



Researching an Economic Issue (Advanced Higher) Unit

SCQF: level 7 (8 SCQF credit points)

Unit code: to be advised

Unit outline

The general aim of this Unit is to allow learners to plan their research of a current economic issue in order to develop their economic research skills. They will work independently to gather economic evidence from a wide range of sources. They will use the results of their research and apply their knowledge and understanding of economic theory to assist them in drawing conclusions. They will evaluate the learning gained during the research and writing process.

Learners who complete this Unit will be able to:

- 1 Plan and research a current economic issue
- 2 Evaluate the learning gained during the research and writing process

This Unit is a mandatory Unit of the Advanced Higher Economics 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 Economics Course gives further mandatory information on Course coverage for learners taking this Unit as part of the Advanced Higher Economics 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 Economics 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 Plan and research a current economic issue by:

- 1.1 Consulting and using a wide range of economic sources
- 1.2 Explaining the relevance, reliability and validity of the sources selected

Outcome 2

The learner will:

2 Evaluate the learning gained during the research and writing process by:

- 2.1 Reflecting on their learning experience
- 2.2 Evaluating the validity of their conclusions in light of their research

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 can be drawn from a variety of sources and presented in a variety of formats including short or extended written responses and/or recorded oral evidence. Learners should use appropriate economic terminology in their responses at all times and, where appropriate, make use of relevant examples and statistical evidence.

Evidence may be presented for individual Outcomes or it may be gathered for the Unit as a whole through combining assessment in one single activity. If the latter approach is used, it must be clear how the evidence covers each Outcome.

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 drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Unit where there are appropriate opportunities.

1 Literacy

1.2 Writing

2 Numeracy

2.3 Information handling

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

4.1 Employability

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 2013 (version 1.0)

Superclass: to be advised

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 to ensure they are using the most up-to-date version of the Unit Specification.