

SKAD36 (SQA Unit Code - D1P3 04)

Facilitate participant's investigation and understanding of the environment



Overview

This unit is about enabling people to collect, collate, analyse, present and interpret data about the biological and geographical environment. This will usually be done by taking participants on limited journeys, often on foot, through a known and relatively non-hazardous area. Participants are likely to be children and young people undertaking field studies.

The unit is divided into two parts:

The first part describes the three things you have to do. These are:

1. prepare for environmental investigation
2. prepare participants for environmental investigation and understanding
3. develop participants' investigation skills and understanding of the environment

The second part describes the knowledge and understanding you must have.

This unit is for experienced staff working in the outdoors who are capable of working without direct supervision. Typical contexts will involve working with children and young people on educational outcomes.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Prepare for environmental investigation

- P1 identify the aims and learning objectives of the environmental investigation
- P2 make sure the investigation makes the best use of the available options and meets the participants needs
- P3 make sure the context and background for the investigation are appropriate to the desired learning
- P4 make sure there are safety parameters which will ensure the participants' safety and enable the agreed aims to be achieved
- P5 check and agree all aspects of the environmental investigation with a responsible person

You must be able to:

Prepare participants for environmental investigation and understanding

- P6 clarify the focus and aims of the environmental exploration with the participants
- P7 communicate the background and context for the investigation to the participants
- P8 actively promote the value of environmental awareness and understanding to the participants
- P9 actively encourage the participants to take ownership of the environmental investigation for themselves, whilst making clear the safety parameters
- P10 clearly emphasise the importance of observing the environment during the investigation and of sharing these observations with others
- P11 encourage the participants to ask questions and be able to deal with these questions positively and informatively

You must be able to:

Develop the participants' investigation skills and understanding of the environment

- P12 encourage the participants' environmental awareness and understanding in line with the planned aims and learning objectives
- P13 make the participants aware of the range of fieldwork techniques and how they are used in differing environments
- P14 manage the collection and collation of data
- P15 assist the participants to present, analyse and interpret findings correctly
- P16 intervene when this will support the learning objectives for the exploration
- P17 make effective use of the prevailing conditions, unplanned events, the site and the participants' abilities

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Preparing for environmental investigation

- K1 the value of environmental awareness and understanding to participants and the types of investigations and activities which encourage this
- K2 the relationship of the learning with relevant curricula and examination syllabi
- K3 an understanding that participants have different learning strengths and abilities and how these should be taken into account
- K4 the importance of being aware of the aims and learning objectives of the exploration and how to identify these
- K5 the available options in the local area for environmental exploration
- K6 the importance of identifying the participants' needs and how to do so
- K7 how to choose an investigation relevant to the participants needs and learning objectives
- K8 the importance of health and safety considerations when leading environmental explorations and safety guidelines for the types of environments in which the candidate is working, for example farm land, rocky/uneven terrain, shore line etc
- K9 safety guidelines relevant to any modes of transport which are being used, for example canoes, minibuses etc
- K10 the importance of checking the details of the environmental exploration with a responsible colleague - senior colleague and/or the client responsible for the group

You need to know and understand:

Preparing participants

- K11 the aims and objectives of the investigation
- K12 relevant knowledge of the environment and an understanding of the context for the investigation
- K13 why having sufficient principles for the investigation is important to facilitating understanding through effective learning
- K14 the importance of clarifying the focus and aims of the exploration with the participants and how to do so
- K15 the importance of encouraging the participants to take ownership of the exploration for themselves and how to do so
- K16 the importance of making clear the safety parameters for the exploration, what the key point are and how to emphasise these
- K17 the importance of participants observing for themselves and sharing these observations with others in the group
- K18 how to encourage participants to observe and what they should be looking for

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- K19 the importance of encouraging participants to ask questions of the candidate and of each other
- K20 how to deal with questions informatively and positively
- K21 other sources of information which the participants or candidate could use, for example local libraries, field centres, environmental organisations, the World Wide Web

You need to know and understand:

Facilitating environmental investigation and understanding

- K22 key features of the local environment, including flora and fauna, general geology, geomorphology, climate, soil types and land use
- K23 local sites and why they are interesting, why they are vulnerable and how to protect them
- K24 different field work techniques and how these can be applied to a range of environments
- K25 the importance of only intervening when this will support the agreed learning objectives
- K26 how to make effective use of the prevailing conditions, unplanned events, the site being explored and the participants' abilities
- K27 the types of unplanned events and prevailing conditions which may occur
- K28 the key environmental concepts which underpin the investigation

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Additional Information

Scope/range related to performance criteria

1. **participants**
 - 1.1. adults
 - 1.2. children and young people
 - 1.3. groups whose members do not know each other
 - 1.4. participants with particular needs in relation to the activity
2. **safety parameters**
 - 2.1. physical boundaries
 - 2.2. criteria for abandoning the experience
 - 2.3. participants' safety rules
 - 2.4. relevant guidelines for activities of this kind
3. **techniques** covering:
 - 3.1. plants
 - 3.2. animals
 - 3.3. human geography
 - 3.4. physical geography
4. **environments**
 - 4.1. urban
 - 4.2. rural
 - 4.3. upland
 - 4.4. coastal
 - 4.5. named habitats/ecosystems

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