



Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Environmental and Countryside Regulation

Unit code: F2GC 34

Unit purpose: This Unit provides candidates with an introduction into how environmental and countryside regulation is formulated and implemented in the EU and UK. Candidates also gain knowledge of aspects relating to key policies and principles involved in shaping regulation in the countryside and environment. This Unit is suitable for candidates seeking employment in the environmental or rural sector.

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

- 1 Describe the process of making and implementing environmental and countryside law.
- 2 Identify and describe key principles relating to the environment and activities in the countryside.
- 3 Describe key roles of statutory and non-statutory organisations in protecting the countryside and environment.

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: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. However, it would be beneficial for candidates to have a basic understanding of some aspects relating to environmental matters. This may be evidenced via qualifications in science or geography at SCQF level 5 or equivalent or by prior experiential learning.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill(s) components of Oral or Written Communication at SCQF level 6 and *Information Technology* at SCQF level 5 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

General information for centres (cont)

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: All Outcomes could be taught and then assessed as a single entity as environmental and countryside regulation within the EU is closely guided by key principles for sustainability. This allows for an integrated delivery throughout the Unit.

All Outcomes could be assessed in one holistic assessment or as three separate open-book, extended response submissions. A submission date for the return of evidence should be negotiated with the candidate.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Environmental and Countryside Regulation

Unit code: F2GC 34

Outcome 1

Describe the process of making and implementing environmental and countryside law

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ International conventions and protocols
- ◆ European Union (EU) environmental and countryside law making and implementation
- ◆ EU Directives, Regulations and Guidance
- ◆ United Kingdom environmental and countryside regulation

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ describe how two international protocols and two conventions are delivered nationally. Reference should be made to discussion and consultation, EU Directives, policies and regulation and statutory organisations charged with the implementation and enforcement of these regulations
- ◆ describe the process of law making within the EU and UK
- ◆ identify four UK environmental and countryside regulations and how they relate to European Union legislation

Assessment Guidelines

All Outcomes could be taught and then assessed as a single entity as environmental and countryside regulation within the EU is closely guided by key principles for sustainability.

All Outcomes could be assessed in one holistic assessment in the form of a report, or as three separate open-book, extended response submissions. A submission date for the return of evidence should be negotiated with the candidate.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Environmental and Countryside Regulation

Outcome 2

Describe key principles relating to the environment and activities in the countryside

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Foundation concepts and principles of environmental policy
- ◆ Scope of key UK and EU environmental policies
- ◆ Scope of key UK and EU countryside policies
- ◆ Main principles of evolving EU Regulation

Evidence Requirements

All the Knowledge and/or Skills must be covered. Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can describe the:

- ◆ four main principles guiding evolving regulation in the EU
- ◆ scope of EU and UK environmental policy
- ◆ scope of EU and UK countryside policy

Assessment Guidelines

All Outcomes could be taught and assessed in one holistic assessment in the form of a report, or as three separate open-book, extended response submissions. A submission date for the return of evidence should be negotiated with the candidate.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Environmental and Countryside Regulation

Outcome 3

Describe key roles of statutory and non-statutory organisations in protecting the countryside and environment

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Statutory organisations
- ◆ Non-statutory organisations
- ◆ Regulatory duties for the countryside and environment

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate all knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ describe four organisations with statutory regulatory duties for the environment and countryside
- ◆ identify four non-statutory organisations and describe the contribution they make to environmental and countryside regulation
- ◆ identify key regulatory duties of organisations for environmental and countryside regulation

Assessment Guidelines

All Outcomes could be taught and assessed in one holistic assessment in the form of a report, or as three separate open-book, extended response submissions. A submission date for the return of evidence should be negotiated with the candidate.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F2GC 34
Unit title: Environmental and Countryside Regulation
Superclass category: EC
Original date of publication: August 2008
Version: 01

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Environmental and Countryside Regulation

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

During this Unit candidates gain an understanding of how EU regulation is produced. It is important that candidates are aware that the UK and other member states have the opportunity to contribute to the process and that environmental regulation is not simply imposed without discussion and consultation. It is also important to explain the importance of Common Position Documents and Directives. Candidates should be aware that Directives are a national target and these are often achieved by the policies and regulation adopted within member states. Statutory organisations are then charged with the implementation and enforcement of these regulations.

Candidates should be introduced to a selection of EU Directives and their equivalent national regulation. Examples of Directives of relevance include:

- ◆ The Landfill Directive
- ◆ The Water Framework Directive
- ◆ The End of Life Vehicles Directive
- ◆ The Birds Directive
- ◆ The Habitats Directive

Candidates should also gain an understanding of some of the effects of devolution within the UK that have led to differences between eg England and Scotland. Examples could include countryside access, site designations, transport and energy.

Within the UK wider consultation and involvement in decision making in matters such as planning is being implemented. This involves statutory and non-statutory bodies in procedures such as Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The EU has fully adopted a number of principles aimed at delivering sustainability. Examples of principles candidates should be able to demonstrate knowledge of should include:

- ◆ The precautionary principle
- ◆ The polluter pays principle
- ◆ The proximity principle
- ◆ The voluntary principle

Candidates should be able to describe some examples of International Conventions and Treaties and how they have influenced EU and UK Law.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Environmental and Countryside Regulation

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Some initial work tracing the history of environmental and countryside regulation is useful and encourages candidates to consider the benefits that regulation can deliver. Candidates should be encouraged to discuss the fairness and appropriateness of specific regulations. Background information identifying the international or national context regulation has been created in can also help candidates understand why regulations are in place. A number of other Units include reference to particular environmental and countryside regulations and this Unit provides candidates with a knowledge of how and why these regulations have been made.

The Unit can be included at HNC or HND level, depending on the environmental content of individual courses and the number of Units addressing environmental and countryside matters.

All Outcomes could be taught and then assessed as a single entity as environmental and countryside regulation within the EU is closely guided by key principles for sustainability. This allows for an integrated delivery throughout the Unit.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop Oral or Written Communication at SCQF level 6 through formal assessment tasks. *Information Technology* at SCQF level 5 may be developed further if this format is used for presentation of some evidence types.

Open learning

Elements of this Unit could be delivered via distance learning or a flexible learning approach adopted. It could be beneficial for the candidate to attend the centre for some group meetings to generate topics for discussion if interactive links are difficult to accomplish via off centre.

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: Environmental and Countryside Regulation

Regulation of the environment and the countryside is an important aspect of delivering quality of life within the European Union. Due to the potential of a range of activities to pollute or degrade the environment this module is relevant to a number of vocations. This Unit is designed to provide you with an overview of what environmental and countryside regulation involves, how it is formed and the organisations involved in regulation.

It is important that you become aware that the UK and other member states have the opportunity to contribute to the legislative process and that environmental regulation is not simply imposed without discussion and consultation. It is also important to understand the importance of Common Position Documents and Directives.

Candidates should also gain an understanding of some of the effects of devolution within the UK that have led to differences between eg England and Scotland. Examples could include countryside access, site designations, transport and energy.

Some initial work tracing the history of environmental and countryside regulation is useful and encourages you to consider the benefits that regulation can deliver. In group discussions you will be encouraged to discuss the fairness and appropriateness of specific regulations. Background information identifying the international or national context regulation has been created in can also help candidates understand why regulations are in place.

All Outcomes could be taught and then assessed as a single entity as environmental and countryside regulation within the EU is closely guided by key principles for sustainability. This allows for an integrated delivery throughout the Unit.