

-SQA-SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

**Hanover House
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NATIONAL CERTIFICATE MODULE DESCRIPTOR

-Module Number- 6110310 -Session- 1990-91
-Superclass- PK

-Title- BASIC APPLICATIONS OF BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE

-DESCRIPTION-

Purpose This module is for students in or entering supervisory, training or personnel roles and for those working in teams, or with other people in both vocational and life skills areas.

It enables the student to develop an understanding of basic concepts of psychology and sociology and how they can be applied to different situations.

This module is also relevant for those progressing to further or higher education, eg. HNC/D courses.

Preferred Entry Level 7010040 Communication 3 or Standard Grade in English at 3.

Outcomes The student should:

1. use concepts of psychology in given situations;
2. use concepts of sociology in given situations;
3. investigate an aspect of human behaviour.

Assessment Procedures Acceptable performance in the module will be satisfactory achievement of all the Performance Criteria specified for each Outcome.

The following abbreviations are used below:

PC Performance Criteria
IA Instrument of Assessment

Note: The Outcomes and PCs are mandatory and cannot be altered. The IA may be altered by arrangement with SQA. (Where a range of performance is indicated, this should be regarded as an extension of the PCs and is therefore mandatory.)

OUTCOME 1 USE CONCEPTS OF PSYCHOLOGY IN GIVEN SITUATIONS

- PC
- (a) The psychological concept is relevant to the given situation.
 - (b) The explanation of the concept is consistent with standard psychological terminology.
 - (c) The explanation of resultant behaviour is accurate in terms of the application of the concept to the given situation.

IA Assignment

The student will be directed to consider a particular case from his/her own experience in which a concept of psychology was applied. The student will be given a set of questions which will test his/her understanding of, and ability to apply, concepts of psychology.

Satisfactory performance will be a report of approximately 100 to 200 words which contains:

- (i) a statement of the selected concept;
- (ii) an explanation of the concept which is consistent with standard psychological terminology;
- (iii) an explanation of behaviour which is accurate in terms of the concept.

OUTCOME 2 USE CONCEPTS OF SOCIOLOGY IN GIVEN SITUATIONS

- PCs
- (a) The sociological concept is relevant to the given situation.
 - (b) The explanation of the concept is consistent with standard sociological terminology.
 - (c) The explanation of resultant behaviour is accurate in terms of the application of the concept to the given situation.

IA Assignment

The student will be directed to consider a particular case from his/her own experience in which a concept of sociology was applied. The student will be given a set of questions which will test his/her understanding of, and ability to apply, concepts of sociology.

Satisfactory performance will be a report of approximately 100 to 200 words which contains:

- (i) a statement of the selected concept;
- (ii) an explanation of the concept which is consistent with standard sociological terminology;
- (iii) an explanation of behaviour which is accurate in terms of the concept.

OUTCOME 3**INVESTIGATE AN ASPECT OF HUMAN BEHAVIOUR**

PCs

- (a) The methodology used should be appropriate to the aspect of behaviour investigated.
- (b) The explanation of the behaviour investigated is correct in terms of psychological and sociological concepts.
- (c) The explanation of the difference between psychology and sociology is in terms of the emphasis on the individual and society.

IA Project

The student will be given a project brief which directs him/her to investigate a particular aspect of human behaviour. The area of study may be agreed under negotiation between the student and tutor.

Satisfactory performance will be demonstrated by a written report which includes:

- (i) reasons for selecting the topic;
- (ii) a statement of the hypothesis or hypotheses;
- (iii) a description of procedures used;
- (iv) the presentation of results;
- (v) discussion and conclusion;
- (vi) any research instruments as an appendix.

The report should contain both a sociological and psychological aspect.

**The following sections of the descriptor are offered as guidance.
They are not mandatory.**

CONTENT/CONTEXT

Corresponding to Outcomes 1-3:

1. Exploration of a few psychological concepts selected on the basis of the student's interests, eg. perception; learning; language; personality; attitudes. The student should be encouraged to relate the concepts to his/her own life experience.

Brief discussion of some of the applications of psychology in areas such as education; health and welfare; law and order; advertising; personnel; industrial relations; management; human development.

2. Exploration of a few sociological concepts selected on the basis of the student's interests, eg. socialisation; groups; power; class; authority; deviance; family; institutions. The student should be encouraged to relate the concepts to his/her own life experience.

Brief discussion of some of the applications of sociology, eg. in areas such as local and national government; personnel and industrial relations; education; law and order; organisations.

3. Introduction to behavioural science methods: research design; methods of data collection, eg. experiments; observation; tests; surveys and interviews; writing reports.

SUGGESTED LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES

The following programme of learning and teaching is an indication of one suitable approach:

1. An introduction to the nature and scope of behavioural science by tutor led discussion.
2. Negotiation and selection of the psychological concepts to be studied. This can be organised as a class activity or it may be possible for small groups to form, explore a selected concept, and report to the full group.
3. Negotiation and selection of sociological concepts as in 2.
4. Discussion of practical applications of psychological and sociological concepts. This could be achieved by the use of visiting speakers, case studies.

5. An introduction to behavioural science. The tutor could either run an experiment or conduct an investigation in order to illustrate behavioural science methodology, ie. research design; methods and how to write a report.
6. Students should then plan and undertake a simple experiment or investigation on a group or individual basis. Each student then produces a written report of the experiment. The experiment is an important element in the module and it is recommended that no less than 15 hours should be devoted to it.
7. There should also be the opportunity for the discussion of each research exercise.

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