



Geographical Skills (Advanced Higher) Unit

SCQF: level 7 (16 SCQF credit points)

Unit code: H7VJ 77

Unit outline

The general aim of this Unit is to develop a range of geographical methods and techniques. These include mapping skills, graphical techniques and a wide range of statistical techniques for gathering, analysing and interpreting geographical data. Learners will also develop a range of independent geographical research skills.

Learners who complete this Unit will:

- 1 Develop independent geographical research skills
- 2 Apply a wide range of research methods and fieldwork techniques
- 3 Apply an appropriate statistical technique in a geographical context
- 4 Apply an appropriate mapping technique in a geographical context.

This Unit is a mandatory Unit of the Advanced Higher Geography Course and is also available as a free-standing Unit. The Unit Specification should be read in conjunction with the *Course/Unit Support Notes*, which provide advice and guidance on delivery, assessment approaches and development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. Exemplification of the standards in this Unit is given in *Unit Assessment Support*.

The *Course Assessment Specification* for the Advanced Higher Geography Course gives further mandatory information on Course coverage for learners taking this Unit as part of the Advanced Higher Geography Course.

Recommended entry

Entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by one or more of the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ Higher Geography Course or relevant component Units
- ◆ Higher Environmental Science Course or relevant component Units

Equality and inclusion

This Unit Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. For further information, please refer to the *Course/Unit Support Notes*.

Standards

Outcomes and Assessment Standards

Outcome 1

The learner will:

- 1 Develop independent geographical research skills by:**
 - 1.1 Identifying an appropriate complex geographical topic for research
 - 1.2 Planning a programme of research
 - 1.3 Identifying appropriate processing techniques to present findings from the research

Outcome 2

The learner will:

- 2 Apply a wide range of research methods and fieldwork techniques by:**
 - 2.1 Researching, collecting and recording valid and reliable information from at least two secondary sources
 - 2.2 Applying one appropriate fieldwork technique associated with physical geography to gather valid and reliable evidence
 - 2.3 Applying one appropriate fieldwork technique associated with human geography to gather valid and reliable evidence

Outcome 3

The learner will:

- 3 Apply an appropriate statistical technique in a geographical context by:**
 - 3.1 Making a calculation using the statistical technique
 - 3.2 Analysing the results of the calculation to reach a valid conclusion

Outcome 4

The learner will:

- 4 Apply an appropriate mapping technique in a geographical context by:**
 - 4.1 Constructing an appropriate map or map-based diagram, clearly and accurately to illustrate information
 - 4.2 Analysing a map or map-based diagram to reach a valid conclusion

Evidence Requirements for the Unit

Assessors should use their professional judgement, subject knowledge and experience, and understanding of their learners, to determine the most appropriate ways to generate evidence and the conditions and contexts in which they are used.

Evidence is required to show that the learner has met the Outcomes and Assessment Standards.

In Outcome 4, one of the pieces of evidence must demonstrate attainment based on a map and associated data, eg transects, overlays, tables.

The centre must ensure the authenticity of the work presented by candidates. It is acceptable for candidates to work in groups but the evidence retained for assessment must be the candidate's own work.

Exemplification of assessment is provided in *Unit Assessment Support*. Advice and guidance on possible approaches to assessment is provided in the *Course/Unit Support Notes*.

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

It is expected that learners will develop broad, generic skills through this Unit. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Unit are based on SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Unit where there are appropriate opportunities.

1 Literacy

1.1 Reading

1.2 Writing

2 Numeracy

2.3 Information handling

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

4.6 Citizenship

5 Thinking skills

5.3 Applying

5.4 Analysing and evaluating

Amplification of these is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills should be at the same SCQF level as the Unit and be consistent with the SCQF level descriptor. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work is given in the *Course/Unit Support Notes*.

Administrative information

Published: April 2015 (version 2.0)

Superclass: RF

History of changes to National Unit Specification

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
2.0	Assessment Standards amended to improve clarity and align with changes made through the development process. Evidence Requirements for Outcome 4 changed to reflect the need to authenticate candidate evidence.	Qualifications Development Manager	April 2015

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Note: readers are advised to check SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk to ensure they are using the most up-to-date version of the Unit Specification.

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