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## Modern Studies: International Issues (Higher) Unit

**SCQF:** level 6 (6 SCQF credit points)

**Unit code:** H23G 76

### Unit outline

The general aim of this Unit is to develop skills by using a range of sources of information to draw and support conclusions and develop factual and theoretical knowledge and understanding of international issues.

Learners who complete this Unit will be able to:

- 1 Use a range of sources of information to draw and support conclusions about international issues, focusing on either a major world power or a significant world issue
- 2 Draw on factual and theoretical knowledge and understanding of international issues, focusing on either a major world power or a significant world issue

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

- ◆ National 5 Modern Studies 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 Use a range of sources of information to draw and support conclusions about international issues, focusing on either a major world power or a significant world issue by:**
  - 1.1 Drawing a conclusion using between two and four sources of information
  - 1.2 Synthesising and evaluating evidence in order to support a conclusion about an international issue using between two and four sources of information

### Outcome 2

The learner will:

- 2 Draw on factual and theoretical knowledge and understanding of international issues, focusing on either a major world power or a significant world issue by:**
  - 2.1 Giving detailed descriptions and detailed explanations which draw on a factual and theoretical knowledge and understanding of a complex international issue
  - 2.2 Analysing a complex international issue

## 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.

The sources of information used may be written, numerical, graphical, pictorial, audio-visual or oral.

Assessment evidence can be drawn from a variety of activities and presented in a variety of formats, including, for example, presentations, posters, brief written responses to questions and participation in group tasks. All of the evidence does not need to be from the one activity, but can be assembled from a variety of tasks and assessments carried out during the duration of the Course.

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

If the focus of the learning in this Unit is on a major world power; centres should choose a member of the G20 group of countries (excluding the United Kingdom).

If centres choose to study an international issue, the issue should be a contemporary one and be one which has an impact on more than one country.

Exemplification of assessment will be 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**

1.1 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 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*.

## Administrative information

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**Published:** April 2014 (version 1.1)

**Superclass:** FB

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### History of changes to National Unit Specification

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
1.1	Minor modification to wording of Assessment Standards to improve clarity.	Qualifications Development Manager	April 2014

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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.

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