



Modern Studies: International Issues (National 4)

SCQF: level 4 (6 SCQF credit points)

Unit code: H23G 74

Unit outline

The general aim of this Unit is to develop skills of using sources of information to draw and support conclusions and develop a straightforward knowledge and understanding of international issues, focusing on **either** a study of a major world power or a significant world issue.

Learners who complete this Unit will be able to:

- 1 Use a limited range of sources of information to draw and support conclusions about international issues, focusing on either a major world power or a significant world issue
- 2 Draw on a straightforward knowledge and understanding of international issues, focusing on either a major world power or a significant world issue

This Unit is a mandatory Unit of the National 4 Modern Studies 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 *Added Value Unit Specification* for the National 4 Modern Studies Course gives further mandatory information on Course coverage for learners taking this Unit as part of the National 4 Modern Studies 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 3 Modern Studies Course or relevant component Units

In terms of prior learning and experience, relevant experiences and outcomes may also provide an appropriate basis for doing this Unit.

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 limited range of sources of information to draw and support conclusions about international issues, focusing on either a major world power or a significant world issue by:**
 - 1.1 Drawing a conclusion using up to two sources of information
 - 1.2 Briefly supporting a conclusion using evidence from up to two sources of information

Outcome 2

The learner will:

- 2 Draw on a straightforward knowledge and understanding of international issues, focusing on either a major world power or a significant world issue by:**
 - 2.1 Giving straightforward descriptions of the main features of an international issue which draws on a factual knowledge of either a major world power or a significant world issue
 - 2.2 Giving straightforward explanations relating to an international issue

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.

The sources of information used may be written, numerical, graphical, pictorial, audio-visual or oral.

Assessment evidence can be drawn from a variety 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 variety 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.

If the focus of the learning in this Unit is on a major world power; centres should choose a member of the G20 group of countries (excluding the United Kingdom).

If centres choose to study an international issue, the issue should be a contemporary one and be one which has an impact on more than one country.

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

Assessment standard thresholds

If a candidate successfully meets the requirements of the specified number of Assessment Standards they will be judged to have passed the Unit overall and no further re-assessment will be required.

The specific requirements for this Unit is as follows:

- ◆ 3 out of the 4 Assessment Standards must be achieved

It should be noted that there will still be the requirement for candidates to be given the opportunity to meet all Assessment Standards. The above threshold has been put in place to reduce the volume of re-assessment where that is required.

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

2 Numeracy

2.3 Information handling

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

4.6 Citizenship

5 Thinking Skills

5.2 Understanding

5.3 Applying

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 of 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: September 2018 (version 1.2)

Superclass: FB

History of changes to National Unit Specification

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
1.1	Assessment Standards 1.1 and 1.2 — 'up to' added	Qualifications Development Manager	June 2013
1.2	Assessment standard thresholds added	Qualifications Manager	September 2018

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Note: readers are advised to check SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk to ensure they are using the most up-to-date version of the Unit Specification.

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