



Unit title	Understanding the Business Environment
SQA code	H8PK 04
SCQF level	6
SCQF credit points	2
SSC Ref	N/A

History of changes

Publication date: March 2015

Version: 01

Version number	Date	Description	Authorised by

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Title		Understanding the Business Environment	
Learning Outcomes		Assessment Criteria	
The candidate will:		The candidate can:	
1	Understand that there are different types of business.	1.1	Define the private sector and give examples of types of private sector businesses.
		1.2	Define the public sector and give examples of public sector organisations.
		1.3	Define the voluntary sector and give examples of voluntary sector organisations.
		1.4	Explain the possible advantages and disadvantages of working in one of the following sectors: private, public or voluntary.
2	Understand how businesses function.	2.1	Describe the following business functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Operations ◆ People ◆ Information ◆ Research and development ◆ Finance
		2.2	Compare the possible advantages and disadvantages of working for a national organisation and a Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME).
3	Understand changing patterns of employment.	3.1	Outline some of the changes in patterns of employment locally.
		3.2	Outline some of the changes in patterns of employment nationally.
		3.3	Outline some of the changes in patterns of employment in Europe and globally.
		3.4	Describe how changing patterns of employment may affect his/her choices for learning or work.

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The candidate will:	The candidate can:
<p>4 Understand how business activity is affected by market forces.</p>	<p>4.1 Explain the relationship between supply and demand in the business environment.</p> <p>4.2 Describe the relationship between price and profit.</p> <p>4.3 Identify the connections between markets and competition.</p>

Additional information about the Unit
Unit purpose and aim(s)
This Unit is designed to develop the candidates knowledge and understanding of business including, the different types of businesses and the different business functions. They will also describe the changing patterns of employment and how it impacts on opportunities for learning and work.
Details of the relationship between the Unit and relevant national occupational standards (if appropriate)
N/A
Details of the relationship between the Unit and other standards or curricula (if appropriate)
N/A
Assessment requirements specified by a sector or regulatory body (if appropriate)
N/A

Assessment (evidence) Requirements

This Unit is designed to assess the knowledge and understanding of candidates in the workplace and can be assessed on or off-the-job. Candidates must cover all the Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria.

Candidates may be able to prove their occupational knowledge and understanding through performance in the workplace. In addition to performance, questioning may be used to:

- ◆ confirm knowledge and understanding where it is not apparent from performance
- ◆ address gaps in knowledge and understanding in performance
- ◆ authenticate evidence by asking candidates to explain part of the evidence and/or describe the process of producing it

Evidence is likely to be presented in the form of a portfolio.

Guidance on Instruments of Assessment

Appropriate Instruments of Assessment for assessing candidates knowledge and understanding include:

- ◆ Oral questions
- ◆ Written questions
- ◆ Multiple-choice questions
- ◆ Case studies
- ◆ Assignments
- ◆ Professional discussion/Personal statement
- ◆ Product evidence
- ◆ Witness testimony

The choice of method should reflect any special assessment requirements candidates may have. For example, some Candidates do not respond well to written questions — in any case, it is important to ensure that the appropriate reading level is used.

SQA's Guide to Assessment provides further information on appropriate Instruments of Assessment. This guide is designed to provide support for everyone who assesses for SQA qualifications. It looks at the principles of assessment, and brings together information on assessment in general as well as on best practice in assessment. The Guide to Assessment can be downloaded free from SQA's website www.sqa.org.uk.