



Higher National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Policy and Practice in Public Health

Unit code: FN5V 35

Superclass: PA

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Version: 01

Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to enable candidates to work in partnership to promote health. It prepares candidates for this role through examination of the principles of health promotion. It is intended for candidates who are working or who expect to work in an area of care.

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

- 1 Describe current policy and practice in health promotion.
- 2 Analyse the relationship between Health and Individuals/Community.
- 3 Explain the impact of altered health and the appropriate use of psychological interventions to support individuals/families/carers.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

While there are no prescribed prior knowledge and skills for this Unit, it would be beneficial for candidates to have good written, oral communication skills and good interpersonal skills. It would also be beneficial if candidates had some work experience either in a paid or voluntary capacity within the public/care sector. Access to this Unit can also be at the discretion of the centre.

Credit points and level

1 Higher National 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.*

General information (cont)

Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

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.

This Unit is in the framework of HNC/HND Care and Administrative Practice. It should be taught and assessed within the subject area of this Group Award to which it contributes. The Unit can also be delivered as a free-standing Unit and may provide a source for Continuing Professional Development.

Assessment

This Unit will be assessed using one instrument of assessment: Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 requires candidates to produce one essay of 1,500–2,000 words. This is an open-book assessment. The topic and question will be known in advance.

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

Describe current policy and practice in health promotion.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Current Scottish Executive reports
- ◆ Local plans and strategies
- ◆ Work in partnership

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ explain the principles of current Scottish Executive documents relating to health promotion
- ◆ describe local plans and strategies
- ◆ explain the link between national targets for health promotion and health promotion practice
- ◆ describe the benefits of partnership working with health professionals.

Assessment Guidelines

This Unit will be assessed using one instrument of assessment: Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 requires candidates to produce one essay of 1,500–2,000 words. This is an open-book assessment. The topic and question will be known in advance.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Policy and Practice in Public Health

Outcome 2

Analyse the relationship between Health and Individuals/Communities.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Community development approach to health promotion
- ◆ Concepts of health
- ◆ Dimensions of health
- ◆ Behaviours affecting health
- ◆ Factors influencing health choices
- ◆ Links between health professionals and Individuals/Communities

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ describe the social and community development model of health
- ◆ explain the concept of health in relation to dimensions of health
- ◆ explain the factors influencing behaviours and health choices
- ◆ explain psychosocial theories used to predict, explain and change health behaviours
- ◆ identify risk factors affecting health and well being
- ◆ describe the challenges of promoting health enhancing behaviours.

Assessment Guidelines

This Unit will be assessed using one instrument of assessment: Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 requires candidates to produce one essay of 1,500–2,000 words. This is an open-book assessment. The topic and question will be known in advance.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Policy and Practice in Public Health

Outcome 3

Explain the impact of altered health and the appropriate use of psychological interventions to support individuals/families/carers.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Understand the impact of altered health status on individuals, families and carers
- ◆ Psychological interventions and support
- ◆ Empowerment

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ describe the psychological impact of acute and chronic illness on individuals, families and carers across the lifespan
- ◆ describe psychological interventions to assist management of altered health status
- ◆ describe support mechanisms facilitating empowerment, promotion of self management, improving quality of life and/or reducing disability.

Assessment Guidelines

This Unit will be assessed using one instrument of assessment: Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 requires candidates to produce one essay of 1,500–2,000 words. This is an open-book assessment. The topic and question will be known in advance.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Policy and Practice in Public Health

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 intended for candidates working or intending to work in the field of Care. Its purpose is to develop an appreciation of the role of health promotion by giving them the essential underpinning knowledge and skills.

This Unit should be delivered in a context which is familiar to candidates. Case studies may be used, constructed from the candidate's recorded experience of self or others; these should be explained in terms of the theoretical perspectives gained from course materials.

For Outcome 1 the candidate should be encouraged to research government initiatives related to health promotion. Reference should be made to these and other national and local strategies but candidates are not expected to have an in-depth knowledge of them but should understand that national campaigns are a statement of government policy underpinning health promotion work.

Candidates should have access to the health promotion strategies and policies in their locality, and their relationship to national strategies and policies. Useful sources of information can be found on the NHS Scotland health Promotion Website www.hebs.sot.uk.

For Outcome 2, candidates will have covered social contexts in the previous Units in first year. It is important that topics are not 're-taught'.

The Unit content should include the social and community model of health, which views well-being as largely being determined by prevailing social, economic and environmental factors. Individuals and their health are seen in the context of their social relationships. Candidates should explore a range of physiological, behavioural and psychosocial risk factors and environmental conditions affecting health and well-being.

For Outcome 3 candidates will explore the impact of acute and chronic illnesses on the individual and/or the family, eg Alzheimer's, Cancers, Diabetes, acute and chronic lung disease, acute and chronic kidney disease, Strokes and investigate the interventions. Candidates will also explore the support mechanisms to improve quality of life.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Policy and Practice in Public Health

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 essay 1,500–2,000 words

Open learning

The Unit could be delivered by open or distance learning. However, it would require planning by the centre to ensure sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence. Arrangements would have to be made to ensure that the assessment was conducted under supervision.

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities for developing Core Skills of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 6, *Communication* at SCQF level 6 and *Working with Others* at SCQF level 6. There is no automatic certification of Core Skills.

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.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for candidates

Unit title: Policy and Practice in Public Health

This Unit is designed to enable you to work in partnership to promote health. You will examine the community development model of health promotion.

To begin with, you will look at current policies and practice in health promotion. Then you will analyse the relationship between health and Individuals/Communities. For assessment candidates will be required to produce an essay of 1,500–2,000 words. This is an open-book assessment. The topic for this essay will be known in advance.