



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Socio-economic Issues in the EU

Unit code: F3HP 34

Unit purpose: This Unit will provide candidates with the knowledge and understanding of the important aims of the European Social and Employment Policy. The Unit will examine the development of Social Policy and will introduce the candidates to the various sources of funding and the effects of socio-economic policies in the EU Member States.

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

- 1 Explain the developments of Social Policy in the European Union.
- 2 Describe the sources, management and distribution of funding for social projects in the European Union and evaluate how effective these funds have been in the UK.
- 3 Explain and contrast the effects of the European Social Fund and selected socio-economic policies in EU Member States.

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 if candidates possess good written and oral communication skills as evidenced by possession of Higher English or a suitable HN Communication Unit at SCQF level 6.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Communication* and the components *Problem Solving (Critical Thinking)* and *Problem Solving (Planning and Organising)* at SCQF level 5, and the Core Skills of *Information Technology* and *Working with Others* at SCQF level 4 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: The Unit may be assessed by one structured open-book report of 3,000–3,500 words or equivalent based on stimulus material. Alternatively, it may be assessed by three separate Instruments of Assessments carried out in open-book conditions, where candidates will have access to copies of relevant personal notes, handouts and text books for reference purposes.

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 developments of Social Policy in the European Union

Knowledge and Skills

- ◆ Social Policy in the European Union
- ◆ Social Chapter
- ◆ Social Charter
- ◆ Treaty of Maastricht
- ◆ Treaty of Amsterdam

Evidence Requirements

To achieve this Outcome each candidate must provide evidence which demonstrates their Knowledge and Skills. Each candidate must provide evidence to show that they can:

- ◆ explain the developments of Social Policy from its first reference in the Treaty of Rome to present day
- ◆ clearly distinguish between the Social Chapter and the Social Charter
- ◆ describe the key elements of the Treaty of Maastricht and explain why the UK government refused to sign the Social Chapter and negotiated an opt-out
- ◆ describe the key elements of the Treaty of Amsterdam and explain why the UK Government signed up to the Social Chapter

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome may be assessed by a structured open-book report of 1,500 words or equivalent. Alternatively, this Outcome may take the form of written and/or oral answers, which candidates will provide in response to a set of structured questions carried out in open-book conditions.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Socio-economic Issues in the EU

Outcome 2

Describe the sources, management and distribution of funding for social project in the European Union and evaluate how effective these funds have been in the UK

Knowledge and Skills

- ◆ Sources, management and distribution of funding for social projects in the European Union
- ◆ European Union social funding objectives
- ◆ Benefits of EU social funding in the UK

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ identify and briefly explain the current structural funds adopted to support the socio-economic policies of the European Union
- ◆ explain the aims of the current socio-economic policies and how they are implemented in the European Union
- ◆ explain how Britain has benefited from the structural funds, giving two recent examples of projects funded from the European Union

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome may be assessed by a structured open-book report of 1,500 words or equivalent. Alternatively, this Outcome may take the form of written and/or oral answers, which candidates will provide in response to a set of structured questions carried out in open-book conditions.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Socio-economic Issues in the EU

Outcome 3

Explain and contrast the effects of the European Social Fund and selected socio-economic policies of two EU Member States

Knowledge and Skills

- ◆ European Social Fund
- ◆ Aims and objectives of the European Social Fund and related Community Initiatives
- ◆ Differences between policies of two Member States

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ explain the European Social Fund and related Community initiatives adopted by the European Union to combat unemployment, social exclusion and all forms of discrimination and inequalities in the work place
- ◆ explain the aims of the European Social Fund and related Community initiatives and explain the extent of which the European Social Fund has achieved its objectives
- ◆ compare and contrast two policies of two Member States and explain how the policies are implemented and how they achieve their objective in combating unemployment and social exclusion

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome may be assessed by a structured open-book report of 1,500 or equivalent. Alternatively, this Outcome may take the form of written and/or oral answers, which candidates will provide in response to a set of structured questions carried out in open-book conditions.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F3HP 34
Unit title: Socio-economic Issues in the EU
Superclass category: EB
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Socio-economic Issues in the EU

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

The purpose of this Unit is to introduce candidates with the knowledge and understanding of the important aims of the European Social and Employment Policy. The Unit will examine the development of Social Policy and will introduce the candidates to the various European structural funds and compare the effects and implementation of socio-economic policies in two EU Member States.

The whole Unit is designed to move from the origins and development of social policy to the impact of current socio-economic policies aimed at combating unemployment and social exclusion in the European Union. The Unit looks at the various sources of funding available to Member States for social projects and examines achievements gained in combating unemployment and social exclusion. Candidates will be expected, as much as possible, to demonstrate their ability to relate the theory with current practical examples to the assessments.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Centres are recommended to follow the sequence of Outcomes but assessments may be integrated. The sequence of assessments will provide the candidates with an insight into the historic developments of social policy and the various funds available for social projects.

It is important that prior to assessment, the tutor should provide candidates with formative work including information leaflets and handouts, news articles, practical exercises, web sites and guidance on self directed learning. Wherever possible, Centres should adopt a proactive approach towards the teaching of this Unit by using current examples of socio-economic policies aimed at combating unemployment and social exclusion. Likewise, candidates should be encouraged to source all information, eg internet, journals and newspapers. Candidates should also be encouraged to use these sources as discussion topics in the classroom environment.

As stated in the General Information for Centres, this Unit can be assessed by an integrated assessment or three separate assessment events

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Socio-economic Issues in the EU

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Communication* and the components *Problem Solving (Critical Thinking)* and *Problem Solving (Planning and Organising)* at SCQF level 5, and the Core Skills of *Information Technology* and *Working with Others* at SCQF level 4 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

The Unit allows the development of particular Core Skills in the learning and assessment process. In researching the developments of International trade institutions, the use of *Problem Solving* is paramount in reaching decisions. Throughout the Unit the candidate may take part in group discussion and group work. In accessing *Information Technology* initially as a research method eg using the internet, before progressing to its presentation possibilities, candidates also develop creative communication skills by producing reports and may develop visualisation techniques such as computer generated materials, for example PowerPoint or slide production.

Open learning

If this Unit is delivered by open or distance learning methods, additional resources will be required for candidate support, assessment and quality assurance.

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: Socio-economic Issues in the EU

The Unit provides you with an introduction to knowledge and understanding of the historic developments of Social Policy in the European Union, Britain's attitude to the Social Chapter and the impact of the Social Chapter in the UK.

You will learn about the various sources of funding for European social projects, the objectives and ultimate effects of the financial sources.

The Unit will provide you with essential knowledge of the beneficial impact of social funding in the UK and current examples of social projects. For the final part of the assessment you will choose a policy from each of two Member States and you will compare each policy and investigate how each Member States has implemented the strategy to combat unemployment and social exclusion.

- 1 Explain the developments of Social Policy in the EU.
- 2 Describe the sources, management and distribution of funding for social projects in the European Union and evaluate how effective these funds have been in the UK.
- 3 Explain and contrast the effects of the European Social fund and selected socio-economic policies in EU Member States.

During the course of this Unit you may take part in such activities as class and group discussions, group work, and self directed learning. You may be asked to produce pieces of writing such as a report, short answered questions and extended response answered questions.

The Unit may be assessed by a report of approximately 3,000 words or equivalent. Alternatively, you may be asked to submit individual reports for each Outcome.