

-SQA-SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

HIGHER NATIONAL UNIT SPECIFICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

-Unit number-	6650157
-Unit title-	INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
-Superclass category-	AD
-Date of publication- (month and year)	JULY 1997
-Originating centre for unit-	SQA

-DESCRIPTION-

GENERAL COMPETENCE FOR UNIT: Assessing the contribution and impact of international institutions and regional groups of nations on the world economy and the individual international business.

1. describe the key international institutions and their impact on international trade, and the individual business;
2. examine the development of regional economic integration and its current and projected impact on international trade, and the individual business.

CREDIT VALUE: 1 HN Credit

ACCESS STATEMENT: Access to this unit is at the discretion of the centre. However, it would be helpful if candidates had skills in written communication and some previous study or experience of economics. This may be evidenced by possession of National Certificate modules 7110055 Communication 4 and either 6120220 Contemporary Macro Economic Issues or 6120522 Macro Economic Concepts. Previous study of economics of Higher National level would also be valuable.

Additional copies of this unit can be obtained from:

The Committee and Administration Unit, SQA, Hanover House, 24 Douglas Street, Glasgow G2 7NQ, (Tel: 0141-242 2168).

At the time of publication, the cost is £1.50 (minimum order £5.00).

HIGHER NATIONAL UNIT SPECIFICATION**STATEMENT OF STANDARDS**

Unit number: 6650157

Unit title: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

OUTCOME

1. DESCRIBE THE KEY INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE, AND THE INDIVIDUAL BUSINESS

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- (a) Identification of the origins and development of the main international institutions is current and accurate.
- (b) Explanation of the roles of the major institutions and their contribution to the world economy is relevant in terms of current issues.
- (c) Description of the impact of the changing world economy on individual businesses operating within the U.K. is clear and relevant.

RANGE STATEMENT

Origins: post world war trading problems; unifying philosophy leading to introduction of major institutions; evolving global market.

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Written and/or oral evidence which satisfies the performance criteria and the range statement.

OUTCOME

2. EXAMINE THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND ITS CURRENT AND PROJECTED IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE, AND THE INDIVIDUAL BUSINESS

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- (a) Explanation of the main differences between customs unions free trade areas and collaboration groupings is both accurate and current.
- (b) Examination of the current and developing status of the various regional groupings is accurate.
- (c) Identification of possible opportunities and threats together with relevant responses is meaningful and practical.

RANGE STATEMENT

The range is fully expressed within the performance criteria.

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Written and/or oral evidence which satisfies the performance criteria.

MERIT To gain a pass in this unit, a candidate must meet the standards set out in the outcomes, performance criteria, range statements and evidence requirements.

To achieve a merit in this unit, a candidate must demonstrate a superior or more sophisticated level of performance. In this unit this might be shown in the following ways:

- (a) evidence of additional research and analysis;
- (b) consistent use of material from a wide range of sources;
- (c) originality of approach;
- (d) consistent ability to consider a wide range of effects on relevant economic agents and individual international businesses.

ASSESSMENT

In order to achieve this unit, candidates are required to present sufficient evidence that they have met all the performance criteria for each outcome within the range specified. Details of these requirements are given for each outcome. The assessment model and an integrative approach to assessment is encouraged. (See references at the end of support notes).

Accurate records should be made of the assessment instruments used showing how evidence is generated for each outcome and giving marking schemes and/or checklists, etc. Records of candidates' achievements should be kept. These records will be available for external verification.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Proposals to modify outcomes, range statements or agreed assessment arrangements should be discussed in the first place with the external verifier.

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HIGHER NATIONAL UNIT SPECIFICATION**SUPPORT NOTES**

Unit number: 6650157

Unit title INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

SUPPORT NOTES: This part of the unit specification is offered as guidance. None of the sections of the support notes is mandatory.

NOTIONAL DESIGN LENGTH: SQA allocates a notional design length to a unit on the basis of time estimated for achievement of the stated standards by a candidate whose starting point is as described in the access statement. The notional design length for this unit is 40 hours. The use of notional design length for programme design and timetabling is advisory only.

PURPOSE The purpose of this unit is to provide the candidate with a strong grounding in the variety of international economic groupings and global institutions.

CONTENT/CONTEXT International institutions and regional economic groupings are crucial forces in world trade. The institutions emerged mainly in response to the effects of World War II and as such have had a long history. Regional groups with the exception of the EC are of much more recent origin. Together they are having a profound influence and effect upon both the world trading system itself and the individual firms.

The candidate therefore should be encouraged to examine changes in world trading patterns and the contribution made by the numerous forces described above. The candidate would gain the greatest value by “adopting” a UK based export company as a vehicle of examination.

1. The candidate should be encouraged to develop an awareness of the inter-related nature of the major institutions and to understand their historical context which continues to influence current practice.

The following institutions should be included in the candidate programme: World Trade Organisation, contribution to removal of trade barriers eg. tariff quotas, exchange control; non tariff barriers, UNCTAD, IMF and the World Bank and any other institutions which are of current relevance for example, G7 and OECD.

2. It is important that the candidate should develop a full and detailed understanding of the impact of the EU in the U.K. trade and industry. However, this should not be allowed to detract from the wider global scene, which should include other emerging regional economic groupings such as NAFTA, ASEAN, ANCOM, Etc.

APPROACHES TO GENERATING EVIDENCE Wherever possible candidates should be encouraged to relate the evidence that they produce to current events and issues, particularly in relation to developments in regional economic integration. Approaches that would assist in this respect are:

- case studies based on current global trade issues;
- use of a study project that pursued an issue could generate evidence which contributes to the assessment of more than one outcome.

Class debates and group discussions would also benefit the learning process. Candidates should be encouraged to read articles from newspapers and current affairs magazines.

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES Centres may use Instruments of Assessment which are considered by tutor/trainers to be most appropriate. Examples of Instruments of Assessment which may be used are essays, case studies, exams, or a combination of all three.

REFERENCES

1. Guide to unit writing, SQA, 1993 (Code A018).
2. Guide to assessment, SQA, 1993 (Code B005).
3. Guide to certification, SQA, 1996 (F025).
4. Notes for unit writers, SQA, 1995 (Code: A041).

For details of other SQA publications, please contact staff in the Administrative Services Unit (Tel: 0141-242 2168) who can supply you with a copy of the publication list (Code: X037).

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