



Access 3 People and Society

Draft National Course Specification



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Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Course Specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

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Contents

Course outline	1
Recommended entry	1
Progression	1
Equality and inclusion	1
Rationale	2
Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles	2
Purpose and aims of the Course	3
Information about typical learners who might do the Course	3
Course structure and conditions of award	5
Course structure	5
Conditions of award	6
Skills, knowledge and understanding	7
Assessment	8
Unit assessment	8
Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work	9
Appendix	10
Administrative information	11

Course outline

Course title: Access 3 People and Society

SCQF: level 3 (18 SCQF credit points)

Course code: to be advised

Mandatory Units

People and Society: Investigating Skills (Access 3) 6 SCQF credit points

People and Society: Comparing and Contrasting (Access 3) 6 SCQF credit points

People and Society: Making Decisions (Access 3) 6 SCQF credit points

Recommended entry

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ Access 2 Social Subjects 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 Course. Further information on relevant experiences and outcomes will be given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Progression

This Course or its components may provide progression to:

- ◆ People and Society Units and Course at National 4
- ◆ other qualifications in People and Society or related areas
- ◆ further study, employment and/or training

Further details are provided in the Rationale section.

Equality and inclusion

This Course 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 *Course Support Notes*.

Rationale

All new and revised National Courses reflect Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles. They offer flexibility, provide more time for learning, more focus on skills and applying learning, and scope for personalisation and choice.

In this Course, and its component Units, there will be an emphasis on skills development and the application of those skills. Assessment approaches will be proportionate, fit for purpose and will promote best practice, enabling learners to achieve the highest standards they can.

This Course provides learners with opportunities to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities as well as skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

All Courses provide opportunities for learners to develop breadth, challenge and application, but the focus and balance of the assessment will be appropriate for the subject area.

Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles

The People and Society Course builds on a wide range of experiences and outcomes and principles and practices from across several curriculum areas. Courses can be built upon the foundation laid by the principles and practices and experiences and outcomes in the social studies curriculum area, as well as on aspects of health and wellbeing and religious and moral education curriculum areas.

This Course will encourage learners to develop important attitudes, including: an open mind and respect for the values, beliefs and cultures of others, an openness to new thinking and ideas, and a sense of responsibility and global citizenship.

By studying this Course, learners are enabled to develop the four capacities in many respects. For example, learners' horizons are extended and they are challenged to look at the world in new ways. Their confidence can grow as they begin to understand more about their sense of identity and place in the world. Learners will build up a framework of knowledge and understanding from across the social subjects and social sciences which can help them develop a sense of responsible citizenship.

The investigative and critical thinking activities in this Course give learners important experience in contributing to group work and also working on their own. Learners will acquire attributes which will be important for their life and work.

Through the skills and content of this Course, learners will be encouraged to develop positive attitudes to themselves and others. Learners will develop skills in working with others and in communicating, while the emphasis on using information and making decisions will develop thinking skills. Learners will have opportunities to develop skills in literacy.

Purpose and aims of the Course

People and Society is a flexible and inter-disciplinary Course offering learners the opportunity to study themes, issues and topics¹ of interest and relevance to them. It develops a range of skills as well as knowledge and understanding of people and society from across subject disciplines, drawing on the social studies, health and wellbeing, and religious and moral education curriculum areas. Through the perspectives of inter-disciplinary study, motivating contexts for learning can span subject boundaries, allowing learners to make connections across subject disciplines.

A deepening understanding of themselves and their society will help develop informed, confident and active learners, ready to make a positive contribution to society.

This Course is flexible and is designed to be appropriate and relevant to learners' needs. It offers significant opportunities for personalisation and choice. The approach taken and themes chosen for study in this Course can be drawn from a range of social subject/social science disciplines.

The main aims of this Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ develop a greater understanding of society and their place in it
- ◆ gain knowledge of themes and concepts from across social studies and social science disciplines
- ◆ develop an understanding of significant influences on society and individuals
- ◆ develop skills which will enhance opportunities to engage positively in society

Through the flexibility in this Course and its emphasis on skills development, opportunities are provided for learners to work as part of a team, take part in informed discussion, and thereby develop a respect and tolerance for the views of others as well as enhanced self-confidence.

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course is appropriate for a wide range of learners, from those returning to learning and wishing to achieve a broad understanding of society and their place in it, to learners who wish to progress to more specialised qualifications, training, further education or employment.

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, it may be beneficial for a learner studying the Course to have the skills and knowledge developed by relevant experiences and outcomes from the broad, general education or equivalent qualifications.

All Courses in this suite will take account of the needs of all learners and provide sufficient flexibility to enable learners to achieve in different ways and at a different pace.

¹ Throughout this document, the term 'theme' will be taken to include themes, issues and topics.

Important skills for learning, life and work are developed through successful completion of this Course. These skills include identifying sources of information; collecting, selecting and organising information; using information to compare and contrast; using information to make decisions; and drawing on the perspective of different subject disciplines to acquire knowledge and understanding of people and society.

People and Society Units and Courses are offered from SCQF level 3 to SCQF level 4. Vertical and lateral progression is possible to more specialised study in other related qualifications, at higher SCQF levels, in the social studies, health and wellbeing, and religious and moral education suites of Courses.

Access 3 People and Society qualifications are recognised as entry qualifications to employment, training, and further education. This Course is a preparation for a diverse range of occupations and careers.

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Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

The People and Society Course develops a range of cognitive skills in learners. It encourages active and experiential learning in order to develop an understanding of people and society. Learners will acquire and apply relevant knowledge and skills through an interdisciplinary social subjects/social sciences approach, at an appropriate level, in order to understand social themes.

Within each Unit there is flexibility in which theme can be studied, to allow personalisation and choice.

By taking this Course, learners will develop a range of important and transferable skills, including identifying sources of information, collecting information from sources and organising information; using information to compare and contrast; and using information to make decisions or form judgements. Throughout this Course they will use the perspective of different subject disciplines² to acquire a knowledge and understanding of people and society.

This Course offers flexibility so that relevant contexts can provide motivating and engaging learning experiences. Themes will be studied on an inter-disciplinary basis and in relation to key ideas drawn from social subjects and social sciences. A full list of these key ideas is shown in the appendix.

Course design will be based on the following principles:

The Course is skills-based and interdisciplinary in nature. The theme chosen in each Unit must be studied by adopting the approach of more than one subject discipline. The Course achieves coherence by adopting an overarching context or by being made up of linked Units.

Each Unit in the Course must be linked to two key ideas drawn from the social subjects/social sciences. In order to provide coherence, one key idea must be common across all three Units of the Course.

The Course has three mandatory Units.

Units are statements of standards for assessment and not programmes of learning and teaching. They can be delivered in a number of ways.

The principles above will be applied in the Units below:

People and Society: Investigating Skills (Access 3)

In this Unit, learners will develop routine investigating skills by choosing, with support, key ideas for study which will allow them to acquire a basic knowledge and understanding of people and society. Learners will develop a limited range of routine investigating skills, including identifying sources of information for investigation, collecting information from sources using routine methods of enquiry and organising information in a basic way.

² A list of the subject disciplines which can be drawn on by People and Society Units and Courses will appear in the *Course Support Notes*.

People and Society: Comparing and Contrasting (Access 3)

In this Unit, learners will develop routine skills of using information to compare and/or contrast by choosing, with support, key ideas for study which will allow them to acquire a basic knowledge and understanding of people and society. Learners will develop routine skills of using basic sources of information to contrast and/or make comparisons.

People and Society: Making Decisions (Access 3)

In this Unit, learners will develop routine decision-making skills by choosing, with support, key ideas for study which will allow them to acquire a basic knowledge and understanding of people and society. Learners will develop routine skills of using basic sources of information to make a decision.

Conditions of award

To achieve the Access 3 People and Society Course, learners must pass all of the required Units. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section.

Access 3 Courses are not graded.

Skills, knowledge and understanding

Full skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course will be given in the *Course Support Notes*. A broad overview of the subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be covered in the Course is given in this section.

This covers:

- ◆ use routine investigating skills, with support, by identifying a limited range of sources of information, collecting and organising a limited range of information
- ◆ use a limited range of sources to compare and/or contrast basic information about a theme, issue or topic drawn from a familiar context
- ◆ use basic information from a limited range of sources to make a decision about a familiar issue or topic
- ◆ use basic knowledge and understanding of a range of related themes, issues and topics about people and society, to give basic, factual descriptions and explanations

Skills, knowledge and understanding to be included in the Course will be appropriate to the SCQF level of the Course. The SCQF level descriptors give further information on characteristics and expected performance at each SCQF level (www.sqa.org.uk/scqf).

Assessment

Further information about assessment for the Course will be included in the *Course Support Notes*.

Unit assessment

All Units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in the Unit Specification.

They can be assessed on a Unit-by-Unit basis or by combined assessment.

They will be assessed on a pass/fail basis within centres. SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgments are consistent and meet national standards.

The assessment of the Units in this Course will be as follows:

People and Society: Investigating Skills (Access 3)

In this Unit, the learner will be required to provide evidence that they can:

- ◆ use a limited range basic sources of information to demonstrate routine investigating skills by identifying sources of information, collecting a limited amount of information from sources and organising information in a basic way
- ◆ use their knowledge and understanding of people and society to give basic, factual descriptions and explanations relating to a theme, issue or topic from the perspective of two social subject/social science disciplines

People and Society: Comparing and Contrasting (Access 3)

In this Unit, the learner will be required to provide evidence that they can:

- ◆ use at least two basic sources of information to make comparisons and/or contrasts
- ◆ use their knowledge and understanding of people and society to give basic, factual descriptions and explanations relating to a theme, issue or topic from the perspective of two social subject/social science disciplines

People and Society: Making Decisions (Access 3)

In this Unit, the learner will be required to provide evidence that they can:

- ◆ use at least two basic sources of information to make a decision
- ◆ use their knowledge and understanding of people and society to give basic, factual descriptions and explanations relating to a theme, issue or topic from the perspective of two social subject/social science disciplines

Exemplification of possible assessment approaches for these Units will be provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

(Note: The information given below reflects the initial thinking on significant opportunities for development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. These may be subject to change as the development process progresses.)

It is expected that learners will develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Course 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 Course where there are appropriate opportunities.

1 Literacy

- 1.1 Reading
- 1.2 Writing
- 1.3 Listening and talking

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

- 4.6 Citizenship

5 Thinking skills

- 5.2 Understanding
- 5.3 Applying

Amplification of these skills is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills will be appropriate to the level of the Course. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work for the Course is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Appendix

Key ideas	
behaviour	ethics
beliefs	heritage
cause	identity
change	interdependence
citizenship	need
conflict	power
consequence	responsibilities
co-operation	rights
culture	similarity
difference	society
diversity	technology
environment	values
equality	

Administrative information

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Superclass: to be advised

History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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Note: You are advised to check SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk) to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of the Course Specification.