current legislation pertaining to vehicle weights. All actions taken must be consistent with current legislation and Force Instructions. In addition, they must provide documentation relating to the performance evidence. This should be in the required format and correctly completed in accordance with relevant procedures.

To ensure full coverage of all knowledge and/or skills items, oral evidence in the form of responses to specific assessor questions on underpinning knowledge and understanding may be used to supplement the performance and written evidence.

Assessment guidelines

Assessment for this Outcome can be actual performance evidence generated by the candidate during normal police operations. It can be undertaken once candidates are familiar with all the relevant legislation and procedures. It would be possible to assess Outcome 2 in conjunction with this Outcome if desired.

A Standard Police Report would be a suitable format in which to provide documentation of performance evidence.

Outcome 5

Deploy and retrieve a Hollow Spike Tyre Deflation System (HOSTYDS) device

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ ACPOS policy and legislation
- ◆ Safe deployment, retrieval and maintenance of a HOSTYDS device – Authorised Officer
- ◆ Permission for deployment of a HOSTYDS device
- ◆ Identification of location for deployment of a HOSTYDS device
- ◆ Risk assessment and records of deployment

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Police Operations: Road Traffic Patrols

Evidence requirements

Candidates must provide evidence which relates to all the knowledge and/or skills items in the Outcome. It should consist of performance in a simulated pursuit driving situation.

Performance evidence will be obtained by a practical assignment held in a simulated operational environment. The candidate will have to demonstrate that s/he can safely deploy and retrieve a HOSTYDS device where the subject vehicle is travelling at speeds of 30, 50 and 70 miles per hour.

All actions taken by the candidate during the practical assignment must be consistent with the requirements of the ACPOS Code of Practice – HOSTYDS and demonstrate that the candidate is aware of the stipulations of this ACPOS Code of Practice. Oral evidence in the form of responses to specific assessor questions may be used as a supplement to the performance evidence as required.

Assessment guidelines

Assessment for the unit is an integrated practical assignment in a simulated operational environment during which candidates can demonstrate their ability to carry out the safe deployment and retrieval of a HOSTYDS device in accordance with the ACPOS Code of Practice.

HOSTYDS accreditation is limited to three years, after which candidates must be re-assessed. This requirement does not affect the status of this unit and successful completion of the unit will not be prejudiced if HOSTYDS accreditation is not maintained. Candidates may not, however, rely solely on this unit as evidence of their capacity to perform HOSTYDS operations.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DN69 35
Unit title: Police Operations: Road Traffic Patrols
Superclass category: QH
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Source: SQA

History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	In the Evidence Requirements, the number of multiple choice questions has been increased from 10 to 25 and the time allowed for the examination increased from 15 to 38 minutes. The reason for the change is a change in legislation and to meet ISO standards as they validate the Field impairment testing process	20/11/06

Source: SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Police Operations: Road Traffic Patrols

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 for police officers who are required to carry out road policing duties, including enforcing legislation on speed restrictions, weight restrictions and driving while under the influence of drink or drugs. It also covers safe driving during road patrols and dealing with alleged road traffic offenders. Candidates will normally be following a recognised training programme such as that provided by the Road Policing Division of the Scottish Police College. It is one of six units which make up the Professional Development Award: Diploma in Road Policing Operations.

In order to meet the Outcomes of the unit, candidates will require considerable underpinning knowledge and understanding of relevant ACPOS Codes of Practice as well as current legislation and Force Instructions. This knowledge includes the operation of relevant testing and measuring equipment and the interpretation of the results obtained from the use of this equipment. Candidates will be expected to drive to the standard required by the Advanced Driving test.

The main emphasis of the unit, however, is applying this knowledge so that candidates can act effectively when carrying out road policing duties. Hence, it is the way that candidates apply their knowledge and understanding that is important, rather than the knowledge and understanding on its own.

The following notes give additional information on the underpinning knowledge and understanding required for each Outcome. Where appropriate, candidates should be aware of statutory requirements and relevant police procedures, including powers granted to the police. The legislation and procedures should be those which are in force at the time the unit is delivered.

Outcome 1

Communicating with alleged offenders: verbal; written; non verbal communication

Required information: personal identification; vehicle insurance identification; driving licence information

Force procedures: Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme (VDRS); Conditional Offer Scheme; Force Warning and Reporting Procedure

Outcome 2

Location: urban and rural; suitable for vehicles and speeds to be checked

Speed measuring equipment: vehicle based; hand held; techniques for use; equipment manufacturer's instructions

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Police Operations: Road Traffic Patrols

Speed restrictions: signs; urban speed limits; rural speed limits; dual carriageway speed limits; motorway speed limits; permanent; temporary; private vehicles; light goods vehicles; large goods vehicles; passenger carrying vehicles; trailers; agricultural tractors

Outcome 3

Relevant legislation on testing procedures for persons alleged to have been driving under the influence of drink or drugs

Outcome 4

Selection of location: stopping vehicle; location of suitable weighbridge

Procedures for safe and effective weighing: vehicles; semi-trailers; trailers; axles; axle bogies; gross weights; axle weights; bogie weights; perishable loads; time loss; vehicle damage

Overweight vehicles: maximum permitted weights – department plates, manufacturer’s plates; evidence of overweight – Equipment Certification, Weight Certification

Outcome 5

HOSTYDS refers to Hollow Spike Tyre Deflation System

ACPOS policy and legislation: types of device; usage

Safe deployment, retrieval and maintenance: role of the Authorised Officer; pre-planned deployment

Permission for deployment: role of the Force Control Room and the Duty Officer

Identification of location for deployment: hazard appreciation; protection; air support; motorways/dual carriageways

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This unit can be delivered as part of a training programme for police officers involved in road policing operations. Overall, the unit demands high level driving skills and it is expected that candidates will drive to the standard of the Advanced Driving test.

The unit is likely to be taught in several stages. Outcome 1 deals with alleged offenders. It permeates all parts of the unit and can be covered at the start of the unit. The remaining 4 Outcomes deal with issues relating to specific aspects of road policing operations and each is likely to be delivered separately. In all cases, candidates will require underpinning knowledge of relevant legislation and procedures, as well as ACPOS Codes of Practice which are particularly important in this area of police operations. The underlying purpose of the unit is to build a high standard of operational effectiveness in candidates. As a result, for each part of the unit, candidates will have to apply the knowledge they have gained to practical situations, including in some cases, the use of specialist testing and measuring equipment. They will require the opportunity to practise the application of the various skills and knowledge in situations which replicate the operational

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Police Operations: Road Traffic Patrols

environment for police work as closely as possible. Outcome 5 deals with a specific ACPOS Code of Practice and is associated with a specific training course.

Assessment should test the ability of candidates to deal with road patrol duties in a way which is consistent with the underpinning knowledge they have learned. For most parts of the unit, this requires candidates to provide performance evidence which meets all relevant legislation and Guidelines. This performance evidence should be generated in a police operational environment and candidates will normally be assessed by Line Managers in their own Force. Suitable arrangements will need to be made to ensure that the assessment process is fair and rigorous. Most of the evidence for the unit, therefore, will be produced after a suitable training programme has been completed and candidates have returned to operational duties.

It may be appropriate to assess each Outcome separately as, with the exception of Outcome 1, Outcomes 2 – 4 all involve distinct activities which can be carried out in isolation from each other. Outcome 1 relates to treating alleged offenders in an appropriate manner when gathering information from them and giving information to them, including administering warnings to alleged offenders. Outcomes 2 – 4 cover matters where alleged offenders could be apprehended. Outcome 1 could be assessed in conjunction with one of these Outcomes.

The performance evidence for Outcome 3 must include evidence that the candidate can carry out a Field Impairment Test and interpret the results of it correctly. This can be produced during a period of training.

Outcome 5 has a specific assessment which enables successful candidates to act as an Authorised Officer for HOSTYDS operations. While evidence for this is acceptable for this unit, it is time-bound under police regulations and expires after three years, unless re-assessment is undertaken. Successful completion of the unit will not be prejudiced if HOSTYDS accreditation is not maintained. Candidates may not, however, rely solely on this unit as evidence of their capacity to perform HOSTYDS operations.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Police Operations: Road Traffic Patrols

Open learning

This unit could be delivered partially by Open Learning. It would be necessary to make arrangements to ensure that candidates had access to relevant instructional material to enable them to assimilate the underpinning knowledge and understanding required to complete the written examination. It will also be necessary to make arrangements for candidates to develop relevant practical skills in the administration of the various tests involved in the unit. Arrangements would also need to be made for open learning candidates to sit the examination and complete the practical tests. The bulk of the assessment is conducted in a police operational environment and should be identical for all candidates regardless of the mode of delivery. The same quality assurance arrangements should apply to all candidates.

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 Patrols

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

The unit is designed to enable you to carry out road policing operations in accordance with all aspects of police procedures. It enables you to make use of advanced driving skills as these are the foundation of effective road policing operations. The unit looks specifically at enforcing legislation on speed restrictions, weight restrictions and driving while under the influence of drink or drugs. It also provides an opportunity for you to complete the training required to become an Authorised Officer in Hollow Spike Tyre Deflation Systems (HOSTYDS) operations. This lasts for three years, after which you will have to be re-assessed. Part of enforcing relevant legislation involves dealing with alleged offenders and the unit also covers how to do this in an effective but courteous manner. The course includes both classroom and practical work, some of which requires you to use specialist testing and measuring equipment.

The main emphasis of the unit, however, is applying your knowledge and understanding in an operational environment. Most of the assessment will relate to this and will take place in your normal working environment where you will be assessed by Line Managers in your Force. This will be done after you have completed the training programme and have returned to your Force.

You will be assessed on your performance in carrying out road patrol duties and will be expected to demonstrate, through your performance, that you can deal with all aspects of them effectively and in accordance with the relevant knowledge and understanding which you have gained. In some cases, you will also be required to submit relevant documentation related to the practical assignment. It must be in a suitable format and meet all the requirements of police procedure. You will also be required to take an examination on Field Impairment Testing, in which you will be expected to achieve a mark of 75%.

You will succeed in this unit if you pass the examination, the practical tests and perform road patrol duties satisfactorily in a police operational environment.