

Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Apparel Industry: UK and Global Manufacturing and Sourcing Decisions

Unit code: F1P6 34

Unit purpose: This Unit will provide candidates with an understanding of the UK and international Apparel sectors, enabling them to make strategic and operational manufacturing and sourcing decisions.

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

- 1 Describe the size and structure of a key sector within the UK Apparel industry.
- 2 Produce a SWOT analysis of the previously selected sector of the UK Apparel industry in relation to the global market place.
- 3 Explain the influences of topical issues on the selected UK Apparel sector, related to operating in a global market place.

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: It is recommended that candidates undertaking this Unit possess communication skills at SCQF level 5, together with ICT and Numeracy skills (Intermediate 1/2 level 5) to undertake the internet research, word processing, numerical and graphical representation of information elements.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Problem Solving, Working with Others, Communications, ICT and Numeracy 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.

Assessment: An investigative approach should be taken by the candidate to allow him/her to build a portfolio of evidence about the current size and structure of a selected UK sector of the clothing market, the challenges and opportunities that the sector faces and topical issues faced by the sector in the global market place.

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 the size and structure of a key sector within the UK Apparel industry

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Key employment roles
- ◆ Overall employment trends in the sector
- ◆ Geographical distribution of the sector
- ◆ Gross National Product contribution

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidences to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can provide an accurate description of a key sector within the UK apparel industry. This description should include:

- ◆ details of key employment roles including descriptions of 5 key traditional roles within the sector identified.
- ◆ overall employment trends in the sector including statistical and graphical information
- ◆ an analysis of the geographical distribution of the sector including visuals.
- ◆ an outline of the GNP contribution including and analysis of recent movements in contribution by the sector

Statistical information presented must be accompanied by details of the source of the information. Evidence must be produced for all parts of the knowledge/skills section. This will allow candidates to develop their research skills. In this Outcome an investigative approach will be taken to allow the candidate to build a portfolio of evidence. This will allow candidates to demonstrate their understanding of a chosen sector of the UK Apparel industry. Candidates may choose from a broad range of sectors within the two main Apparel categories — outerwear and underwear. The sector could be selected from a standard range of production specialisms such as men's and ladies outerwear, children's wear, high street fashion, sportswear or workwear. Information about Apparel sectors is freely available on a number of internet sites including:

The British Apparel and Textile Confederation is also an excellent source of UK information for the industry.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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The portfolio of evidence should extend to approximately 350 words or by use of a four slide Powerpoint presentation.

Assessment Guidelines: Candidates could be asked to investigate the selected sector in the UK, providing a report or presentation which should include: a description of five employment roles; the recent employment trends for the sector; the main UK locations of the industry; the contribution the sector makes to the UK gross national production

Outcome 2

Produce a SWOT analysis of the previously selected sector of the UK Apparel industry in relation to the global market place

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ UK design strengths and weaknesses
- ◆ UK manufacturing operational strengths and weaknesses
- ◆ The UK as a global supplier and consumer
- ◆ Financial stability
- ◆ Employment skills shortages
- ◆ Global opportunities and threats

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate that they can produce a SWOT analysis which includes:

- ◆ identifying a minimum of two strengths, two weaknesses, two opportunities and two threats for each of design and manufacturing
- ◆ comments on the financial stability of the sector, indicating UK rates of company growth or decline and drawing conclusions in terms of the global market place
- ◆ examining the operational competition for employees and identifying one key skills shortage
- ◆ identifying current UK manufacturing and sourcing trends
- ◆ identifying a minimum of two strategic opportunities and two threats presented by global trading

A candidate's investigation should allow him/her to be able to consider and include:

- ◆ import penetration
- ◆ design
- ◆ relative manufacturing costs
- ◆ investment costs
- ◆ closeness to market
- ◆ exchange rate fluctuation
- ◆ sourcing risks
- ◆ strategic planning
- ◆ customer trends

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Assessment Guidelines

The candidate could produce a SWOT analysis for a selected sector which could be in grid format with bullet points in each section. Candidates could extend bullet points to illustrate the issues arising from the SWOT analysis. For example, one identified skills shortage, such as pattern cutters and competition from local service industries could be used to illustrate weaknesses of the UK manufacturer.

The assessment should be supervised in a 60 minute assessment under controlled open-book conditions.

The candidate should have investigatory material available to complete the assessment.

Outcome 3

Explain the influences of topical issues on the selected UK Apparel sector, related to operating in a global market place

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Barriers to international trade — tariffs and non-tariff
- ◆ Effects of exchange rates on trade
- ◆ Strategic and operational sustainability
- ◆ Strategic and operational ethical sourcing

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge of the topical issues facing the chosen sector of the UK apparel industry by showing that they can:

- ◆ describe barriers to trade between the UK and global markets, including one tariff and one non tariff barrier and two forms of protectionism
- ◆ explain how fluctuating exchange rates affect operational trading opportunities between the UK and global markets, giving one recent example
- ◆ explain the strategic implications for sustainability on the UK sector, giving two actual or possible results of sustainability driven change
- ◆ describe the strategic and operational influences of ethical sourcing into the UK Apparel sector, describing two influences on company policies

Assessment Guidelines

Candidates could investigate to allow him/her to build an independent portfolio of evidence that will allow them to demonstrate an understanding of the selected Apparel industry sector. Candidates may find suitable evidence in newspapers, journals or internet resources.

A set of structured questions may provide the stimulus to start a candidate's investigation. These questions should be provided to the candidate by the assessor at the start of the Unit. A suitable checklist should be developed to record a candidate's presentation of evidence.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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The assessment should be supervised in a 60 minute assessment under controlled open-book conditions.

The candidate should have investigatory material available to complete the assessment

Administrative Information

Unit code: F1P6 34

Unit title: Apparel Industry: UK and Global Manufacturing and Sourcing Decisions

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Apparel Industry: UK and Global Manufacturing and Sourcing Decisions

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 a mandatory Unit in the HN Fashion Technology and Manufacture framework and may be an option in other related Higher National Certificate and Diplomas.

This Unit is designed to provide candidates with an understanding of the UK and international apparel sectors, enabling them to make strategic and operational manufacturing and sourcing decisions.

Through Outcome 1 candidates are introduced to the position of one selected sector within UK economy.

Sector turnover, sector employment numbers, export and import values, company size statistics, geographical sector distribution in the UK should be collected.

Candidates will gain an understanding of the operational requirements of the industry through an understanding of the key employment roles.

This will benefit candidates when taking up employment or starting up a business in the sector.

Key employment roles should include roles such as those of finance staff, sales staff, designers, supervisors, pattern cutters, lockstitchers, overlockers, pressers, dyers and finishers.

In Outcome 2 candidates will use their knowledge of major issues facing the industry to carry out a SWOT analysis of a selected sector. Whether a candidate continues to employment or self employment, this Outcome will introduce the candidate to strategic planning, decision making and problem solving in their chosen career.

Candidate's research should allow him/her to be able to consider import penetration, design, relative manufacturing costs, investment costs, closeness to market, balanced sourcing, exchange rate fluctuation and customer trends.

In Outcome 3 candidates are introduced to problems facing the UK industry in a global market place. Candidates will be asked to consider the impact of trade protectionism and exchange rate variation on a global business. Candidates should also research and consider approaches to sustainability and ethical sourcing.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Where possible, current material should be used to allow the candidate to expand their knowledge of the sector.

Candidates may find suitable evidence in newspapers, journals, Internet resources. It will be unnecessary to supervise candidates during the preparation of their portfolio of evidence. A candidate's portfolio of investigation may consist of a report with relevant graphs and statistics drawn from the above sources of evidence and written up to match the knowledge and skills for the Outcomes.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will develop their Core Skills in Communications, ICT and Problem Solving skills. They will have to show analytical skills and the skills of critical thinking. They will have to show how they can analyse, develop and evaluate what they have produced.

Candidates will develop their numeracy skills in this Unit. Candidates will have to interpret charts and given statistical information.

Candidates will develop communication and ICT skills through the production of reports and Powerpoint Presentations using standard computer software.

Problem solving skills will be developed through the production of a SWOT analysis.

Open learning

Candidates may access this Unit through Open Learning, although additional resources will be required for candidate support, assessment and quality assurance. On line access to learning materials and tutor support through a distance learning resource such as 'Blackboard' would be suitable. Organised and supervised write up of assessments or the questioning of candidates on the evidence produced may be required for authentication of candidate work.

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

Unit title: Apparel Industry: UK and Global Manufacturing and Sourcing Decisions

The Unit is at SCQF level 7 and it will build on your previous knowledge of the apparel industry.

The Unit introduces you to the apparel industry in the UK, the current and future challenges it faces and the solutions to some of these challenges. Through study of the apparel industry you will become aware of the process of globalization, which is integrating world economies as never before.

The Unit has three Outcomes of learning, introducing you to:

- ◆ The size and structure of a key sector within the UK Apparel industry.
- ◆ The application of a SWOT analysis of a UK business sector working in a global marketplace.
- ◆ The influence of topical issues on the UK Apparel industry related.

To pass this Unit you will be asked to complete three pieces of assessment work which will be the results of your investigations and a SWOT analysis. Part of the evidence you submit will include statistical work and you are likely to gather the evidence to respond to the questions you are given, through reading newspapers, journals and the internet.

As you progress through this Unit, you will develop the Core Skills of Communications, Numeracy, Problem Solving, Working with Others and ICT.