

National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Investigating Life and Work in Another Country (Access 2)

NUMBER D80M 08

COURSE

SUMMARY

Candidates completing this unit will have developed awareness of life and work in a country other than Scotland, England, Northern Ireland or Wales. Candidates will achieve this awareness while contributing to an investigation. As a group, they will explore at least three aspects of everyday life and three aspects of everyday work in the identified country. The unit provides opportunities for candidates to achieve the core skill of Working with Others at Access 2. Candidates will be supported during the investigation by frequent and directive supervision.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Contribute to planning an investigation into life and work in a country other than Scotland, England, Northern Ireland or Wales, while under frequent and directive supervision.
- 2 Contribute to carrying out the investigation while under frequent and directive supervision.
- 3 Identify effectiveness of own personal contribution to the investigation, given simple criteria.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, it would be beneficial if candidates had prior experience of contributing to simple investigations while supported by frequent and directive supervision.

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Access 2

Administrative Information

Superclass: ED

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CORE SKILLS

Information on the automatic certification of any core skills in this unit is published in *Automatic Certification of Core Skills in National Qualifications* (SQA, 1999).

This unit gives automatic certification of the following:

Complete core skills for the unit

Working with Others Access 2.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

UNIT Investigating Life and Work in Another Country (Access 2)

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 1

Contribute to planning an investigation into life and work in a country other than Scotland, England, Northern Ireland or Wales, while under frequent and directive supervision.

Performance criteria

- a) The country for investigation is identified correctly.
- b) The purpose of the investigation is identified correctly.
- c) Tasks to carry out during the investigation are identified correctly.
- d) Contributors' preferences for carrying out the tasks are identified correctly.
- e) Allocation of identified tasks is agreed with other contributors.

Evidence requirements

Written and/or oral evidence that the candidate can:

- PC(a) identify correctly the country for investigation
- PC(b) identify the purpose of the investigation – which is to explore at least three aspects of everyday life and at least three aspects of everyday work in the identified country
- PC(c) identify correctly three tasks to carry out during in the investigation, each task should involve finding and presenting brief information about one aspect of everyday life and one aspect of everyday work in the identified country, the aspect of life and the aspect of work investigated should be different for each task
- PC(d) identify with support, three of the contributors' preferences, (including own personal preference), for carrying out the identified tasks
- PC(e) identify with support, tasks that the three contributors, (including self), have agreed to carry out

A record should be kept of oral evidence.

OUTCOME 2

Contribute to carrying out the investigation while under frequent and directive supervision.

Performance criteria

- a) Information relevant to own task is sought from other people.
- b) Information relevant to the tasks of other contributors is provided.
- c) Own task is carried out and completed as an effective personal contribution to the investigation.
- d) An accurate presentation of this personal contribution is made.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

UNIT Investigating Life and Work in Another Country (Access 2)

Evidence requirements

Evidence of actual performance is required that, with support, the candidate can:

- PC(a) seek effectively from others, brief information about one aspect of everyday life and one aspect of everyday work in the identified country
- PC(b) provide effectively to two other contributors, information relevant to their tasks, each of their tasks will involve finding and presenting brief information about one aspect of everyday life and one aspect of everyday work in the identified country
- PC(c) carry out and complete own task in a manner which makes an effective contribution to the investigation
- PC(d) present findings of own task accurately as a personal contribution to the investigation

OUTCOME 3

Identify effectiveness of own personal contribution to the investigation, given simple criteria.

Performance criteria

- a) Actions which made an effective personal contribution to the investigation are identified correctly.
- b) Actions which could have made a more effective personal contribution to the investigation are identified correctly.
- c) One action to improve in order to make a more effective contribution to a group activity in future is identified realistically.

Evidence requirements

Written and/or oral evidence that, given four simple criteria which are the same or similar to those provided in the support notes, the candidate can:

- PC(a) identify two actions which made an effective personal contribution to the investigation
- PC(b) identify two actions which could have been performed better to make a more effective personal contribution to the investigation
- PC(c) identify one action to improve from those selected as evidence for PC(b), in order to make a more effective personal contribution to a group activity in future

A record should be kept of oral evidence.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Investigating Life and Work in Another Country (Access 2)

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

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

Teachers/lecturers are advised that this unit provides a suitable alternative to the unit *D75N 08 Life in Another Country – Optional Language (Access 2)*, for candidates do not wish to study the mandatory language component of the Optional Language unit.

GUIDANCE ON THE CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT

Any country which is not part of the United Kingdom may be investigated.

It is recommended that the investigation is undertaken by at least three candidates, although one candidate and two other contributors, or two candidates and one other contributor would be acceptable, so long as the evidence requirements for the unit are met by the candidate(s). It is important that the unit is carried out as a group activity because it provides automatic certification of the core skill of Working with Others at Access 2.

Candidates should be supported during the investigation by frequent and directive supervision.

This means that the investigation is broken down into simple components, similar to those practised previously by the candidates. For example, the teacher/lecturer may suggest a suitable country for investigation and give advice about the tasks. Although only three candidates and their tasks are involved in the assessment undertaken by any one candidate, all tasks have the same structure and the number of tasks undertaken during the investigation will depend on the number of contributors involved in the investigation. Each task consists of investigating and presenting information on one aspect of everyday life and one aspect of everyday work in the identified country. The only constraint is that the two aspects must be different for each task ie for each candidate.

Outcomes 1 to 3 are arranged in a natural sequence of activities, from the planning stage to the completion of the investigation.

Outcome 1

Candidates become familiar with the main points of the investigation. Each candidate should identify the task he or she would prefer to carry out. Candidates should participate in the following important skills relating to working with others – identifying preferences and agreeing allocation of tasks. It is acceptable at this level for the teacher/lecturer to prompt candidates to explain their preferences and to help resolve allocation.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Investigating Life and Work in Another Country (Access 2)

Example: The group is investigating Life and Work in the Inuit Lands of the Arctic

Task 1 Candidate A is investigating the life and work of a young married Inuit man. Candidate A selects a name for the man and then finds out more about the two aspects below.

aspect of everyday life: spending time with his children and their grandparents, including caring for them, doing home maintenance for them
aspect of everyday work: running the village shop which sells just about everything.

Task 2 Candidate B is investigating the life and work of a young unmarried Inuit woman. Candidate B selects a name for the woman and then finds out more about the following.

aspect of everyday life: at home the young woman enjoys making string puzzles during the long dark arctic winter, her grandmother taught her to make the puzzles
aspect of everyday work: she is an Inuit artist who works in a co-operative, she makes traditional Inuit patterns in stone and then uses the stones to print materials to sell

Task 3 Candidate C is investigating the life and work of an elderly Inuit man. Candidate C selects a name for him and then follows up the information below.

aspect everyday life: the elderly man's life is strongly influenced by the weather, in bad weather he stays at home with the family and mends his hunting gear until the weather improves
aspect of everyday work: hunting for meat with his dog team

Outcome 2

Candidates carry out their tasks as a contributions to the investigation. The interweaving of personal routines to form community life in the country should be emphasised. Important skills relating to working with others are seeking and providing information. The teacher/lecturer may need to prompt candidates to cover necessary information.

Although the language of the country is not assessed in this unit, candidates may enjoy learning some of the language of the country they are investigating, for example the Inuit words *iglu* (house), *Kamik* (sealskin boots), *utoq* (a sleeping seal), *nanuq* (polar bear).

Outcome 3

During this outcome, candidates look back at their contributions to the investigation and set a value on their work. They identify things they did which were good contributions and other things they could have done better. Finally, they look forward and identify one way of improving their contributions to a group activity in future.

Important skills relating to working with others are identifying strengths and weaknesses of own contribution, using simple criteria supplied by the teacher/lecturer, more information on suitable criteria is provided in the section GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Investigating Life and Work in Another Country (Access 2)

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

The teacher/lecturer is advised to explain to candidates that this unit carries the core skills of Working with Others and to discuss with candidates where these skills are included in the unit, ie Outcome 1 PCs (d) and (e), Outcome 2 PCs (a) and (b), Outcome 3 PCs (a) and (b). It is also advisable to introduce at the start of the unit, the criteria against which the effectiveness of the candidate's personal contribution is judged in Outcome 3. Candidates will then have an opportunity to gather information to help with the assessment of Outcome 3 as they progress through the unit.

The tasks may involve candidates in a range of activities, which should take place under frequent and directive supervision and may include:

- gathering information from travel brochures about the country being investigated
- gathering information from printed and non-printed materials about living in the country
- gathering information from the media and internet
- setting up e-mail links with candidates in the country being investigated
- exploiting links which already exist within the candidates' experiences or in the local community, (eg a twin town, holiday destination, family connection)
- getting help from someone with particular knowledge or experience of the country
- examining consumer goods from that country.

Although a visit to the other country is not essential for this unit, many candidates do have the opportunity to travel abroad on holiday, for example to Europe or North America and (as noted above), this personal experience may be built into the investigation.

The time required to carry out each task should be adjusted to suit the individual candidate. Candidates should understand, however, that the constraint of time is a consideration when carrying out a task. The manner in which the findings of the investigation are recorded may vary. The teacher/lecturer should advise candidates on forms of presentation which particularly suit them. These may include some or all of the following: written notes, drawing, photographs, audio or video recordings, information downloaded from the internet, posters, newspaper cuttings, collage. The group's findings may well be presented as a wall display or by creating a 'minibook' which could for example, be added to the class or school library.

The teacher/lecturer may wish to consider several opportunities for their candidates to progress from this unit. Candidates who are interested in the language of the chosen country may wish to progress to one of the following Modern Language units at Access 2 focusing on life in another country and which incorporates a limited range of vocabulary:

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Investigating Life and Work in Another Country (Access 2)

D562 08 Life in Another Country – French
D564 08 Life in Another Country – German
D566 08 Life in Another Country – Italian
D568 08 Life in Another Country – Russian
D570 08 Life in Another Country – Spanish
D75N 08 Life in Another Country – Optional Language (free standing unit).

Candidates who show an interest in the social aspects of their investigation may wish to progress to the following Social Subjects units at Access 2:

D526 08 Social Subjects: Deciding
D527 08 Social Subjects: Contrasting
D528 09 Social Subjects: Organising and Presenting Information

Or candidates may wish to progress to similar but more challenging social subjects units at Access 3.

D526 09 Social Subjects: Deciding
D527 09 Social Subjects: Contrasting
D528 09 Social Subjects: Organising and Presenting Information

The Modern Language and Social Subjects routes are not mutually exclusive.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

The following assessment instructions could be used.

Outcome 1

Short answer questions, (although any other means of eliciting the same knowledge is acceptable), allowing the candidate to identify:

- the country for investigation
- the purpose of the investigation
- three tasks to be carried out during the investigation
- three contributors' preferences for undertaking the tasks
- allocation of tasks to three contributors including the candidate

A candidate's oral responses to questions should be recorded by audio cassette or in writing and the record retained as evidence.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Investigating Life and Work in Another Country (Access 2)

Example: The group is investigating Life and Work in the Inuit Lands of the Arctic

Assessment for Outcome 1 – Short Answer Questions

Name: Candidate A

Question 1 Which country are you investigating?

Answer: Inuit Lands in the Arctic

Question 2 What are you trying to find out during your investigation?

Answer: We will find out how Inuit people live and work

Question 3 What are three of the tasks your group will carry out?

Answer: Task 1 investigating the life and work of a young married Inuit man
Task 2 investigating the life and work of a young unmarried Inuit woman
Task 3 investigating the life and work of an elderly Inuit man

Question 4 Which tasks would three of your group like to do?

Answer: Candidate A does not mind
Candidate B would like to do Task 2
Candidate C would like to do Tasks 2 or 3

Question 5 Who will do which tasks?

Answer: We have agreed that Candidate A will do Task 1
Candidate B will do Task 2
Candidate C will do Task 3

Outcome 2

A practical exercise may be used to assess this outcome. The practical exercise should allow the candidate to demonstrate:

- seeking brief information from other people relevant to his or her task ie information about one aspect of everyday life and one aspect of everyday work
- providing brief information to two other contributors relevant to their tasks ie information about the aspect of everyday life and/or the aspect of everyday work that each of the contributors is investigating
- carrying out and completing her or his task as an effective contribution to the investigation
- making an accurate presentation of findings as a contribution to the group's investigation.

A record of the practical exercise should be kept. Seeking information, providing information, carrying out and completing the task may be recorded in a log. It is unnecessary for the candidate to record the log, this may be done by a responsible person. However, the teacher/lecturer should authenticate the log by signing it as an accurate record of the work of the named candidate.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Investigating Life and Work in Another Country (Access 2)

Example: The group is investigating Life and Work in the Inuit lands of the Arctic

Assessment for Outcome 2: Log of contributing to the investigation by carrying out Task 1 Name: Candidate A	
My task is	to investigate the life and work of a young married Inuit man. I have to choose his name and then find out about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how he spends time with his children and their grandparents • how he runs the village shop
I started my task on	September 12
Other people I asked for information	I asked the school librarian to help me find books on Inuit life and to help me photocopy the pictures
Information I gave to Candidate B	I showed Candidate B a picture of a string puzzle I found in one of the library books, and borrowed a piece of soapstone from my uncle to show her.
Information I gave to Candidate C	I found the words iglu, utoq and nunuq on the internet, they mean house, seal and polar bear, I told candidate C about these words
My contribution to the investigation	A poster with writing about the shop and family life and pictures I photocopied of the shop and family
I completed my task on	December 15 when my poster was added to the wall display
This log was recorded by	Candidate A, with spelling checked by the teacher
This log is an accurate record of the candidate named above.	
Teacher/lecturer signature..... Date.....	

Outcome 3

A brief personal interview may be used to assess this outcome, alternatively short answer questions could be used. If a personal interview is used, those parts of the candidate's responses which answer the questions should be recorded, orally or in writing. If short answer questions are used, it is unnecessary for the candidate to write the responses, this may be done by a responsible person. In either case, the record should be authenticated by the teacher/lecturer.

At the start of the unit, the teacher/lecturer is advised to introduce candidates to the criteria against which they evaluate their contributions so that they can collect information to help with the assessment of Outcome 3 while they are carrying out their tasks.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Investigating Life and Work in Another Country (Access 2)

Example

Candidates' Assessment Record for Investigating Life and Work in Another Country (Access 2)

Names of Candidates/ Outcomes and PCs achieved												
		<i>Add date on which candidate achieves PC and Outcome</i>										
Outcome 1	PC (a) PC (b) PC (c) PC (d) PC (e)											
Outcome 2	PC (a) PC (b) PC (c) PC (d)											
Outcome 3	PC (a) PC (b) PC (c)											
<p>This is an accurate record for the candidates named above</p> <p>Teacher/lecturer signature Date</p>												

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Investigating Life and Work in Another Country (Access 2)

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 special 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).