



Understanding Business (Higher) Unit

SCQF: level 6 (6 SCQF credit points)

Unit code: H20R 76

Unit outline

The general aim of this Unit is to enhance learners' understanding of the features and characteristics of large organisations. It will further develop the skills, knowledge and understanding by carrying out activities relating to the operation of large organisations including those that operate globally. The Unit will allow learners to explore issues relating to the internal and external environment in which larger organisations operate and the effect this can have on decision making and profitability.

Learners who complete this Unit will be able to:

- 1 Analyse the features, objectives and internal structures of large organisations
- 2 Analyse the environment in which large organisations operate

This Unit is a mandatory Unit of the Higher Business Management Course and is also available as a free-standing Unit. The Unit Specification should be read in conjunction with the *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 Higher Business Management Course gives further mandatory information on Course coverage for learners taking this Unit as part of the Higher Business Management 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:

- ◆ National 5 Business Management

Examples of other such relevant prior learning and experiences would be the development of thinking skills, and the ability to work with others. The Unit would also be suitable for those who have demonstrated or are interested in learning about entrepreneurial and leadership skills.

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 *Unit Support Notes*.

Standards

Outcomes and assessment standards

Outcome 1

The learner will:

- 1 Analyse the features, objectives and internal structures of large organisations by:**
 - 1.1 Comparing features of large organisations from different sectors of the economy
 - 1.2 Identifying the objectives of large organisations and describing the importance of these objectives
 - 1.3 Describing internal structures large organisations may use, justifying why they would use these structures

Outcome 2

The learner will:

- 2 Analyse the environment in which large organisations operate by:**
 - 2.1 Explaining the impact of internal factors on a large organisation
 - 2.2 Explaining the impact of external factors on a large organisation
 - 2.3 Describing conflicts of interest that could exist between stakeholders

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 can be drawn from a variety of sources and presented in a variety of formats. This can include short written responses, participation in group tasks, presenting information to other groups and/or oral recorded evidence. The evidence can be gathered from a variety of tasks and assessments carried out during the Unit or Course. Learners should use appropriate business terminology and include, where appropriate, the use of real business examples.

Evidence may be presented for individual Outcomes or it may be gathered for the Unit as a whole through combining assessment in one single activity. If the latter approach is used, it must be clear how the evidence covers each Outcome.

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

1.2 Writing

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

4.1 Employability

4.2 Enterprise

5 Thinking skills

5.3 Applying

5.4 Analysing and evaluating

Amplification of these skills 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 of 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 *Unit Support Notes*.

Administrative information

Published: April 2014 (version 1.1)

Superclass: AE

History of changes to National Unit Specification

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
1.1	Minor wording changes to Unit Outline section, Outcomes and all related Assessment Standards to improve clarity. The word 'business' removed from AS 1.1 and detailing' replaced by 'describing' in AS 1.2. Minor edits to wording in AS 2.1 and AS 2.2 to clarify meaning. The word 'outlining' replaced by 'describing' in AS 2.3. Removal of last sentence in second last paragraph in Evidence requirements section.	Qualifications Development Manager	April 2014

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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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