
Modern Studies: Researching Contemporary Issues

SCQF: level 7 (8 SCQF credit points)

Unit code: J2B2 77

Unit outline

The general aim of this Unit is to develop a wide range of independent social science research skills.

Learners who complete this Unit will:

- 1 Develop independent research skills in the context of complex political or social issues

This Unit is 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*.

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 Modern Studies Course or relevant 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

Outcome and Assessment Standards

Outcome 1

The learner will:

- 1 Develop independent research skills in the context of complex political or social issues by:**
 - 1.1 Justifying an appropriate complex contemporary issue for research
 - 1.2 Planning a programme of research
 - 1.3 Researching, collecting and recording information in an organised way
 - 1.4 Explaining approaches to organising, presenting and referencing findings
 - 1.5 Correctly referencing a source using an appropriate referencing system

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.

This Unit requires the learner to develop researching skills. The Unit focuses on the processes relevant to undertaking independent research. Evidence for this Unit may be generated through a range of activities, such as:

- ◆ completing checklists/folios/logbooks
- ◆ interviews undertaken by the assessor
- ◆ preparing interim reports while undertaking research
- ◆ presentations to the assessor or to other learners
- ◆ assessor observation

The assessor may use a checklist during learners' interviews or presentations. The evidence may be collected and retained in a variety of forms including written records and audio or digital recordings.

Evidence may be presented for individual Assessment Standards or gathered for the Unit as a whole.

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: July 2019 (version 3.0)

Superclass: EE

History of changes to National Unit Specification

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
2.0	Assessment Standards updated for clarity One sentence deleted in para 2 of Evidence Requirements.	Qualifications Development Manager	April 2015
3.0	Level changed from Advanced Higher to SCQF level 7 Unit code updated	Qualifications Manager	July 2019

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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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