



Sociology: Human Society (National 5) Unit

SCQF: level 5 (6 SCQF credit points)

Unit code: H26J 75

Unit outline

The general aim of this Unit is to develop learners' understanding of the sociological approach to studying human societies. Learners will investigate the research methods used in sociology, and will describe the relationships that exist amongst individuals, groups and institutions from different sociological perspectives.

Learners who complete this Unit will be able to:

- 1 Explain the sociological approach to understanding society
- 2 Explain relationships amongst individuals, groups and institutions

This Unit is a mandatory Unit of the National 5 Sociology 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 National 5 Sociology Course gives further mandatory information on Course coverage for learners taking this Unit as part of the National 5 Sociology 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 4 People and Society Course or relevant component Units
- ◆ National 4 Modern Studies Course or relevant component Units

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 Explain the sociological approach to understanding society by:**
 - 1.1 Distinguishing between common-sense and sociological explanations of social behaviour
 - 1.2 Describing basic features and one advantage and one disadvantage of two different research methods that tend to generate quantitative data
 - 1.3 Describing basic features and one advantage and one disadvantage of two different research methods that tend to generate qualitative data
 - 1.4 Selecting research methods favoured by sociologists that adopt structural and action perspectives

Outcome 2

The learner will:

- 2 Explain relationships amongst individuals, groups and institutions by:**
 - 2.1 Explaining the structural perspective, using the concept of structure
 - 2.2 Explaining the action perspective, using the concept of social action
 - 2.3 Describing two differences between structural and action perspectives

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.

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 are drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Unit where there are appropriate opportunities.

1 Literacy

1.3 Listening and talking

3 Health and wellbeing

3.1 Personal learning

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: June 2013 (version 1.1)

Superclass: EE

History of changes to National Unit Specification

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
1.1	Health and wellbeing and personal learning added to Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work.	Qualifications 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