

National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT	Practical Research and Dissertation (Advanced Higher)	
NUMBER	D0F5 13	(Home Economics – Health and Food Technology)
	D279 13	(Home Economics – Fashion and Textile Technology)
	D0F6 13	(Home Economics – Lifestyle and Consumer Technology)
COURSE	Home Economics (Advanced Higher)	

SUMMARY

This unit will allow the candidate to carry out independent, practical research within a research project or industrial placement. The candidate will further develop the investigative skills of planning, research, analysis and presenting evidence.

OUTCOME

Undertake practical research in order to present a dissertation on an issue relating to one Home Economics context.

Administrative Information

Superclass:	NG
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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

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RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates will normally be expected to have attained one of the following:

- Higher in Home Economics (from the relevant context to be studied)
- Higher units in Home Economics (from the relevant context to be studied)
- a course or units at Higher level in a related subject area

The unit is also suitable for ‘new starts’ or adult returners with appropriate prior experience.

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Advanced Higher.

CORE SKILLS

This unit gives automatic certification of the following:

Complete core skills for the unit	None
Core skills components for the unit	Planning and Organising (H)

Additional information about core skills is published in *Automatic Certification of Core Skills in National Qualifications* (SQA, 1999).

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

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Acceptable performance in this unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

OUTCOME

Undertake practical research in order to present a dissertation on an issue relating to one Home Economics context.

Performance criteria

- (a) The issue is identified and placed in context.
- (b) Suitable and relevant source materials and methods of investigation are identified.
- (c) There is a clear set of objectives which show logical progression from introduction to conclusion.
- (d) The research process is logical, appropriately focused, well sequenced and responsive to interim findings.
- (e) The research process is informed by appropriate references and sources.
- (f) Conclusions are valid, impartial and supported by research evidence and convincing argument.
- (g) The dissertation presents coherent, convincing arguments based on research findings.

Evidence requirements

For Outcome 1 PC (a) - PC (g) evidence in the form of a dissertation of approximately 3500 words, based on the performance criteria specified above. The dissertation topic should be identified by the candidate in negotiation with the teacher/lecturer and should be derived from the area of course content.

Specific advice:

Evidence should be provided to show that each of the performance criteria have been met on one occasion. The source information should be current and should be of a scientific, technological or sociological nature and related to the appropriate context to be studied, for example issues relating to food or the food industry; textile and the textile industry or the welfare of the family.

National Unit Specification: support notes

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This part of the unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the time allocated to this unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

GUIDANCE ON CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT

This unit requires the candidate to complete a research project which may or may not be undertaken on an industrial placement. This will lead to the production of a dissertation which, as a product, is not assessed in the unit assessment, but forms part of the external course assessment. The unit assessment focuses on planning, researching, reviewing and analysing work which leads to the dissertation.

The topics for the research project or industrial placement should be derived by the candidate from the content of **one** context for study in Advanced Higher Home Economics. It must be stressed that the interest and expertise of the candidate and teacher/lecturer and the availability of resources must be taken into account, when selecting topics. Those wishing to participate in an industrial placement will be expected to carry out research whilst on the placement. Work-shadowing on its own will not be appropriate.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Guidance will be provided on specifications for the research project and the industrial placement. These specifications will include an element of flexibility so that candidates are not restrained from pursuing new avenues. Where appropriate, arrangements should be made to ensure that there will be no artificial barriers to learning and assessment. The nature of a candidate's special needs should be taken into account when planning learning experiences and selecting and designing assessment instruments.

Evidence for this unit can be collected through the teacher/lecturer interviewing the candidate on three occasions, and presentation of a dissertation. Two of these interviews could be carried out during the research/placement and one on completion. The teacher/lecturer could record evidence of achievement using questions and a checklist based on the performance criteria. These interviews should not be confused with tutorials given by teachers/lecturers to offer advice and assistance. Should the teachers/lecturers wish to use this evidence to predict attainment in relation to the course award in Advanced Higher Home Economics, they should refer to the grade descriptions.

This unit can be delivered concurrently with Resource Management to form the component units of Advanced Higher Home Economics in **one** context of study. Generation of evidence can be achieved by integrating Outcomes 1-3 of Resource Management with this unit.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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SPECIAL NEEDS

This unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative outcomes for units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment and Certification Arrangements for Candidates with Special Needs/Candidates whose First Language is not English* (SQA, 1998).