



Sociology: Human Society (Higher) Unit

SCQF: level 6 (6 SCQF credit points)

Unit code: H26J 76

Unit outline

The general aim of this Unit is to develop learners' understanding of the sociological approach to studying human societies. This will be achieved by developing and using analytical skills to investigate sociological approaches to studying society, research methods used and the relationships that exist amongst individuals, groups and institutions as viewed from different sociological perspectives and theories.

Learners who complete this Unit will be able to:

- 1 Evaluate the sociological approach to understanding society
- 2 Analyse relationships amongst individuals, groups and institutions

This Unit is a mandatory Unit of the Higher Sociology 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 Sociology Course gives further mandatory information on Course coverage for learners taking this Unit as part of the Higher Sociology 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 Sociology 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 *Unit Support Notes*.

Standards

Outcomes and assessment standards

Outcome 1

The learner will:

- 1 Evaluate the sociological approach to understanding society by:**
 - 1.1 Explaining what is meant by common-sense and sociological approaches to the study of human societies, giving examples of each
 - 1.2 Evaluating one research method that tends to generate quantitative data
 - 1.3 Evaluating one research method that tends to generate qualitative data

Outcome 2

The learner will:

- 2 Analyse relationships amongst individuals, groups and institutions by:**
 - 2.1 Explaining features, strengths and weaknesses of structural and action theories
 - 2.2 Analyse similarities and differences between sociological theories
 - 2.3 Applying and justifying choice of a research method to a research scenario

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.

The justification of the research method must include reference to structural or action perspective.

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 are 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
- 1.3 Listening and talking

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 *Unit Support Notes*.

Administrative information

Published: April 2016 (version 3.0)

Superclass: EE

History of changes to National Unit Specification

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
2.0	Page 3 – inclusion of theories in Assessment Standard 2.1 ‘Explaining features, strengths and weaknesses of structural and action perspectives and theories’.	Qualifications Manager	August 2015
3.0	Page 3: Assessment Standard 2.1 has been amended to remove sociological perspectives from the Assessment Standard. Assessment Standard 2.2 has been changed from ‘Applying structural and action perspectives and theories to explain relationships among individuals, groups and institutions’ to ‘Analyse similarities and differences between sociological theories’.	Qualifications Manager	April 2016

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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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