



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Rural Socio-Economic Development

Unit code: F6BK 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop an understanding of the nature and dynamics of rural development issues, and the key factors and initiatives used to stimulate rural development. It will provide a framework for the evaluation of the impact of such policies.

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

- 1 Evaluate the dynamics of a selected development area using socio-economic indicators.
- 2 Evaluate the effects of initiatives on sustainable rural development.
- 3 Evaluate the role of different organisations in delivering sustainable rural policies.
- 4 Evaluate the social and economic impacts of rural development initiatives.

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 8: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8*)

**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 a general understanding of the context of, and need for, rural development would be useful.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill(s) of *Working with Others* and *Communication* at a SCQF level 6 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 could be assessed by separate assessment reports for each Outcome. Alternatively, the assessments may be combined using a case study covering all Evidence Requirements for the Unit. Where appropriate, it may be advisable to combine all or part of the assessment for this Unit with assessment from other Units.

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

Evaluate the dynamics of a selected development area using socio-economic indicators

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Planned and autonomous development
- ◆ Nature and dynamics of rural development
- ◆ Social change indicators
- ◆ Economic development indicators
- ◆ Relationships between indicators

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can for a rural area under study:

- ◆ explain the nature and dynamics of planned and autonomous rural development
- ◆ evaluate indicators of social change, including services, housing, communication and transport, that demonstrate the nature and dynamics of rural development
- ◆ evaluate indicators of economic development, including business start-up, business growth, employment, additionality, diversity, that demonstrate rural development
- ◆ explain the linkages between three social change indicators and three economic indicators

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by a short report on a chosen rural area. Alternatively, it could form part of an integrative assessment covering all Outcomes. Further details can be found under the Assessment Guidelines for Outcome 4.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Rural Socio-Economic Development

Outcome 2

Evaluate the effects of initiatives on sustainable rural development

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Bottom-up and Top-down policies
- ◆ EU, national and local rural development initiatives
- ◆ Implementing and evaluating initiatives

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ explain ‘Bottom-up’(eg community-based) and ‘Top-down’ (eg legislative) policies, the links between them, and provide one example of each from a rural area under study
- ◆ explain the differing objectives of the following initiatives present in a rural area under study and evaluate their implementation:
 - an EU development initiative
 - a national development initiative
 - a local development initiative
- ◆ evaluate the contribution of two of these initiatives to rural sustainable development

The rural area chosen for study must provide sufficient examples of ‘Bottom-up’ and ‘Top-down’ policy implementation, and the implementation of EU, national and local rural development initiatives.

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by a short report on a chosen rural area. Alternatively, it could form part of an integrative assessment covering all Outcomes. Further details can be found under the Assessment Guidelines for Outcome 4.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Rural Socio-Economic Development

Outcome 3

Evaluate the role of different organisations in delivering sustainable rural policies

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Public rural development agencies
- ◆ Private and voluntary rural development agencies
- ◆ Sustainable development agencies and sustainable community agencies

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that, for a rural area under study, they can:

- ◆ explain the nature, role and functions of four public agencies in a rural area under study
- ◆ explain the nature, role and functions of two private and two voluntary agencies in a rural area under study
- ◆ evaluate the contribution of any four of the above agencies to sustainable rural development

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by a short report on a chosen rural area. Alternatively, it could form part of an integrative assessment covering all Outcomes. Further details can be found under the Assessment Guidelines for Outcome 4.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Rural Socio-Economic Development

Outcome 4

Evaluate the social and economic impacts of rural development initiatives

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Social impacts of rural development
- ◆ Economic impacts of rural development

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can for a rural area under study:

- ◆ evaluate the social impact of a chosen rural development initiative on a rural community, including on the social structure
- ◆ evaluate the economic impact of a different chosen rural development initiative on the local economy

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by a short report on a chosen rural area. Alternatively, it could form part of an integrative assessment covering all Outcomes if a case study brief for a rural area is used. The case study brief must contain sufficient detail and suitable examples to allow all Evidence Requirements for each Outcome to be achieved. Guidance may be given on report structure and content, to ensure that all Outcomes are covered. It is suggested that the report be a maximum of 2,500 words. This total could be extended if it were possible to integrate assessment with another module.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F6BK 35
Unit title: Rural Socio-Economic Development
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Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Rural Socio-Economic Development

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

This Unit is designed to provide candidates with an understanding of the background and dynamics of rural development issues, and the variety of initiatives and policies that may be used to stimulate rural development. Candidates will develop the ability to evaluate the impacts of these different policies and initiatives. The four Outcomes covered in this Unit are:

Outcome 1

A number of indicators will be looked at when considering the nature and dynamics of rural development. These will include social change indicators such as demographics, schools, shops, health, post offices, and transportation. Economic indicators that may be covered include income, employment, land-use, and businesses. The relationships between indicators will be considered in the context of planned and autonomous development.

Outcome 2

Bottom-up and top-down policies should be considered in the context of a range of development initiatives at EU, national and local level. The objectives and implementation of policies should be considered in the context of sustainable rural development.

Outcome 3

A range of rural development agencies - public, private and voluntary- should be studied to understand their nature, role and function. The contribution of these agencies to sustainable rural development should be considered.

Outcome 4

The actual social and economic impacts of a number of initiatives should be considered. On the social side this could include services, housing, communications and transport and on the economic side: business start-up, business growth, employment, additionality, diversity.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is likely to form part of a Group Award designed to provide candidates with the knowledge and skills for employment within the rural resource management sector, although the information contained in the Unit may be applicable to other related fields. Ideally this Unit should be delivered using a variety of methods and media, which could include formal lectures, discussions, tutorials, and work exercises. It may be possible to include a relevant site visits to illustrate rural development issues in context.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Rural Socio-Economic Development

In order to achieve this Unit, candidates are required to present sufficient evidence to demonstrate that they have met all the Evidence Requirements for each Outcome. Details of these requirements are given at each Outcome, and separate assessments may be carried out. Alternatively, the assessments could be combined into a single report which covers all Outcomes. This may best be achieved by choice of an appropriate case-study area, which demonstrates or fulfils all the Outcome requirements, and will allow the students to integrate knowledge across all Outcomes.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill(s) of Working with Others and Communication at a SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Open learning

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

A combination of new and traditional authentication tools may have to be devised for assessment and re-assessment purposes.

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: Rural Socio-Economic Development

Rural areas have been, and are, subject to many pressures, both economic and social. An on-going concern is maintaining rural areas that are viable both socially and economically. This Unit is designed to develop your understanding of the nature and dynamics of rural development issues, the key factors and initiatives used to stimulate rural development and will provide you with a framework for the evaluation of the impact of such policies. During the course of this Unit you will evaluate the:

- ◆ dynamics of a selected development area using socio-economic indicators
- ◆ effects of initiatives on sustainable rural development
- ◆ role of different organisations in delivering sustainable rural policies
- ◆ social and economic impacts of rural development initiatives

Assessment may be by means of a short report for each Outcome, or the assessments may be combined into a larger report, through use of a suitable study area covering all Evidence Requirements for the Unit.