

National Added Value Unit Specification



Unit title: Modern Studies Assignment (National 4)

SCQF: level 4 (6 SCQF credit points)

Unit code: to be advised

Unit outline

This is the Added Value Unit in the Modern Studies (National 4) Course. The general aim of this Unit is to enable the learner to provide evidence of added value for the Modern Studies (National 4) Course through the successful completion of a Modern Studies Assignment which will allow the learner to demonstrate challenge and application.

Learners who complete this Unit will be able to:

- 1 Research and use information relating to a contemporary topic or issue

This Unit is a mandatory Unit of the Modern Studies (National 4) Course. The Unit Specification should be read in conjunction with the *Course Support Notes* which provide advice and guidance on delivery and assessment approaches. Exemplification of the assessment in this Unit is given in the *National Assessment Resource*.

Recommended entry

Entry to this Unit is at the discretion of centre. It is recommended that the learner should be in the process of completing, or have completed, the following Units in the Modern Studies (National 4) Course:

- ◆ Modern Studies: Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom (National 4)
- ◆ Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom (National 4)
- ◆ Modern Studies: International Issues (National 4)

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 *Course Support Notes*.

Standards

Outcomes and assessment standards

Outcome 1

The learner will:

- 1 Research and use information relating to a contemporary topic or issue by:**
 - 1.1 Choosing, with support, a topic or issue for study from political, social or international contexts
 - 1.2 Using, with support, at least two sources of information relevant to the topic or issue being studied
 - 1.3 Collecting and organising straightforward information from at least two sources of information relevant to the topic or issue
 - 1.4 Evaluating a limited range of straightforward information on the topic or issue
 - 1.5 Presenting their findings showing evidence of the sources of information they have used and straightforward knowledge and understanding of the topic or issue studied

Evidence Requirements for the Unit

The Modern Studies Assignment is assessed internally by the teacher/lecturer.

Evidence for this Unit will be generated through an assignment in which the learner will draw upon the skills, knowledge and understanding they have learned during the Course. This will be assessed by a series of activities in which learners will research a topic or issue drawn from the Course and communicate their findings.

The assignment will be sufficiently open and flexible to allow for personalisation and choice. A contemporary topic or issue for the assignment should be chosen by the learner and agreed with the teacher/lecturer. The assignment will assess learners' skills, knowledge and understanding in relation to a topic or issue drawn from political, social or international contexts.

- ◆ All learners should be provided with a clear outline of the assessment, including when and how they will be assessed. The teacher/lecturer should offer the learner guidance on an appropriate choice of topic, including questions/tasks/prompts which will lead learners through the assignment in clear stages. This should involve advice on possible headings or other advice which assists the learner to describe and explain the key features of their topic. Throughout the research phase of the assignment, learners should record or retain a copy of the information collected. For example, this may be in the form of a web page print-out, a recording of an interview carried out or a written summary of a newspaper article. It is good practice that this information is dated and the source is referenced.
- ◆ While the learner should choose the topic to be researched, it would be reasonable for the choice the learner makes to be one where the teacher/lecturer has some expertise and has resources available to enable the learner to successfully meet the assessment standards. The assignment should be carried out under supervised, open-book conditions.

- ◆ Teacher/lecturer guidance will be required to direct candidates to appropriate source materials. These can be primary and/or secondary. At least two sources of information must be used. Learners should record the sources they have used.
- ◆ Learners can present their findings in a variety of ways, eg a talk followed by questions (a record must be kept by the teacher) or using digital media (for example, PowerPoint/Keynote/Prezi). Note that these are illustrative examples of digital media and do not constitute a closed list. A learning log or journal, which may be in electronic format, can be used, as can a written 'write up'. In assessing the learner's presentation, care should be taken to avoid over crediting such factors as IT skills, oral or written communication skills, as opposed to Modern Studies skills, knowledge and understanding.
- ◆ The assignment need not be seen as an end-of-Course activity. It can be prepared for, carried out and assessed at any point within the Modern Studies (National 4) Course. Learners should be given sufficient time to generate the required evidence to meet the assessment standards.
- ◆ The notional 40 hours for the assignment is intended to encompass the total learning and teaching activities to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding required to meet the assessment standards and the final assessment activity. Time should be allocated within Course planning for the learner to decide on a topic or issue, collect and organise sources of evidence, take notes on the key features of the topic or issue, and evaluate the information being used. As a notional guide, 20% of the overall time allocated to the Unit (ie 8 hours) should be taken as the upper limit of the volume of preparation and assessment time.

Further information is provided in the exemplification of assessment in the *National Assessment Resource*. Advice and guidance on possible approaches to assessment is provided in the *Course Support Notes*.

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

Please refer to the Course Specification for information about skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

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Further mandatory information on Course coverage for the Modern Studies (National 4) Course

The following gives details of mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Modern Studies (National 4) Course. Assessment of this Added Value Unit will involve selecting appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding from those listed below, in line with the Evidence Requirements above. This list of skills, knowledge and understanding also provides the basis for the assessment of all the Units in the Course:

- ◆ develop and apply basic knowledge and understanding and skills in straightforward political, social or international contexts
- ◆ with guidance, research and use straightforward information collected from a limited range of sources about contemporary issues which are familiar
- ◆ use a limited range of straightforward sources of evidence to detect and explain bias and exaggeration in familiar political contexts
- ◆ make and justify decisions in familiar social contexts using a limited range of straightforward evidence
- ◆ draw and justify straightforward and valid conclusions from a limited range of straightforward sources of evidence about familiar international issues
- ◆ demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of the main democratic processes, institutions and organisations which make up political life in Scotland and the UK by describing information which is mainly factual and giving straightforward explanations
- ◆ demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of a major social issue in Scotland and the UK focusing on either social inequality or crime and the law by describing information which is mainly factual and giving straightforward explanations
- ◆ demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of an international issue/s relating to another society or global issue by describing information which is mainly factual and give straightforward explanations of the main contemporary socio/economic and political issues in a major world power, other than the UK; or explain the causes and consequences of a major international issue and the attempts at its resolution

Administrative information



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Superclass: to be advised

History of changes

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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