Politics: Political Systems (Higher) Unit

SCQF: level 6 (6 SCQF credit points)

Unit code: H4L3 76

Unit outline

The general aim of this Unit is to develop learners' skills in comparing different political systems. Learners will apply knowledge and understanding of political processes and constitutional arrangements.

Learners who complete this Unit will be able to:

1   Use a range of sources of information to compare different political systems
2   Draw on knowledge and understanding of different political systems

This Unit is a mandatory Unit of the Higher Politics Course and is also available as a free-standing Unit. The *Unit Specification* should be read in conjunction with the *Unit Support Notes*, which provide advice and guidance on delivery, assessment approaches and development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. Exemplification of the standards in this Unit is given in *Unit Assessment Support*.

The *Course Assessment Specification* for the Higher Politics Course gives further mandatory information on Course coverage for learners taking this Unit as part of the Higher Politics Course.

Recommended entry

Entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. However learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by one or more of the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

♦ National 5 social science Courses or component Units
♦ other social subjects

Equality and inclusion

This Unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. For further information, please refer to the *Unit Support Notes.*

Standards

Outcomes and Assessment Standards

Outcome 1

The learner will:

1 Use a range of sources of information to compare different political systems by:

1.1 Using at least two sources of information to identify two comparable features of two political systems
1.2 Synthesising information which compares an aspect of two political systems
1.3 Comparing the extent of difference or similarity between an aspect of two political systems

Outcome 2

The learner will:

2 Draw on knowledge and understanding of different political systems by:

2.1 Describing in detail and explaining in detail an aspect of two political systems
2.2 Analysing a complex issue in two political systems

Evidence Requirements for the Unit

Assessors should use their professional judgement, subject knowledge and experience, and understanding of their learners, to determine the most appropriate ways to generate evidence and the conditions and contexts in which they are used.

Evidence is required to show that the learner has met the Outcomes and Assessment Standards.

Assessment evidence can be drawn from a number of activities and presented in a variety of formats, including, for example, presentations, posters, brief written responses to questions and participation in group tasks. All of the evidence does not need to be from the one activity, but can be assembled from a number of tasks and assessments carried out during the duration of the Course.

Evidence may be presented for individual Outcomes or gathered for the Unit, Units or Course as a whole by combining assessment holistically.

Exemplification of assessment is provided in *Unit Assessment Support*. Advice and guidance on possible approaches to assessment is provided in the *Unit Support Notes.*

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

It is expected that learners will develop broad, generic skills through this Unit. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Unit are based on SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Unit where there are appropriate opportunities.

1   Literacy

1.1   Reading
1.2   Writing

2   Numeracy

2.3   Information handling

4   Employability, enterprise and citizenship

4.6   Citizenship

5   Thinking skills

5.3   Applying
5.4   Analysing and evaluating

Amplification of these is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work.* The level of these skills should be at the same SCQF level as the Unit and be consistent with the SCQF level descriptor. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work is given in the *Unit Support Notes.*

Administrative information

Published: April 2014 (version 1.1)

Superclass: EA

History of changes to National Unit Specification

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
1.1	Assessment Standards amended to provide open and flexible opportunities for assessment.	Qualifications Development Manager	April 2014