

-SQA- SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

HIGHER NATIONAL UNIT SPECIFICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

-Unit Number- **7470994**
-Superclass- **EA**
-Title- **EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS**

-DESCRIPTION-

GENERAL COMPETENCE FOR UNIT: Describing the major institutions of the European Union, analysing the decision making process and evaluating the future structure of these institutions.

OUTCOMES

1. describe the principal EU Institutions;
2. analyse the community decision making process across the principal EU institutions;
3. analyse the role of Westminster in the decision making process across the European Union;
4. evaluate the likely changes to the structure of the principal EU Institutions.

CREDIT VALUE: 1 HN Credit

ACCESS STATEMENT: Access to this unit is at the discretion of the centre. Candidates will require a good basis of literacy and previous study of European issues would be an advantage.

For further information contact: Committee and Administration Unit, SQA, Hanover House, 24 Douglas Street, Glasgow G2 7NQ.

Additional copies of this unit may be purchased from SQA (Sales and Despatch section). At the time of publication, the cost is £1.50 (minimum order £5).

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STATEMENT OF STANDARDS

UNIT NUMBER: 7470994

UNIT TITLE: EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS

Acceptable performance in this unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

OUTCOME

1. DESCRIBE THE PRINCIPAL EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- (a) Description of the composition of the principal Institutions is correct.
- (b) An outline of the functions of the major Institutions is accurate.
- (c) Description of the relative importance of the principal Institutions is correct.
- (d) Description of the strengths and weaknesses of the principal Institutions is accurate.

RANGE STATEMENT

Principal Institutions and composition: Commission; Parliament; Council of Ministers; Court of Justice.

Functions: voting procedures; committees; monitoring and implementing EU policies.

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Written and/or oral evidence which satisfies all of the performance criteria and all items listed in the range.

OUTCOME

2. ANALYSE THE COMMUNITY DECISION MAKING PROCESS ACROSS THE PRINCIPAL EU INSTITUTIONS

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- (a) Explanation of the initiation of proposals is correct.
- (b) Description of the voting procedures in the Council of Ministers is accurate.
- (c) Description of the co-decision procedure is accurate.
- (d) Analysis of the conciliation procedure is comprehensive and accurate.

RANGE STATEMENT

Initiation of proposals: commission and parliament input; lobbying MEP's; Industrialists' input.

Voting procedures: weighting of votes; Council Presidency; COREPER.

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Written and/or oral evidence which satisfies all the performance criteria and all items listed in the range.

OUTCOME

3. ANALYSE THE ROLE OF WESTMINSTER IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS ACROSS THE EUROPEAN UNION

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- (a) Analysis of the principle of ministerial accountability is accurate.
- (b) Analysis of the scrutiny committees is accurate.
- (c) Analysis of the limitations of the power of Westminster is accurate.

RANGE STATEMENT

Ministerial accountability: debates in the house; reports by ministers.

Scrutiny committees: remit in house of lords; remit in house of commons; sub-committees.

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Written and/or oral evidence which satisfies all of the performance criteria and all items listed in the range.

OUTCOME

4. EVALUATE THE LIKELY CHANGES TO THE STRUCTURE OF THE PRINCIPAL EU INSTITUTIONS

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- (a) Evaluation of the effect of enlargement of the EU is comprehensive.
- (b) Explanation of the changing role of the European Parliament is comprehensive.
- (c) Evaluation of closer political co-operation is comprehensive.

RANGE STATEMENT

Enlargement: accession arrangements; accession applications and status changes to principal institutions, particularly Parliament.

Political co-operation: EFTA countries; associate status with Eastern European countries.

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Written and/or oral evidence which satisfies all of the performance criteria and all items listed in the range.

MERIT A candidate who achieves all performance criteria for all outcomes will be awarded a pass. A pass with merit may be awarded to a candidate who consistently demonstrates superior performance in the following:

- (a) the depth of analysis and detail of response;
- (b) the introduction of supplementary ideas or material and relating this to concepts learned previously.

ASSESSMENT

In order to achieve this unit, candidates are required to present sufficient evidence that they have met all the performance criteria for each outcome within the range specified. Details of these requirements are given for each outcome. The assessment instruments used should follow the general guidance offered by the SQA assessment model and an integrative approach to assessment is encouraged. (See references at the end of support notes).

Accurate records should be made of the assessment instruments used showing how evidence is generated for each outcome and giving marking schemes

and/or checklists, etc. Records of candidates' achievements should also be kept. These records will be required for external verification.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Proposals to modify outcomes, range statements or agreed assessment arrangements should be discussed in the first place with the external verifier.

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HIGHER NATIONAL UNIT SPECIFICATION**SUPPORT NOTES**

UNIT NUMBER: 7470994

UNIT TITLE: EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS

SUPPORT NOTES: This part of the unit specification is offered as guidance. None of the sections of the support notes is mandatory.

NOTIONAL DESIGN LENGTH: SQA allocates a notional design length to a unit on the basis of the time estimated for achievement of the stated standards by a candidate whose starting point is as described in the access statement. The notional design length for this unit is 40 hours. The use of notional design length for programme design and timetabling is advisory only.

PURPOSE This unit will provide candidates with an overview of the four principal institutions within the European Union, the operation on an individual basis and in co-operation with each other and changes to their configuration in the future.

CONTENT/CONTEXT Corresponding to Outcomes 1-4:

This unit should provide candidates with sufficient knowledge and skills to analyse and interpret contemporary data pertaining to a range of key aspects of the European Union and the principal institutions.

Wherever possible the assessments should be integrated across the outcomes, allowing a holistic approach to become part and parcel of the structure of the programme.

APPROACHES TO GENERATING EVIDENCE A candidate-centred, resource based learning approach is recommended. During the unit candidates will have the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in applying concepts and will be assessed at appropriate points throughout the programme.

Where a candidate is unsuccessful in achieving an outcome there will be provision for remediation and reassessment.

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES Centres may use instruments of assessment which they consider appropriate. Examples of the instruments of assessment used in the programme include:

- Oral and Written Reports
- Essays
- Extended response assessments
- Structured response question.

REFERENCES

1. Guide to unit writing.
2. For a fuller discussion on assessment issues, please refer to SQA's Guide to Assessment.
3. Information for centres on SQA's operating procedures is contained in SQA's Guide to Procedures.
4. For details of other SQA publications, please consult SQA's publications list.

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