

Software Design and Development

SCQF: level 5 (9 SCQF credit points)

Unit code: J27A 75

Unit outline

The general aim of this Unit is for the learner to develop knowledge, understanding and practical problem-solving skills in software design and development through appropriate software development environments. Learners will develop their programming and computational thinking skills by developing, implementing and testing practical solutions and explaining how these programs work. They will also develop an understanding of how data and instructions are stored in binary form, the basic architecture of a computer.

Learners who complete this Unit will be able to:

- 1 Explain how programs work, drawing on understanding of concepts in software development and basic computer architecture
- 2 Develop programs using one or more software development environments

This Unit is 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 the *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:

National 4 Computing Science Course or relevant component Units

Numeracy (National 4) Unit

Core Skills

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following:

Core Skill component(s) for the Unit	Providing and Creating Information at SCQF level 5
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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 Explain how programs work, drawing on understanding of concepts in software development and basic computer architecture by:**
 - 1.1 Reading and explaining code
 - 1.2 Describing the purpose of a range of programming constructs and how they work
 - 1.3 Describing the purpose of a range of variable types
 - 1.4 Describing in simple terms how programs relate to low-level operations and structures

The range of programming constructs should include expressions, sequence, selection, iteration and pre-defined functions.

Outcome 2

The learner will:

- 2 Develop programs using one or more software development environments by:**
 - 2.1 Selecting and using a combination of appropriate constructs
 - 2.2 Selecting and using appropriate simple data types, such as numeric (integer and real), string and Boolean
 - 2.3 Testing digital solutions using own test data
 - 2.4 Providing internal commentary

The range of programming constructs should include expressions, sequence, selection, iteration and pre-defined functions.

Programs should include at least two constructs and at least two data types.

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 for Outcomes 1 may be oral or written. Evidence of the assessment standards for Outcome 2 may be derived from many software development tasks; formal documentation is not expected or required.

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

Assessment standard thresholds

If a candidate successfully meets the requirements of the specified number of Assessment Standards they will be judged to have passed the Unit overall and no further re-assessment will be required.

The specific requirements for this Unit is as follows:

- ◆ 6 out of 8 Assessment Standards must be achieved.

It should be noted that there will still be the requirement for candidates to be given the opportunity to meet all Assessment Standards. The above threshold has been put in place to reduce the volume of re-assessment where that is required.

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.

2 Numeracy

- 2.1 Number processes
- 2.3 Information handling

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

- 4.2 Information and communication technology (ICT)

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 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*.

Employability, enterprise and citizenship skills shown in this National Unit provide automatic certification of Core Skill component: Providing and Creating Information at SCQF level 5.

Administrative information

Published: July 2019 (version 2.0)

Superclass: CB

History of changes to National Unit Specification

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
1.1	Assessment standard threshold added.	Qualifications Manager	September 2018
2.0	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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