

SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

HIGHER NATIONAL UNIT SPECIFICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

-Unit number-	7620247
-Unit title-	CRIMINOLOGY
-Superclass category	EE
-Date of publication (month and year)	JULY 1997
-Originating centre for unit	SQA

-DESCRIPTION-

GENERAL COMPETENCE FOR UNIT: Explaining the contribution of the main criminological theories to criminal behaviour and describing the working of the penal system.

OUTCOMES

1. describe the nature and extent of crime;
2. explain crime in terms of theories of individual behaviour;
3. explain criminal behaviour in terms of environmental factors;
4. describe the aims, nature and development of a penal system within the United Kingdom;
5. apply appropriate theories to the analysis of a particular crime problem.

CREDIT VALUE: 2 HN Credits

ACCESS STATEMENT: Access to this unit is at the discretion of the centre.

However, it would be beneficial if the candidate has previously studied one or more of the behavioural sciences. This may be evidenced by achievement of eg National Certificate Module 6110310 Basic Applications of Behavioural Science: or 91486 People and Society: Scottish Society, or 91487 People and Society: British Society.

Additional copies of this unit can be obtained from:

The Committee and Administration Unit, SQA, Hanover House, 24 Douglas Street, Glasgow G2 7NQ, (Tel: 0141-242 2168).

At the time of publication, the cost is £1.50 (minimum order £5.00).

HIGHER NATIONAL UNIT SPECIFICATION

STATEMENT OF STANDARDS

Unit number: 7620247

Unit title: CRIMINOLOGY

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

OUTCOME

1. DESCRIBE THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF CRIME

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- (a) The description of the development of criminology is clear and correct and identifies the contributing disciplines.
- (b) The description of the nature of crime is correct in terms of highlighting the problem of definition across time and place.
- (c) The problems associated with the measurement of crime are correctly identified and alternative strategies are clearly described.

RANGE STATEMENT

Contributing disciplines: law; psychology; sociology; biology; psychiatry; statistics.

Definition: legal issues; political issues; socio/psychological issues.

Problem of measurement: nature of official statistics; non-reporting; the 'dark figure'.

Alternative strategies: self report studies; victim studies; crime surveys.

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Written and/or oral evidence which satisfies all performance criteria and range.

OUTCOME

2. EXPLAIN CRIME IN TERMS OF THEORIES OF INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOUR

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- (a) Physiological and biological explanations of crime are accurate in terms of their strengths and weaknesses.
- (b) The explanations of crime based on psychological factors are accurate in terms of their strengths and weaknesses.
- (c) The explanations of crime based on theories of abnormal behaviour are accurate in terms of their strengths and weaknesses.

RANGE STATEMENT

Physiological and biological explanations: body build theories; genetic factors.

Psychological factors: learning; motivation; personality; intelligence.

Abnormal behaviour: psychiatric studies; psycho analytic theories.

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Written and/or oral evidence which satisfies all performance criteria and range.

OUTCOME

3. EXPLAIN CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR IN TERMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- (a) The explanations of criminal behaviour based on the geographical and physical environment are accurate in terms of their strengths and weaknesses.
- (b) The explanations of criminal behaviour based on the socio-cultural environment are accurate in terms of their strengths and weaknesses.
- (c) The explanations of criminal behaviour based on the politico-economic environment are accurate in terms of their strengths and weaknesses.

RANGE STATEMENT

Geographical and physical environment: ecological approach; environmental criminology.

Socio-cultural environment: anomie; differential association; sub-cultural theories; drift theory, labelling theory.

Politico-economic environment: economic conditions; white-collar and business crime; 'new' criminology; feminist interpretations.

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Written and/or oral evidence which satisfies all performance criteria and range.

OUTCOME

4. DESCRIBE THE AIMS, NATURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF A PENAL SYSTEM WITHIN THE UNITED KINGDOM

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- (a) The constituent parts of a penal system within the UK are accurately described.
- (b) Penal aims and philosophies are clearly identified within UK penal systems.
- (c) The range of disposals available to the criminal courts is accurately identified and described.
- (d) The strengths and weaknesses of custodial treatments of offenders are clearly explained.
- (e) The strengths and weaknesses of non-custodial treatments of offenders are clearly explained.

RANGE STATEMENT

Constituent parts: criminal courts; penal institutions; social work; arrangements for juvenile offenders.

Penal aims: retribution; deterrence; rehabilitation; social defence; denunciation; redress.

Disposals: imprisonment; fines; probation; community service orders; compensation and restitution; diversion.

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Written and/or oral evidence which satisfies all performance criteria and range.

OUTCOME

- 5. APPLY APPROPRIATE THEORIES TO THE ANALYSIS OF A PARTICULAR CRIME PROBLEM

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- (a) A selected crime problem is clearly identified, defined and justified.
- (b) Relevant criminological theories are identified and accurately applied to the selected problem.
- (c) Strategies for resolving the selected problem are clearly described in terms of these theories.

RANGE STATEMENT

The range for this outcome is fully expressed in the performance criteria.

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Written evidence in the form of a project of a maximum 4000 words covering all performance criteria.

MERIT To gain a pass in this unit, a candidate must meet the standards set out in the outcomes, performance criteria, range statements and evidence requirements.

To achieve a merit in this unit, a candidate must demonstrate a superior or more sophisticated level of performance. In this unit this might be shown in the following ways:

- (a) by displaying higher level skills of analysis;
- (b) by demonstrating effective independent work;
- (c) by providing more than the minimum evidence requirements;
- (d) by providing evidence of sustained use of relevant and topical examples;
- (e) by demonstrating effective application of outcomes to realistic situations.

ASSESSMENT

In order to achieve this unit, candidates are required to present sufficient evidence that they have met all the performance criteria for each outcome within the range specified. Details of these requirements are given for each outcome.

The assessment instruments used should follow the general guidance offered by the SQA assessment model and an integrative approach to assessment is encouraged. (See references at the end of support notes).

Accurate records should be made of the assessment instruments used showing how evidence is generated for each outcome and giving marking schemes and/or checklists, etc. Records of candidates' achievements should be kept. These records will be available for external verification.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Proposals to modify outcomes, range statements or agreed assessment arrangements should be discussed in the first place with the external verifier.

© Copyright SQA 1997

Please note that this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that:

- (i) no profit is derived from the reproduction;
- (ii) if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

HIGHER NATIONAL UNIT SPECIFICATION

SUPPORT NOTES

Unit Number : 7620247

Unit title: CRIMINOLOGY

SUPPORT NOTES: This part of the unit specification is offered as guidance. None of the sections of the support notes is mandatory.

NOTIONAL DESIGN LENGTH: SQA allocates a notional design length to a unit on the basis of time estimated for achievement of the stated standards by a candidate whose starting point is as described in the access statement. The notional design length for this unit is 80 hours. The use of notional design length for programme design and timetabling is advisory only.

PURPOSE This unit provides an understanding of the main theories of criminal behaviour, the implications of these for crime prevention and policing, and the main aspects and purposes of the penal system.

CONTENT/CONTEXT Corresponding to Outcomes 1-5

1. What is criminology? - the study of crime through various academic disciplines. What is crime? - legal, political and socio/psychological definitions. How much crime is there? - the problems of measurement through the official statistics and alternative strategies for measurement.
2. Explanation of criminal behaviour in terms of aspects of the individual and physiological, biological, psychological and psychiatric approaches.
3. Environmental explanations of criminal behaviour - geographical, physical/situational, sociological, political and economic approaches.
4. The penal system in one jurisdiction of the United Kingdom - Scotland, England and Wales, or Northern Ireland. The constituent parts, court systems; penal institutions; social work; juvenile justice. The aims of the chosen systems. The strengths and weaknesses of the main disposals, both custodial and non-custodial.
5. A particular aspect of crime should be studied in terms of various forms of explanation drawn from Outcomes 2 and 3 and possible strategies for dealing with the problem.

APPROACHES TO GENERATING EVIDENCE Approaches which can be used include:

- case studies;
- group discussion based upon articles, reports and video material;
- project work based on directed reading and research activity.

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES Centres may use the Instruments of Assessment which are considered by tutor/trainer to be most appropriate. Examples of Instruments of Assessment which could be used are as follows:

- restricted and extended response questions;
- case studies;
- multiple - choice questions.

For L.O.5 it is specifically recommended that a project of 4,000 words be used.

REFERENCES

- 1 Guide to unit writing, SQA, 1993 (Code A018).
2. Guide to assessment, SQA, 1993 (Code B005).
3. Guide to procedures, SQA, (Code: F009).
4. Notes for unit writers, SQA, 1995 (Code: A041).

For details of other SQA publications, please contact staff in the Committee and Administration Unit (Tel: 0141-242 2168) who can supply you with a copy of the publication list (Code: X037).

© Copyright SQA 1997

Please note that this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that:

- (i) no profit is derived from the reproduction;
- (ii) if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.