SCQF level 6
Unit Specification

⚹SQA

Politics: Political Parties and Elections

SCQF: level 6 (6 SCQF credit points)

Unit code: J20G 76

Unit outline

The general aim of this Unit is to develop learners' skills in using electoral data. Learners will apply knowledge and understanding of the complex factors which contribute to electoral performance of political parties.

Learners who complete this Unit will be able to:

1   Analyse a range of electoral data to evaluate factors which contribute to the electoral performance of UK political parties
2   Draw on knowledge and understanding of the complex factors that contribute to the electoral performance of UK political parties

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 *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 5 social science Courses or relevant Units
♦ other social subjects

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   Analyse a range of electoral data to evaluate factors which contribute to the electoral performance of UK political parties by:

 1.1   Interpreting and analysing at least two sources of information in order to identify significant factors in the electoral performance of political parties
 1.2   Evaluating electoral data to explain significant factors contributing to the performance of political parties

Outcome 2

The learner will:

2   Draw on knowledge and understanding of the complex factors that contribute to the electoral performance of UK political parties by:

 2.1   Describing, in detail, the dominant ideas within a political party
 2.2   Explaining, in detail, the ways in which the dominant ideas contributed to electoral performance of a political party
 2.3   Evaluating the contribution of at least two factors to a political party's electoral performance

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.

Assessment evidence can be drawn from a number 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 number of tasks and assessments carried out during the duration of the Unit.

Evidence may be presented for individual Outcomes or gathered for the Unit.

Exemplification of assessment is provided in *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:

♦ Both Assessment Standards must be achieved for Outcome 1.
♦ 2 out of 3 Assessment Standards must be achieved for Outcome 2.

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.

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

Published: July 2019 (version 3.0)

Superclass: EA

History of changes to National Unit Specification

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
1.1	Minor amendments to Assessment Standards to provide open and flexible opportunities for assessment.	Qualifications Development Manager	April 2014
2.0	Level changed from Higher to SCQF level 6. Assessment standard threshold added.	Qualifications Manager	September 2018
3.0	Unit code updated	Qualifications Manager	July 2019