



Common questions about the Scottish Studies Award

Are centres automatically approved for the Scottish Studies Awards?

Centres are automatically approved for SCQF levels 2 and 3 but need to apply for approval to deliver SCQF levels 4, 5 and 6.

Is the Scotland in Focus Unit assessed/verified/quality assured by SQA?

The Scotland in Focus Unit for all levels, ie SCQF levels 2 to 6 is internally assessed and can be subject to external verification. SQA will hold a central verification event each year to externally verify the Scotland in Focus Unit and will contact centres that will be included in this central verification.

Can learners achieve more than one optional Unit from the same grouping?

For each Scottish Studies Award, candidates are required to complete the mandatory Scotland in Focus Unit and three optional Units from at least two groupings. However, the three optional Units must be from different subject areas, for example two optional Units could be selected from optional grouping 2 Society and Environment but would need to cover different subject areas, eg geography and modern studies.

Can learners study Scottish Studies Award at SCQF level 3 in S3?

There is no issue in presenting S3 learners for the Scottish Studies Award at SCQF level 3 in their S3 year. However, the centre should consider the ability of its candidates.

Do the same Outcomes and Assessment Standards apply to H6NS 75 *English: Creation and Production with a Scottish Context* as H23T 75 *English: Creation and Production*?

The same Outcomes and Assessment Standards apply for both Units. However, candidates undertaking *English: Creation and Production with a Scottish Context* must provide evidence on a Scottish theme or in Scots or a dialect of Scots.

Is it possible to present learners for H6NS 75 *English: Creation and Production with a Scottish Context* and H23T 75 *English: Creation and Production*?

Yes, centres can enter a candidate for any Unit and/or Group Award they feel is appropriate. SQA places no restrictions on how a centre would structure this for the candidate. In regard to resulting these entries for the candidate, the centre must retain appropriate evidence.

For the mandatory Scotland in Focus Unit, would a Unit on migration and empire, which is part of the National 4/5 History Course, be a viable/acceptable Unit to study?

As a topic, this would be fine, but to achieve the Unit, learners need to be able to show that they have planned and completed an activity with a Scottish focus and reflected on what they have learned. The Scotland in Focus Unit is designed to develop the learner's skills of identifying relevant areas of study, sources and resources; researching and selecting relevant information; and skills of reflection. Learners therefore need to be given a choice as to which aspects of migration they will focus on.

If learners use a Scottish map as part of the case study for the *Geography: Physical Environments* Unit would that be acceptable for Scottish Studies?

It would be acceptable provided it is to support the study of a relevant landscape type in Scotland. The Scottish context should focus on Outcome 2 rather than the mapping skills. Learners would also need to be entered for the *Geography: Physical Environments with a Scottish Context* Unit.

General Curriculum for Excellence questions and answers can be found on the [frequently asked questions section](#) of SQA's website.