



## Geographical Skills (Advanced Higher) Unit

**SCQF:** level 7 (16 SCQF credit points)

**Unit code:** to be advised

### Unit outline

The general aim of this Unit is to develop a range of geographical methods and techniques. These include mapping skills, graphical techniques and a range of statistical techniques for gathering, analysing and interpreting geographical data. Learners will also develop a range of independent geographical research skills.

Learners who complete this Unit will:

- 1 Apply a range of fieldwork methods and techniques
- 2 Apply statistical techniques in appropriate contexts
- 3 Use and interpret a range of maps and other data sources
- 4 Develop independent geographical research skills

This Unit is a mandatory Unit of the Advanced Higher Geography 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 Advanced Higher Geography Course gives further mandatory information on Course coverage for learners taking this Unit as part of the Advanced Higher Geography 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:

- ◆ Higher Geography Course or relevant component Units
- ◆ Higher Environmental Science 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 Apply a range of fieldwork methods and techniques by:**

- 1.1 Choosing and applying one appropriate fieldwork technique associated with physical geography to gather valid and reliable evidence
- 1.2 Choosing and applying one appropriate fieldwork technique associated with human geography to gather valid and reliable evidence

### Outcome 2

The learner will:

#### **2 Apply statistical techniques in appropriate contexts by:**

- 2.1 Choosing and applying one appropriate statistical technique for a given context
- 2.2 Accurately analysing statistical geographical data
- 2.3 Drawing valid geographical conclusions from the data

### Outcome 3

The learner will:

#### **3 Use and interpret a range of maps and other data sources by:**

- 3.1 Choosing an appropriate format for the production of geographical information
- 3.2 Producing geographical information, clearly and accurately
- 3.3 Analysing complex geographical information to reach valid conclusions

### Outcome 4

The learner will:

#### **4 Develop independent geographical research skills by:**

- 4.1 Identifying an appropriate complex geographical topic for research
- 4.2 Planning a programme of research
- 4.3 Researching, collecting and recording information
- 4.4 Evaluating, analysing and synthesising evidence
- 4.5 Understanding approaches to organising, presenting and referencing findings, using appropriate conventions
- 4.6 Evaluating research methodology

## 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.

In Outcome 3, one of the pieces of evidence must demonstrate attainment based on a 1:25000 OS map and associated data, eg transects, overlays, tables.

The centre will also have to take care to ensure the authenticity of the work presented by candidates. It is quite acceptable for candidates to work in groups to collect information but the evidence retained for assessment ought to be clearly the candidate's own work.

Evidence may be presented for individual Outcomes or gathered for the Unit, Units or Course as a whole by combining assessment holistically.

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

# Administrative information

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**Published:** April 2013 (version 1.0)

**Superclass:** to be advised

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## History of changes to National Unit Specification

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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Note: readers are advised to check SQA's website: [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk) to ensure they are using the most up-to-date version of the Unit Specification.