



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Occupational Therapy Support: Aspects of Sociology

Unit code: F3NG 34

Unit purpose: This Unit introduces the principle theoretical perspectives in sociology. The main focus of the Unit is on the sociological aspects of occupational therapy support practice. The Unit enables the candidate to gain an understanding of the social influences, experiences and life chances which shape the behaviour of individuals in receipt of occupational therapy support. In order to undertake this Unit, candidates must be working in the role of support worker, or on placement, within an occupational therapy setting, and have access to supervision by an occupational therapist.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Describe how the process of socialisation affects the individual in receipt of occupational therapy support.
- 2 Examine the impact of sociological factors on the health and well-being of the individual in receipt of occupational therapy support.
- 3 Explain the social contribution of occupational therapy to the health and well-being of individuals.

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 7 (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: While entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, it is recommended that candidates have good communication skills. These could be evidenced by the achievement of a nationally recognised qualification, for example English at SCQF level 6, or by pre-course interview and assignment. In order to undertake this Unit, candidates should have experience of working in a care environment and/or prior knowledge of behavioural science. They should typically be carrying out the role of a support worker within an occupational therapy setting, under supervision by an occupational therapist.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Communication* at SCQF level 5 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes. This Unit was developed as part of the HNC Occupational Therapy Support.

General information for centres (cont)

Assessment: There should be a range of assessment instruments used to assess this Unit. Extended response questions could be suitable for Outcomes 1 and 2 whilst an essay/report format could be used for Outcome 3.

Alternatively all three Outcomes could be assessed together via a case study based on a situation which the candidate has been involved with through employment as an occupational therapy support worker, or whilst on placement. This may be a more valuable form of assessment in terms of the candidate's learning as this approach can allow a greater demonstration of the application of the theoretical perspectives, to clinical practice.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Describe how the process of socialisation affects the individual in receipt of occupational therapy support

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Process of socialisation
- ◆ Agents of socialisation
- ◆ Socialisation in contemporary society
- ◆ Sociological Perspectives

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can describe:

- ◆ the process of socialisation. Description must include as a minimum, the way in which people learn the norms, values and rituals of their particular culture and how these impact on the individual receiving occupational therapy support.
- ◆ how socialisation is a dynamic and lifelong process.
- ◆ the principal agents of socialisation. Description must include as a minimum, family, peer groups, social institutions, life chances, media, religion and cultural phenomena.
- ◆ socialisation as it occurs in contemporary society.
- ◆ a minimum of two sociological perspectives.

Assessment Guidelines

Evidence could be generated through assignment and/or extended response questions. Alternatively questions covering the above Evidence Requirements based on a case study may be appropriate. This Outcome could be assessed together with Outcome 2.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Occupational Therapy Support: Aspects of Sociology

Outcome 2

Examine the impact of sociological factors on the health and well-being of the individual in receipt of occupational therapy support

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Nature and sociological concept of health
- ◆ Health and well-being
- ◆ Social experience
- ◆ Individual's health status
- ◆ Health inequality
- ◆ Sociological Perspectives

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ describe the multi-faceted nature of health and that health status is a continuum
- ◆ explain the extent to which a multiplicity of factors affect health and well-being
- ◆ describe how the social experience of an individual may impact on their health status
- ◆ describe health inequality as it exists within contemporary society and the extent to which this impacts on the individual in receipt of occupational therapy support
- ◆ describe a minimum of two sociological perspectives

Assessment Guidelines

Evidence may be generated via extended response questions or essay type format. This Outcome could be assessed together with Outcome 1 of this Unit. The assessment could address specific health issues and reflect the wider sociological concepts of health and well-being.

Outcome 3

Explain the social contribution of occupational therapy to the health and well-being of individuals

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Role of occupational therapy
- ◆ Therapeutic interventions
- ◆ Social contribution
- ◆ Healthcare provision
- ◆ Health deficits
- ◆ Sociological perspectives

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Occupational Therapy Support: Aspects of Sociology

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ explain the concept of professional occupational therapy in terms of its role as a therapeutic intervention
- ◆ explain in detail the contribution which occupational therapy makes to healthcare provision and the wellbeing of individuals
- ◆ explain how occupational therapy is socially constructed and defined as society's response to health and wellbeing deficits
- ◆ describe the views of occupational therapy taken by two differing sociological perspectives

Assessment Guidelines

An extended answer type format is appropriate for this Outcome, enabling candidates to fully describe and explain their knowledge of sociology and how this is applied to occupational therapy support practice.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	F3NG 34
Unit title:	Occupational Therapy Support: Aspects of Sociology
Superclass category:	EE
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Version:	02

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Bullet points added to Outcomes 1 and 2.	06/06/11

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Occupational Therapy Support: Aspects of Sociology

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.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

Outcome 1

This Outcome enables candidates to gain an understanding of the definitions and contexts of sociology and in particular the process of socialisation. There should be an emphasis on viewing individuals as products of the society (or societies) which they inhabit and therefore relate to. Candidates should examine the extent to which social structures and institutions influence the behaviour and life chances of individuals. The influence which any individual might have on their own process of socialisation could also be examined here.

Emphasis could be given to the agents of socialisation and the impact which these might have on the life chances of individuals.

Outcome 2

This Outcome takes the material from Outcome 1 and begins to relate the main issues to health and well-being of individuals. Here candidates should consider the extent to which health and well-being are the result of social factors and processes.

The ‘social definition’ of health should be explored in some depth via consideration of the many different concepts of health, as well as the variation in health status which individuals experience. Candidates could also give some consideration to specific sociological concepts such as social class, poverty, family structures, social status and the extent to which these affect health and well-being of individuals and society as a whole.

Outcome 3

This Outcome requires the candidate to examine the practice of occupational therapy as a socially constructed response to health/well-being deficits. The role of occupational therapy should be examined historically from the point of view of how society has responded to health care issues over the centuries and how, therefore, occupational therapy has evolved as a professional discipline within the context of healthcare professional roles.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

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The relation to sociology is emphasised here by viewing contemporary occupational therapy practice from a number of different sociological perspectives. The principal sociological perspectives covered could be:

- ◆ The Functionalist approach
- ◆ Conflict theory
- ◆ Feminist approaches
- ◆ Action theory

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

It is suggested that this Unit is taught later in the programme of the HNC Occupational Therapy Support, following the Unit *Occupational Therapy: Needs and Rights of Individuals*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

The delivery and assessment of this Unit may contribute towards the Core Skill of *Communication* at SCQF level 5.

The general skills of the Written Communication component are ‘read, understand and evaluate written communication’ for its reading element and ‘produce well-structured written communication’ for its written element. Specific reading skills required by candidates at SCQF level 5 include identifying and summarising significant information, ideas and supporting details in a written communication, and evaluation of the effectiveness of the communication in meeting its purpose; and specific writing skills include ‘presenting all essential ideas, information and supporting detail in a logical and effective order, and use of a structure which takes account of purpose and audience, emphasising the main points.

Candidates may utilise these skills throughout the Unit, such as when dealing with concepts such as how the process of socialisation affects an individual in Outcome 1 and health inequality in Outcome 2. Use of extended response questions and a report (for Outcome 3) as suggested in Assessment Guidelines are likely to afford opportunities for development of the Written Communication component. Candidates may also develop the Oral Communication component to SCQF level 5, if for example, the possible report for Outcome 3 were delivered orally.

Open learning

This Unit could be delivered via open learning, although the opportunity to discuss various perspectives and concepts within the sociological aspects of occupational therapy practice should be encouraged. Web-based discussion forums may be of value here in providing discussion opportunities for candidates involved in remote study.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

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Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

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The purpose of this Unit is to provide you with knowledge of how sociology can inform our understanding of individuals in the context of the society in which they live. In so doing, the Unit considers how a number of different societal factors can influence the health and well-being of an individual and the extent to which our health and wellbeing is a result of the society we inhabit.

The Unit then moves on to consider the social contribution of occupational therapy by how it contributes to society's response to health deficits, and its impact on quality of life.

On completion of the Unit you should be able to:

- 1 Describe how the process of socialisation affects the individual in receipt of occupational therapy support.
- 2 Examine the impact of sociological factors on the health and well-being of the individual in receipt of occupational therapy support.
- 3 Explain the social contribution of occupational therapy to the health and well-being of individuals.

Assessment of this Unit may take place in two parts. The first of these would assess Outcomes 1 and 2 together using a number of extended response questions, which may be related to a given case study or scenario. The third Outcome may be assessed via an essay which requires you to demonstrate your understanding of the sociological aspects of occupational therapy support practice.

Over the course of this Unit, there may be opportunities for you to develop the Core Skill of *Communication* at SCQF level 5.