



Physics: Waves and Radiation (National 4)

SCQF: level 4 (6 SCQF credit points)

Unit code: H25A 74

Unit outline

The general aim of this Unit is to develop skills of scientific inquiry, investigation and analytical thinking, along with knowledge and understanding of waves and radiation. Learners will apply these skills when considering the applications of waves and radiation on our lives, as well as the implications on society/the environment. This can be done by using a variety of approaches, including investigation and problem solving.

The Unit covers the key areas of wave characteristics, sound, electromagnetic spectrum and nuclear radiation. Learners will research issues, apply scientific skills and communicate information related to their findings, which will develop skills of scientific literacy.

Learners who complete this Unit will be able to:

- 1 Apply skills of scientific inquiry and draw on knowledge and understanding of the key areas of this Unit to carry out an experiment/practical investigation
- 2 Draw on knowledge and understanding of the key areas of this Unit and apply scientific skills

This Unit is a mandatory Unit of the National 4 Physics 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 Physics Course gives further mandatory information on Course coverage for learners taking this Unit as part of the National 4 Physics 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 Physics Course or relevant component Units

There may also be progression from National 3 Biology, National 3 Chemistry, National 3 Environmental Science, or National 3 Science Courses.

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 Apply skills of scientific inquiry and draw on knowledge and understanding of the key areas of this Unit to carry out an experiment/practical investigation by:

- 1.1 Planning an experiment/practical investigation
- 1.2 Following procedures safely
- 1.3 Making and recording observations/measurements correctly
- 1.4 Presenting results in an appropriate format
- 1.5 Drawing valid conclusions
- 1.6 Evaluating experimental procedures

Outcome 2

The learner will:

2 Draw on knowledge and understanding of the key areas of this Unit and apply scientific skills by:

- 2.1 Making accurate statements
- 2.2 Describing an application
- 2.3 Describing a physics issue in terms of the effect on the environment/society
- 2.4 Solving problems

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.

The key areas covered in this Unit are:

- ◆ wave characteristics
- ◆ sound
- ◆ electromagnetic spectrum
- ◆ nuclear radiation

Evidence can be drawn from a variety of sources and presented in a variety of formats. The table below describes the evidence for the Assessment Standards which require exemplification. Evidence may be presented for individual Outcomes or gathered for the Unit as a whole, through combining assessment holistically in a single activity. If the latter approach is used, it must be clear how the evidence covers each Outcome.

Assessment Standard	Evidence Requirements
Planning an experiment/practical investigation	The plan should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ an aim ◆ a variable to be kept constant ◆ measurements/observations to be made ◆ the resources ◆ the method, including safety considerations if appropriate
Presenting results in an appropriate format	One format from: Table, graph, chart, key, diagram or other appropriate format
Drawing valid conclusions	Include reference to the aim
Evaluating experimental procedures	Suggest an improvement
Making accurate statements	At least half of the statements should be correct across the key areas of each Unit
Describing a physics issue in terms of the effect on the environment/society	The description should include the physics of the issue
Solving problems	One of each: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ make predictions ◆ selecting information ◆ processing information including calculations as appropriate

Transfer of evidence: Evidence for the achievement of Outcome 1 and Assessment Standards 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 for this Unit can be used as evidence of Outcome 1 and Assessment Standards 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 in the Dynamics and Space and Electricity and Energy Units of this Course.

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 this 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.

2 Numeracy

- 2.1 Number processes
- 2.2 Money, time and measurement
- 2.3 Information handling

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 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: June 2013 (version 1.1)

Superclass: RC

History of changes to National Unit Specification

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
1.1	Standards section: change to wording in Assessment Standard 1.2 to clarify meaning; 'accurately' replaced with 'correctly'; Evidence Requirements section: wording added/changed to clarify Evidence Requirements	Qualification Development Manager	June 2013

This specification may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged. Additional copies of this Unit can be downloaded from SQA's website at www.sqa.org.uk.

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.

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2013