



National Unit Specification: general information

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| UNIT | Life in Another Country (Access 2) | |
| NUMBER | D562 08 | French |
| | D564 08 | German |
| | D566 08 | Italian |
| | D568 08 | Russian |
| | D570 08 | Spanish |
| COURSE | Modern Languages (Access 2) | |

This is a component unit of Access 2 Modern Languages. When it is taken as part of the Course, the country studied must be one where the target language in the other two units is spoken.

Where a centre wishes to offer this unit as a free-standing unit in the context of another country, it should inform SQA (Development Division) in writing.

SUMMARY

The unit aims to develop candidate awareness of lifestyles other than their own and to encourage reflection on similarities and differences while gaining some limited experience of the foreign language.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Compare aspects of life in a country other than Britain with the same aspects of life in your community.
- 2 In respect of the main language used in the country being studied, demonstrate understanding of a limited range of vocabulary associated with each of the aspects of life being studied.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

Administrative Information

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| Superclass: | FK |
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| Version: | 03 |

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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

UNIT Life in Another Country (Access 2)

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Access 2.

CORE SKILLS

There is no automatic certification of core skills or core skills components in this unit.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

UNIT Life in Another Country (Access 2)

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

Note

- 1 To achieve the unit, the candidate will be required to cover two topics drawn from those listed in Appendices 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3.
- 2 Reference to a word list is permitted for all outcomes.
- 3 All contexts will relate to the topics selected and to concepts with which the candidate is familiar.

OUTCOME 1

Compare aspects of life in a country other than Britain with the same aspects of life in your own community.

Performance criteria

- a) Based on the selected topics, two aspects of life in the country being studied are described by giving at least six key points of information for each aspect.
- b) In respect of each aspect studied, at least three comparisons between life in the foreign country and the same aspects in the candidate's own community are made.

Evidence requirements

Evidence to meet the requirements of both performance criteria may include oral/signed and/or written and/or illustrative work in English and/or the target language. Any form of communication may be used, verbal or non-verbal.

OUTCOME 2

In respect of the main language used in the country being studied, demonstrate understanding of a limited range of vocabulary associated with each of the aspects of life being studied.

Performance criterion

Familiarity with at least eight words and phrases relevant to each aspect studied is demonstrated.

Evidence requirements

Evidence to meet the performance criterion with regard to two aspects of life may include oral/signed and/or written and/or illustrative work in English and/or the target language. Any form of communication may be used, verbal or non-verbal.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Life in Another Country (Access 2)

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 CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT

This unit may be studied as an additional, stand-alone unit, as part of the Course for Modern Languages at Access 2, or as part of an integrated programme of work involving units in other subjects.

Outcomes 1 and 2 should be related and should be chosen from the list of topics in Appendices 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3.

Where the unit is studied as part of the Modern Languages Course (Access 2), the country chosen for study and the topics explored should complement the language to be studied in the units *Personal Language*, *Transactional Language*, *Language in Work*. The aspects explored by the candidate should be chosen from the topics detailed for language study in those units. The content of the unit should take into account the candidate's experience and interests. Where possible, candidates should be involved in making decisions regarding the topics from which the aspects of life are drawn.

The design of the programme of study should take into account the aims of this unit:

- to provide opportunities for candidates to compare some aspects of life in another country with their experience in their own community
- to provide a context for language learning

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

This unit is aimed at a wide population of learners, some of whom may require additional support for learning. The emphasis in this unit will be on expanding the candidate's awareness of the world without losing touch with his/her own experience. While adding a European or global dimension to the candidate's programme of work, the aspects of the foreign country studied should also lead to a greater awareness of local contexts. In some cases it may be possible to link this unit not only with the other units in the Modern Languages Course but also with units studied in other parts of the curriculum. For example, shopping abroad may be linked with local consumer studies; foreign food with nutritional studies; folk music with aesthetic awareness.

The unit would be particularly effective if linked to a planned visit to the country in question, organised for example by the school or college.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Life in Another Country (Access 2)

Outcome 1

At each stage in the programme, candidates should be encouraged to comment on similarities and differences between the foreign country and their own experience. For some candidates, the realisation that people speak differently and enjoy different lifestyles will be a novel idea and it will be important to help them to appreciate that things can be different without necessarily being better or worse. The notion of diversity might be followed through by looking at diversity within their own local community, their own school or college, or their own candidate group.

Information about the country and topics to be investigated can be presented in whatever format or combination of formats is appropriate, and candidates may communicate their findings and their opinions in whatever form is most appropriate for them.

Outcome 2

The foreign language element in this unit is designed to be accessible to all candidates, including those who will not be undertaking the more extended language study in the other units which make up the Modern Languages Course at Access 2. The linguistic aim in this unit, therefore, is language awareness rather than communicative competence. The vocabulary studies should be closely linked to the aspects of life studied for Outcome 1. Understanding may be demonstrated as part of the task associated with Outcome 1, for example:

- visual presentation (poster, photo collage, scrapbook, map or diagram) accompanied by simple labels in the foreign language. The labels should, where possible, be selected and prepared by the candidate. The candidate should be able to pronounce most of the words correctly and be able to say what they mean
- pairing pictures and text correctly and saying what is indicated by the text
- labelling correctly a collection of relevant items; being able to read the labels and say with which item they should be associated even when separated from the item
- preparing a foreign dish accompanied by simple labelling; being able to read the labels and explain the contents
- cooking a foreign dish from a simple recipe in the foreign language; being able to read the list of ingredients

Candidates who are undertaking more extended language study in the other two units will be able to demonstrate their language awareness in a wider range of ways, including participation in communicative activities. Teachers/lecturers should be alert to the possibility of designing the programme of study in such a way that assessment of Outcome 2 in this unit can be overtaken in the course of assessment of outcomes in the other component units of the Modern Languages Course.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Life in Another Country (Access 2)

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Any country might be the subject of investigation for this unit if delivered as a stand alone unit. In practice, choice will be constrained by the availability of suitable learning and teaching resources and by the assessment requirements. Guidance on using this unit as part of a Course is given in the National Course details for Modern Languages (Access 2).

Outcome 1

Any number of investigations may be carried out during the programme of study. In order to achieve Outcome 1 the candidate will be assessed on a minimum of two topics, selected from those listed in Appendix 1.

Performance criteria

PC (a) On each occasion the candidate will provide evidence of the learning which has taken place by describing at least six key points of what has been learned with regard to each aspect. This description may be given orally in the course of an extended conversation with the assessor, or through the medium of illustrative work (eg, a poster, scrapbook), or both. Where information is presented visually, the assessor should ascertain by means of questioning that the candidate is indeed aware of the points made. The candidate's normal mode of communication will be used.

PC (b) In the course of the description, or immediately following it, the candidate should point out ways in which the country and the lifestyles are similar to or different from his or her own. At least three comparisons should be made. These comparisons may be offered by the candidate or elicited by the teacher/lecturer in the course of conversation. The comparisons may also be made visually as part of illustrative work done in fulfilment of the first performance criterion, however the assessor should ascertain by means of questioning that the candidate is indeed aware of the points made. In conversation, the candidate's normal mode of communication will be used.

Evidence requirements

The extended conversation upon which the evidence for the achievement of the performance criteria is based may be more wide-ranging than is required by the assessment arrangements. Candidates who are able to do so should be encouraged to express their own ideas and opinions at some length without being constrained by the evidence requirements. The topic investigated should be noted, and a brief indication of the type of evidence presented should be recorded and retained for moderation purposes.

Assessment should not be unduly formal and may be carried out in the course of normal learning.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Life in Another Country (Access 2)

Outcome 2

To achieve this outcome the candidate should demonstrate familiarity with at least eight words or phrases relevant to each aspect of life studied. Two aspects of life should be studied. The aspects of life should be the ones investigated in the course of working towards Outcome 1.

Performance criterion

The candidate may demonstrate familiarity with elements of the foreign language in a number of ways. Examples are given in the National Assessment Bank materials. Whatever method is devised, in order for the outcome to be achieved, the candidate should be able to demonstrate with confidence his/her familiarity with the elements of the language which have been studied.

Evidence requirements

Achievement will be recorded when the assessor is satisfied that the level of mastery aimed at has been achieved.

Assessment should not be unduly formal and may be carried out in the course of normal lessons.

Note

Where any of the other units are also being undertaken by a candidate, this outcome may overlap with an outcome from one of the other units. In this case, one performance will be sufficient to demonstrate achievement of outcomes in both units, provided the performance criteria and evidence requirements for both units are met.

SPECIAL NEEDS

This unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative outcomes for units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment and Certification Arrangements for Candidates with Special Needs/Candidates whose First Language is not English* (SQA, 1998).