



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Scottish Rural Development

Unit code: F4AK 34

Unit purpose: This Unit introduces candidates to the evolution of the current planning system, explains why such a system needs to be in place and describes how the system operates. The Unit identifies the main steps in the planning process and the current legal framework which support this. It also integrates a number of concepts relating to countryside use and the environment in the wider sense.

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

- 1 Explain the origin and purpose of the current Scottish planning system.
- 2 Explain how planning legislation, policy and guidance deliver National objectives.
- 3 Investigate a planning case study.

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: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Working with Others* and *Communication* and the Core Skill component *Review and Evaluate* of the Core Skill *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

General information for centres (cont)

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: Outcome 1 could be assessed by restricted response questions. Outcome 2 is a closed-book, supervised assessment. Alternatively Outcomes 1 and 3 could be assessed by means of a project based report in which candidates provide evidence that they have an understanding of the planning procedures and issues. More details can be found in the Assessment Guidelines at the end of Outcome 3.

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

Explain the origin and purpose of the current Scottish planning system

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ New Town development
- ◆ Planning history
- ◆ Social advances
- ◆ Key figures in planning history
- ◆ Public participation
- ◆ Local planning process
- ◆ Current underpinning legislation

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can in relation to Scottish Planning history:

- ◆ explain the key processes guiding historic planning development
- ◆ describe three social advances
- ◆ explain the evolution of a named New Town and a rural community
- ◆ explain the influence of three key figures from planning history
- ◆ explain what is meant by public participation
- ◆ explain the key stages in the current planning process and illustrate with examples
- ◆ identify the main current underpinning legislation of the Scottish Planning system

This is an open-book assessment.

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 1 could be assessed by restricted response questions. Alternatively Outcomes 1 and 3 could be jointly assessed by means of a project based report. More details can be found in the Assessment Guidelines at the end of Outcomes 3.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Scottish Rural Development

Outcome 2

Explain how planning legislation, policy and guidance deliver National objectives

Knowledge and/or Skill

- ◆ National policy and guidance
- ◆ Material considerations

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ explain the following acronyms: SPP, NPPG and PAN
- ◆ explain the key planning procedures for development
- ◆ describe three material considerations

This is a closed-book, supervised assessment.

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by a restricted response closed-book test.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Scottish Rural Development

Outcome 3

Investigate a planning case study

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Planning decisions
- ◆ Planning meeting procedure

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ investigate a planning decision and the impact of its findings on the local community
- ◆ discuss the efficiency of the planning system for the case in question
- ◆ describe the role of two key groups or figures engaged in the formal proceedings of a planning meeting
- ◆ relate advice and guidance given in the planning decision to relevant national policy and guidance

This is an open-book assessment.

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by means of an extended response report in which candidates provide evidence that they have an understanding of planning requirements, legislation and planning procedures. The report could include an evaluation of a planning meeting and discussion of a particular case. The report could also include discussion on the efficiency of the planning system for the case in question. This assessment could be combined with the assessment for Outcome 1.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F4AK 34
Unit title: Scottish Rural Development
Superclass category: TC
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History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Scottish Rural Development

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit could be delivered as a series of learning sessions addressing various aspects of the planning system. Candidates should be encouraged to make links between social and economic systems and issues and planning both in the present and historically.

Candidates may come from a wide range of backgrounds so it is important that planning issues are put in the context of as many occupational, industrial and social situations as possible to underscore the relevance of the Unit. The identification of a range of planning examples is necessary as many candidates will have practical examples to relate to. As an introduction the history of planning and the evolution of modern towns and rural communities should be investigated.

Material considerations might be the use of local materials, the design of building components, landscaping requirements or any combination of numerous aspects relevant to the decision.

Candidates should be made aware of the place that planning holds in national, regional and local development and some discussion of the political aspect is required. National policy should be introduced in the form of National Planning Policy Guidelines, Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Notes.

If at all possible it would be invaluable experience for candidates to attend a planning meeting in their local area so they can experience and observe planning decisions and procedures. This could also provide examples for them to use in their assessment tasks.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

The Unit is likely to form part of a Group Award designed to provide candidates with knowledge and skills of the importance that environmental issues have with the context of their occupation and the industry they operate within.

Assessment for this Unit could be assessed by means of a restricted response test for Outcome 1, a closed-book short answer test for Outcome 2, and a report in which they satisfy the requirements of Outcome 3. Evaluating a planning case study also provides an opportunity for candidates to utilise their knowledge of policy and guidance to explain the recommendations of the planning officers and the eventual decision made.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

The Core Skill components Written Communication — Reading and Written Communication — Writing at SCQF level 6 could also be developed within this Unit as candidates have to study national policy and guidance documents and apply the guidelines in them to their submission, some of which may be written. If candidates complete written work for each Outcome they will have an opportunity to develop the general skill ‘Produce well structured written communication on complex topics’.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Scottish Rural Development

Candidates when completing their responses to Outcomes will have to present essential ideas/information and supporting detail in a logical and effective order. The Core Skill component *Problem solving* — Reviewing and Evaluating of the Core Skill *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 6 may be developed as candidates analyse and evaluate a planning case study they may have the opportunity to observe first hand at a planning meeting.

Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by open 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: Scottish Rural Development

You will examine the history and examine many aspects of the planning system. You will come to recognise the part that planning plays in shaping and providing physical aspects of the society we live in and gain an appreciation of the need for development planning. You should also gain an insight into the political and community involvement and consultation processes involved.

On completion of this Unit you should be able to:

- ◆ identify three figures from planning history
- ◆ explain how national policy is delivered locally
- ◆ describe planning legislation and guidance
- ◆ describe procedures at planning meetings
- ◆ evaluate a planning decision

Wherever possible you should relate the Outcomes to your own experience. Your ability to recognise the application of national guidance and policy to specific cases is important. Candidates are encouraged to give their personal opinion on the efficiency of the planning system and the fairness of the decision made in their final report.

Assessment for this Unit could be assessed by means of a restricted response test for Outcome 1, a closed-book short answer test for Outcome 2, and a report in which they satisfy the requirements of Outcome 3. Evaluating a planning case study also provides an opportunity for candidates to utilise their knowledge of policy and guidance to explain the recommendations of the planning officers and the eventual decision made.

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