



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Additional Support Needs: Purposes and Processes of Assessment

Unit code: F2CM 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed for candidates who support children, young people or adults with additional support needs in a learning situation. It develops the candidate's knowledge and understanding of the reasons for the assessment of individuals with ASN and the assessment processes involved. This knowledge should be of use to them in contributing, under supervision, to assessment design and delivery.

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

- 1 Explain the key features of the assessment process for individuals with ASN.
- 2 Describe procedures relating to the assessment of individuals with ASN.
- 3 Explain a range of assessment procedures appropriate for individuals with ASN.

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 7: (8 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: No prior knowledge is required for this Unit. However, it would be beneficial if candidates had some experience of working with individuals with ASN, either in a paid or voluntary capacity.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill of Communication (Written Communication) in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Assessment: This Unit is assessed by two instruments of assessment. Outcomes 1 and 2 are assessed jointly by a report of approx 1,000–1,250 words. Outcome 3 is assessed by an assignment of 750–1,000 words.

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.

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 the key features of the assessment process for individuals with ASN

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Purposes of assessment in terms of range of disabilities
- ◆ Range of specialists involved in the assessment process
- ◆ Contribution made by specialists.
- ◆ Teamwork
- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Reporting

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ explain the purposes of the assessment for individuals with ASN
- ◆ describe the range of specialists involved in the process.
- ◆ explain the importance of the contribution made by these specialists.
- ◆ explain the importance of teamwork and communication
- ◆ explain the importance of records and reporting

Outcome 2

Describe procedures relating to the assessment of individuals with ASN

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Different approaches to assessment
- ◆ Profiling systems
- ◆ Observational techniques

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Additional Support Needs: Purposes and Processes of Assessment

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ identify different approaches to assessment for individuals with ASN
- ◆ describe the advantages of profiling systems
- ◆ describe a range of observational techniques and their purposes

Assessment Guidelines for Outcomes 1 and 2

Outcome 2 is assessed jointly with Outcome 1 by a report of approx 1,000–1,250 words.

Outcome 3

Explain a range of assessment procedures appropriate for individuals with ASN

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Assessment techniques appropriate to the individual with ASN
- ◆ Factors which may affect the validity of the assessment
- ◆ The place of assessment within the learning process for individuals with ASN

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ identify three different assessment techniques appropriate for given context/individual
- ◆ identify factors which may affect validity of assessment
- ◆ explain the place of assessment within the learning process of individuals with ASN

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome is assessed by an assignment of 750–1,000 words

Administrative Information

Unit code: F2CM 34

Unit title: Additional Support Needs: Purposes and Processes of Assessment

Superclass category: GB

Original date of publication: August 2007

Version: 01

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Additional Support Needs: Purposes and Processes of Assessment

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 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

Outcome 1

Outcome 1 offers the candidate a broad understanding of the importance of the assessment process to individuals who require additional support needs by examining the complex nature of the process and the need for consultation with other professionals/specialists. Through case studies or real experience candidates should develop an understanding of the extent of the team involved and of their role in this team. They should always be reminded that the role they play is a supportive role and should be given advice on when and where to seek support from specialists. The importance of keeping accurate and confidential records should be explained.

Outcome 2

This Outcome focuses on examining different approaches to assessment. Candidates should be given the opportunity to look at particular approaches for the students in their particular work/placement.

In order to describe a range of observational techniques, candidates should be given the opportunity to observe practitioners assessing students and recording their assessments, where possible, in real situations.

Outcome 3

For Outcome 3 candidates should examine three different assessment techniques and should understand what is meant by validity of assessment through examples of good practice.

They should be able to explain why assessment is particularly important as a measure of progress and also as reference to other specialists.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Outcome 1

By using a case study approach, the candidate should be able to develop an understanding of the role of assessment, the extent of the team involved and of his/her own role in this team. Alternatively, where it is possible, candidates could draw on actual work experiences to develop their understanding of the importance of assessment in meeting the needs of individuals with ASN.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Additional Support Needs: Purposes and Processes of Assessment

Outcome 2

In examining different approaches to assessment, candidates should be given the opportunity to look at particular approaches designed to meet the needs of individuals with ASN in the candidate's particular workplace or placement environment. Teaching could also be supplemented by the use of video (or other recorded materials), case studies and articles/research related to assessment of individuals with ASN.

In order to describe a range of observational techniques, candidates should be given the opportunity to observe practitioners assessing students and recording their assessments. Where possible, they should have access to real work situations. Where examples are taken from the workplace or placement, candidates must be reminded of the need for confidentiality of client information to be maintained at all times.

Outcome 3

In order to explain assessment techniques candidates could undertake research through a range of sources including professional research, educational publications and textbooks and should have opportunities to observe examples of practice using video/related media.

Opportunities for Core Skills

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills in this Unit. However, there are clear opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skill components in Communication (Written Communication — all Outcomes)

Open learning

This Unit is suitable for delivery in a range of formats including open, distance and blended learning.

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

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. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Additional Support Needs: Purposes and Processes of Assessment

This Unit is designed to introduce the purposes and processes of assessment and how these can be used to support individuals with ASN in a learning situation. It will develop your knowledge and understanding of the reasons for the assessment of individuals with ASN and the processes involved.

On completion of the Unit you should be able to:

- 1 Explain the key features of the assessment process for individuals with ASN.
- 2 Describe procedures relating to the assessment of individuals with ASN.
- 3 Explain a range of assessment procedures appropriate for individuals with ASN.