



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Additional Support Needs: Communication Difficulties

Unit code: F1VJ 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to introduce the candidate to a range of potential communication problems which may be experienced by individuals with ASN and to examine strategies and services to support individuals with ASN.

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

- ◆ Identify the most prevalent communication difficulties experienced by individuals with ASN
- ◆ Analyse an intervention strategy which aims to minimise the effects of communication difficulties on for individuals with ASN
- ◆ Evaluate services, facilities, aids and techniques which support adult learners who experience communication difficulties

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: There are no prescribed entry requirements for this Unit.

Core Skills: There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards Core Skills of *Communication* and *Working with Others* 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 is assessed by three instruments of assessment. Outcome 1 is assessed by restricted response questions. Outcome 2 is assessed by a report. Outcome 3 is assessed by an assignment.

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

Identify the most prevalent communication difficulties experienced by individuals with ASN

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ The communication process
- ◆ The relationship between communication and development
- ◆ Causal factors in communication difficulties
- ◆ Language acquisition

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ describe the communication process
- ◆ outline the relationship between communication and development
- ◆ describe causal factors in communication difficulties
- ◆ describe the development stages of language acquisition

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 1 is assessed by restricted response questions

Outcome 2

Analyse an intervention strategy which aims to minimise the effects of communication difficulties on for individuals with ASN

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Language and communication difficulties
- ◆ Purpose of an intervention strategy
- ◆ Description of the intervention
- ◆ Appropriateness of the intervention to the needs of the learner
- ◆ Evaluation of the intervention

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Additional Support Needs: Communication Difficulties

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their skills and/or knowledge by showing that they can:

- ◆ describe language and communication difficulties
- ◆ explain the purpose of an intervention strategy
- ◆ describe the planned intervention
- ◆ assess the importance of the intervention to the needs of the learner.
- ◆ evaluate the intervention.

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 2 is assessed by a report of 750-1,000 words.

Outcome 3

Evaluate services, facilities, aids and techniques which support individuals with ASN

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Professional services
- ◆ Support services
- ◆ Facilities
- ◆ Aids and support devices
- ◆ Support techniques
- ◆ Evaluation of support techniques

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ describe professional and support services
- ◆ identify facilities
- ◆ describe aids and support devices
- ◆ describe support techniques
- ◆ evaluate support techniques

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 3 is assessed by an assignment in two parts: an investigation into the support services and an evaluation report. Where possible, the situation used should be one that is familiar to the candidate, and it will most likely be the service that they work for.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F1VJ 34

Unit title: Additional Support Needs: Communication Difficulties

Superclass category: PA

Original date of publication: January 2007

Version: 01

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Additional Support Needs: Communication Difficulties

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 should cover:

- ◆ the communication process
- ◆ the relationship between communication and development.
- ◆ causal factors in communication difficulties
- ◆ the development stages of language acquisition.

The following should be explored:

- ◆ Communication process —the distinction between speech and language, and language and communication
- ◆ Development stages — pre-linguistic to adult
- ◆ Causal factors — biological (sensory impairment): social: psychological

Outcome 2.

This Outcome should cover a range of intervention strategies that could be used to support individuals and improve communication where difficulties exist. The candidate will require to provide evidence, in the form of a written report, an understanding of communication difficulties and of an intervention strategy to minimise communication difficulties for adults with learning disabilities/difficulties.

Outcome 3

Professional and support services — range of services from health and education: speech therapist, etc

Aids and support devices: signing (Makaton and BSL): IT aids: hearing aids: augmentive and communication aids.

Support techniques: a range of learning techniques appropriate to the difficulty.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

The general approach should be to focus on the range of common communication difficulties and how these can be alleviated. Where possible, discussions should draw on experience of candidates gathered in the workplace/work placement and issues relating confidentiality of information should be emphasised.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Additional Support Needs: Communication Difficulties

For Outcome 1 the candidate requires to describe the developmental stages of language acquisition and to identify the causal factors of communication difficulties experienced by individuals with ASN

For Outcome 2, the candidate will require to provide evidence, in the form of a written report, of understanding of communication difficulties and of an intervention strategy to minimise communication difficulties for adults with learning disabilities/difficulties

For Outcome 3, candidates should be encouraged to investigate support services and produce an evaluation report relating to this investigation. Where it is possible, candidates should look at local services and, if in employment or placement, use evidence from these sources. In such cases, the need for maintaining confidentiality of information relating to the service and any individual receiving services must be emphasised.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There is no automatic certification of core skills in this Unit. However, there are clear opportunities to develop aspects of components of Communication through the assessments for all outcomes (Written Communication); Problem Solving (analysis) in the assessments for Outcomes 2 and 3.

Open learning

This Unit is suitable for delivery in a variety of modes including Open, Distance and Blended Learning.

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: Additional Support Needs: Communication Difficulties

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to introduce you to a range of potential communication problems which may be experienced by individuals with ASN and to examine strategies and services to support individuals with ASN.

The Unit covers the relationship between communication and development, how language is acquired and the most prevalent types of communication difficulties experienced by individuals with ASN. It also looks at strategies to minimise such difficulties and at the services available to support individuals with ASN experiencing communication difficulties.

On completion of the Unit you should be able to:

- ◆ Identify the most prevalent (communication difficulties experienced by individuals with ASN
- ◆ Analyse an intervention strategy which aims to minimise the effects of communication difficulties on for individuals with ASN
- ◆ Evaluate services, facilities, aids and techniques which support adult learners who experience communication difficulties

There are three assessments for the Unit: restricted response questions for Outcome 1, a report for Outcome 2 and an evaluation of services for Outcome 3.