

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Contemporary Policing

Unit code: F0EA 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to place the development of policing and police accountability in Scotland in its historical and international context and, on the basis of this, assess the current and future situation of policing in Scotland.

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

- 1 Analyse the development of policing in Scotland
- 2 Evaluate the role of policing in society
- 3 Assess potential developments in policing in Scotland

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

**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: Candidates should have a good working knowledge of general procedures gained through experience of working in a police environment. They should be aiming towards a promoted police post within the police service.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication and Information Technology at SCQF level 6 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.

Assessment: This Unit can be assessed holistically using a single instrument of assessment which should be an examination held in controlled conditions. Candidates will be expected to attempt questions which test their ability to analyse, evaluate and draw conclusions.

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

Analyse the development of policing in Scotland

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ History of policing in UK
- ◆ Current structure of policing in Scotland
- ◆ Arrangements for accountability and funding
- ◆ Significant developments affecting the structure of policing in Scotland

Outcome 2

Evaluate the role of policing in society

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Structure, responsibilities and accountability in a European and a non-European policing system
- ◆ Role and expectations of different societies towards policing
- ◆ The relationship between the State and the police

Outcome 3

Assess potential developments in policing in Scotland

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Areas of potential development
- ◆ Wider spheres of influence
- ◆ International influences
- ◆ The impact of an evolving society

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Contemporary Policing

Evidence Requirements for the Unit

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can obtain a mark of 50% or more in an examination covering knowledge and skills items from all three Outcomes.

The examination should consist of a number of extended response questions, each of which should relate to a current or possible future situation facing the police service in Scotland. Candidates must respond to three questions corresponding to Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 respectively. Each question should cover a minimum of two of the knowledge and skills items from the relevant Outcome.

The questions should enable to candidates to demonstrate that they can:

- ◆ provide a critical and coherent analysis of a current and/or a possible future situation facing the police force in Scotland
- ◆ include in their analysis a reasoned and coherent evaluation of the role of policing in society
- ◆ support their analysis with valid reasons
- ◆ make use of suitable and accurate evidence drawn from the development of policing in Scotland and the factors that influenced that development
- ◆ analyse the nature and mechanisms for police accountability in Scotland
- ◆ compare the situation in Scotland with the experience of another policing system
- ◆ draw valid and logical conclusions about the current policing system in Scotland and about significant developments which may affect policing in Scotland in the future

The examination should be closed book and be held in controlled conditions. It should last for 90 minutes.

Assessment guidelines

Assessment for this unit can be undertaken holistically by a closed book examination. The examination should consist of extended response questions which require candidates to analyse a situation facing the police service in Scotland at present, and/or one which the police service may face in the future.

In the examination candidates will be expected to analyse the situation using concepts taken from all three Outcomes. They will be expected to analyse and evaluate the situation and draw conclusions based on their analysis and evaluation.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F0EA 35
Unit title: Contemporary Policing
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History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Contemporary Policing

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

This Unit is intended for police officers who are seeking promotion in the police service in Scotland. Candidates will normally be following a recognised training programme such as that developed by the Scottish Police Service.

The Unit is one of three units which make up Module 1 of the Professional Development Award: Diploma in Police Service Leadership and Management.

The Unit is designed to enhance the knowledge and understanding of candidates and to enable them to analyse and interpret the current and future situation of policing in Scotland. In many respects it aims to place the Scottish policing system in context. It examines the development of policing in Scotland and how it has been influenced by social, political and technological developments. The development of policing involves a critical examination of the role that the police play in society and the expectations that society has of the police. The Unit, therefore, also looks at policing systems elsewhere so that candidates can place the Scottish system in a national as well as international context. This should enable candidates to assess the current system within Scotland and to examine possible future developments and how they will impact upon current practice and the role of the police service in contemporary Scotland. In this way they can consider emerging policing agendas. As part of this, candidates can assess various ways in which the interests of the police may coincide or conflict with those of other institutions, organisations and groups within society and how differences can be effectively resolved.

The following notes give some additional information on each Outcome. In many cases they contain examples which were current at the time the unit was written. The actual delivery of the unit should relate to legislation, practice and examples that are current at the time.

Outcome 1

History of policing in the UK: this should cover developments from Sir Robert Peel to the present day

Current structure of policing in Scotland: Police Forces, Staff Associations, Police Advisory Board for Scotland (PABS), Common Police Services, Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency (SCDEA)

Arrangements for accountability and funding: Tripartite; central government, local government and chief constable, new political landscape, changing face of accountability

Significant developments affecting the structure of policing in Scotland — these currently include: Willink; Regionalisation; Edmund Davis Inquiry; Sheehy Report; Review of Common Police Services, Scottish Public and the Police; The Nature of Policing; National Intelligence Model (NIM); McPherson Report (Stephen Lawrence)

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Contemporary Policing

Outcome 2

Structure, responsibilities and accountability in a European and a non-European policing system: candidates would be expected to examine one European and one worldwide system and draw comparisons between them and the Scottish system

Role and expectations of different societies towards policing: this should cover an examination of different national policing systems to highlight differences between them and Scotland

N.B. The choice of which European system to examine and which other countries to cover may vary over time. The choice should, however, enable candidates to draw valid conclusions relevant to the current and future situation of policing in Scotland

The relationship between the State and the police: candidates should examine the influence that the State has over the police both directly and indirectly in terms of structure, policy, operational control

Outcome 3

Areas of potential development: national police organisations — British Transport Police (BTP), Ministry of Defence (MOD) Police; governmental reforms; emerging policing agendas; partnership working; role of technological developments — foot beat to uniformed beat patrols (UBPs), phone boxes to radio communication, developments in information and communications technology (ICT)

Wider spheres of influence: public; media; community councils; staff associations; business; pressure groups; political policy

International influences: European Union (EU) — open borders, immigration, EU policy; changing policing systems; international political agreements; international policing agreements

The impact of an evolving society: diversity; demographics

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit can be delivered on a stand-alone basis or as part of a development programme for police officers seeking promotion.

Delivery of this Unit will involve ensuring that candidates do acquire the relevant underpinning knowledge in order that they can assess the current and future context within which police forces in Scotland operate. In this respect the unit is ideally suited to distance learning. To assist candidates in developing analytical skills, they can be given investigative assignments which could act as formative assessments. For example, candidates could be asked to examine the reasons for, and the impact of, a significant report or review of policing. They could also investigate a current issue affecting the operation of police forces and about which there is political debate. This investigation could include establishing the different points of view held by different interested parties and assessing how these could affect the work of the police. Candidates could, perhaps, suggest ways in which the police service could respond and assess the relative merits of different responses from a police perspective.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Contemporary Policing

For Outcome 2, candidates are expected to be familiar with one other EU system (including England, Wales and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)) and with one other system outwith the EU. Each candidate could be given a system to research and this should involve a direct comparison with the system in Scotland. Candidates are not expected to have the same level of knowledge of other systems as they should have of the Scottish system. However, they should be aware of the different expectations towards policing that different societies have and how the role of the police can vary among societies across the world.

This investigative approach should help to prepare candidates for the type of analysis which they will be expected to undertake in the examination which forms the assessment for this Unit. This analysis will require candidates to demonstrate that they are familiar with the historical and international context of the policing system in Scotland but the examination will not require them to commit to memory a catalogue of historical events and international systems and methods.

The formative assessment referred to above is likely to assist candidates to develop the analytical skills and the ability to draw conclusions which they will need in the final summative assessment. This could be supplemented by self-assessment tasks incorporated into a Distance Learning Programme.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

The Unit will develop skills in accessing and evaluating complex information and ideas as candidates analyse and apply knowledge from text books, Internet sites, DVD/CD based databases and news archives. Checklists to support analytical evaluation of information might include criteria to check on the currency, authority, accuracy and balance of all information accessed. Candidates will be familiar with effective and responsible use of ICT equipment and should develop efficient systems for collating, coding and storing notes for ease of reference.

Communication skills are not discretely assessed but candidates should be advised on the need to present analytical written responses which are technically accurate and reach coherent conclusions.

Open learning

This Unit is particularly suitable for Open Learning as candidates should be able to acquire the relevant knowledge by working through the distance learning material which will be available for this unit. Appropriate arrangements would need to be made for assessment and quality assurance. For information on this, please refer to the SQA document *Assessment and Quality Assurance of Open and Distance Learning*, which is available on SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk.

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. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Alternative Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs*, which is available on SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Contemporary Policing

This Unit forms part of Module 1 of the Diploma in Police Service Leadership and Management which is a Professional Development Award accredited by SQA. It has been designed to offer developmental opportunities to police officers who aspire to promoted posts.

The Unit enables you to set the policing system in Scotland in its historical and international context. The Unit aims to enable you to understand why the police service is the organisation that it is at present and to recognise the future challenges which it is likely to face. You will be expected to analyse, and draw conclusions about aspects of the current situation of the policing system in Scotland and possible future developments. You will also be expected to be able to evaluate the role of policing in society and consider the different expectations that different societies may have. There is a strong emphasis in the Unit on police accountability and the formal and informal networks through which this occurs.

You will study the main events which have influenced the way in which the Scottish police service has developed since its inception. You will also compare the Scottish system with that of one European Union (EU) country and that of a country outwith the EU. The Unit, therefore, should help you to be fully aware of the background to your work in a promoted post in the police service. It will help you to understand why the system works in the way it does and the factors which are likely to affect its future development.

You will be given support material to help you work on this unit on your own. It will involve you in carrying out investigations of past and current events and of what happens in other police systems. This will help you to build the skills of analysis, evaluation and drawing conclusions which you will need for the assessment.

The assessment for the Unit is an examination which tests your ability to analyse and draw conclusions about current situations facing the policing system in Scotland and situations which may affect policing in the future. The examination will be closed book. It will last for 90 minutes and you will be expected to achieve a mark of 50%, or more.

You will have succeeded in meeting all the requirements of this Unit if you pass this assessment.