



Group Award Specification for:

**National Progression Award (NPA) in Criminology
at SCQF levels 5 and 6**

**Group Award Code: GR4E 45
GR4E 46**

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1 Introduction

This document was previously known as the arrangements document. The purpose of this document is to:

- ◆ assist centres to implement, deliver and manage the qualification.
- ◆ provide a guide for new staff involved in offering the qualification.
- ◆ inform course managers teaching staff, assessors, learners, employers and higher education institutes (HEIs) of the aims and purpose of the qualification.
- ◆ provide details of the range of learners the qualification is suitable for and progression opportunities.

1.1 Rationale

1.1.1 Title

National Progression Award in Criminology at SCQF level 5

National Progression Award in Criminology at SCQF level 6

Criminology is the scientific study of crime, including its causes, responses by the criminal justice system, and methods of prevention. In both the mandatory and optional units, learners will study the nature and extent of crime, crime in the community, forensic science and crime control strategies.

These are introductory awards and augment SQA's portfolio in Criminology. Learners have the opportunity to progress to National Qualifications, National Certificates in Social Sciences, PDAs in Criminology at SCQF levels 7 and 8 and HNC and HND Social Sciences. Criminology is one of the fastest growing academic disciplines in the UK. There are undergraduate criminology degrees and joint honours courses on offer throughout the UK.

1.1.2 Purpose

These National Progression Awards (NPAs) are designed to introduce learners to a selection of topics and areas of debates that inform contemporary ideas of crime and justice. Learners will study a range of units depending on the SCQF level for which they are entered.

This National Progression Awards (NPAs) may be undertaken for a variety of reasons:

- ◆ widening participation
- ◆ the potential to meet the needs and/or interests of a variety of learners
- ◆ providing opportunities for part-time and evening class learners
- ◆ providing a sense of achievement of a group award
- ◆ useful to outlying centres that do not have the teaching resources to deliver a full National Certificate
- ◆ to credit achievements for those who do not achieve, for a variety of reasons, a full National Certificate

- ◆ to develop skills needed for progression into further or higher education and employment
- ◆ to develop study skills
- ◆ to help tailor requirements to a particular programme of learning
- ◆ provide opportunities for progression into a range of further education programmes
- ◆ enhance the social sciences/legal services/forensic science portfolio within centres

1.1.3 Target groups

The awards are intended for a range of learners:

- ◆ part-time study and the evening class market
- ◆ adult returners, some of whom are vulnerable, can come from deprived sections of the community and/or who have experienced social exclusion
- ◆ those who are not in a position to commit to a full National Certificate (NC) programme, for example, asylum seekers whose status can change
- ◆ senior phase and adult learners

Each subject unit has value. Learners will receive credit for in-depth knowledge in a subject specific area. The NPAs recognise the importance of subject content and the development of specialist skills.

Types/range of learners

Learner Group					
Markets aimed at:		Who product is for:		Who will deliver product?	
Widening participation		Adult returners		Further education colleges	
Workforce development		Employees		Schools	
Senior phase and adult learners		School learners		Private training providers	
Skills for Life and Work		Further education		Higher education	
Engaging employer		Higher education		Adult and Community	
		Volunteers		Prisons	

1.2 Place of NPAs within progression opportunities

The NPAs provide progression to National Qualifications, National Certificates in Social Sciences, PDAs in Criminology at SCQF levels 7 and 8 and HNC and HND Social Sciences. They are a subset of the NCs in Social Sciences (or could be studied at school/college independently). The awards can also provide progression towards some of The Open University programmes.

SCQF level	Qualification	Subject area
1	Access 1/National 1	Social Subjects Units
2	Access 2/National 2	Social Subjects Units/Course
3	Access 3/National 3	History Units/Course Modern Studies Units/Course
4	National 4	Modern Studies Units/Course People and Society Units/Course Care Units/Course
5	National 5/ National Certificate	Modern Studies Units/Course Psychology Units/Course Sociology Units/Course Social Sciences National Certificate Crime-based Units Legal/Law Units Care Units/Course
6	Higher/National Certificate	Modern Studies Units/Course Politics Units/Course Psychology Units/Course Sociology Units/Course Social Sciences National Certificate Crime-based Units Care Units/Course Working with Communities National Certificate

SCQF level	Qualification	Subject area
7	Advanced Higher/HNC/ Degree Year 1	Modern Studies Units/Course Criminology PDA Legal Services HNC Police Studies HNC Social Sciences HNC Working with Communities HNC BA Criminology BA Criminal Justice BA Law LLB
8	HND/Degree Year 2	Legal Services HND Social Sciences HND PDA in Criminology BA Criminology BA Criminal Justice BA Law LLB
9	Degree Year 3	BA Criminology BA Criminal Justice BA Law Social Sciences LLB
10	Degree Year 4	BA Law Social Sciences LLB

1.3 Employment opportunities

The NPAs cover SCQF levels 5–6, allowing clear progression and development routes to higher level education and employment. The qualification is available at two levels and learners may progress to the next level if they wish to continue their studies. Learners can also progress to other qualifications in this area, or a related area, for example, the Professional Development Award (PDA) in Criminology.

These awards may also lead to employment in a related field of work. Market research demonstrates that such qualifications have desirable practical skills required by employers, as well as opening the door to other vocational opportunities existing in administrative or supervisory/management roles in business, finance, the commercial or public sector and the Police. Skills such as communication, time management and the ability to work with others are fundamental to a learner's employment prospects.

The NPAs also support the development of other higher order skills that are useful in many employment situations. Skills such as data handling, critical analysis and complex thinking skills are developed and achieved through the complexity of the material being covered, as well as the activities inherent in the delivery and assessment of the subject matter. Skills such as problem solving, research skills and reaching conclusions are advantageous in many occupations. These are transferable skills, not specific to one situation but adaptable for a variety of situations. It is these skills that employers want their staff to demonstrate. The NPAs support the growth of these competences.

2 Qualification(s) structure

This National Progression Awards (NPAs) are each made up of 3 SQA Unit credits. They comprise 18 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5 and/or level 6. A mapping of Core Skills development opportunities is available in section 5.2.

2.1 Structure

2.1.1 SCQF level 5 NPA

Unit code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
J48F 45 or J81R 45*	Criminology: Crime in the Community	1	6	5
	Criminology: Crime in the Community	1	6	5
Plus, two credits from the following units:				
J2A5 75	Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom	1	6	5
J48G 45	The History and Development of Criminology	1	6	5
J45V 45	Forensic Science: Applications	1	6	5
J48E 45 or J85M 45*	Criminology: Crime Scenes	1	6	5
	Criminology: Crime Scenes	1	6	5

SCQF level 6 NPA

Unit code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
J46Y 46	Criminology: Nature and Extent of Crime	1	6	6
Plus, two credits from the following units:				
J2A6 76	Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom	1	6	6
J46W 46	Criminology: Forensic Psychology	1	6	6
F824 12	Forensic Science: Practical Techniques	1	6	6
J46X 46	Criminology: Crime Control Strategies	1	6	6
FN51 12	Crime in Society	1	6	6

3 Aims of the qualification(s)

Learners will be encouraged to know and evaluate research carried out by social scientists and experts associated with the specific discipline. Wherever possible, research methods will be contextualised. Learners will be encouraged to consider social science based theories and approaches to crime and justice. They will be expected to take a critical view of evidence-based research.

3.1 General aims of the National Progression Awards (NPAs)

- ◆ Enabling progression within the SCQF, including progression to NC programmes
- ◆ Time management, goal setting, punctuality and meeting deadlines
- ◆ Referencing, citation and bibliography skills
- ◆ Developing skills in information communication technology
- ◆ Organising and planning
- ◆ Working as an individual and with others
- ◆ Problem solving
- ◆ Developing personal effectiveness
- ◆ Developing the ability to take responsibility for one's own learning
- ◆ Providing opportunities for career planning and enhancing learners' employment prospects

3.2 Specific aims of the National Progression Award (NPA)

SCQF level 5

- ◆ Enhance the knowledge and understanding of learners and to enable them to make use of this knowledge and understanding to describe aspects of criminology
- ◆ Develop a basic understanding of the criminal justice system
- ◆ Develop an understanding of the contribution of the study of crime to the modern world and human behaviour
- ◆ Develop an open-minded and critical approach to study
- ◆ Potential to experience a range of assessment methods
- ◆ Gain knowledge and understanding of the importance of evidence-based research, including investigation and research skills
- ◆ Gain knowledge of competing views, perspectives, theories and evidence relating to the causes of crime
- ◆ Gain insight into the way crime and criminal justice operates

SCQF level 6

- ◆ Enhance the knowledge and understanding of learners to enable them to make use of this knowledge and understanding to evaluate aspects of criminology
- ◆ Develop an understanding of the criminal justice system
- ◆ Develop an understanding of the contribution of criminology to the modern world and human behaviour

- ◆ Develop an open-minded, critical and evaluative approach to study
- ◆ Potential to experience a range of assessment methods
- ◆ Gain knowledge and understanding of the importance of evidence-based research, including investigation and research skills
- ◆ Gain knowledge of competing views, perspectives, theories and evidence relating to the causes of crime
- ◆ Gain insight into the way crime and criminal justice operates

4 Recommended entry to the qualification(s)

Entry to this qualification is at the discretion of the centre. NPAs in Criminology should encourage a range of entrants regardless of age, gender, background and race.

School-College partnerships introduce credible opportunities for academic studies; however, the nature of Criminology is challenging and includes sensitive topics such as domestic violence and sexual abuse. Both institutions need to consider the suitability of this course for their learners.

These awards should foster a positive attitude towards further study and lifelong learning.

The following information on prior knowledge, skills, experience or qualifications that provide suitable preparation for this qualification has been provided as guidance only.

Learners would benefit from having attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by one or more of the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 5

- ◆ Relevant units or qualifications at SCQF level 4

NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 6

- ◆ Relevant units or qualifications at SCQF level 5

Scotland's colleges have a tradition of offering opportunities to applicants without formal qualifications and who may have experienced social exclusion. Therefore, centres are encouraged to support fully the tradition of social inclusion and continue to provide opportunities for applicants from non-traditional programmes. In such cases, centres are encouraged to consider experience, life skills and potential ability.

Consideration of access should be based on the interest and ability of a learner to undertake the units. For example, an applicant may have completed a non-certificated course in a related area and wish to pursue this at a higher level. Alternatively, a learner may be involved in political or legal activity, or community learning and development and wish some type of formal certificate.

4.1 Core Skills entry profile

The Core Skill entry profile provides a summary of the associated assessment activities that exemplify why a particular level has been recommended for this qualification. The information would be used to identify if additional learning support needs to be put in place for learners whose Core Skills profile is below the recommended entry level or whether learners should be encouraged to do an alternative level or learning programme.

For the NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 5

Core Skill	Recommended SCQF entry profile	Associated assessment activities
Communication	4	Contributing to a general, personal, or vocational blog. Giving a short informal talk and answering some questions on some aspect of work undertaken.
Numeracy	4	Showing results of a survey in an appropriate format for others to read and make comparisons. Carrying out calculations with whole numbers and decimals.
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	4	Searching an email account for a specific attachment. Uploading and sharing of file on online forum.
Problem Solving	4	Completing a task in a familiar context. Summarising, explaining, or drawing conclusions.
Working with Others	4	Sharing resources. Receiving and considering feedback and advice.

For the NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 6

Core Skill	Recommended SCQF entry profile	Associated assessment activities
Communication	5	<p>Essays; presentation; poster presentation; blogs and podcasts. Research, read and select information from a variety of sources. Explain and evaluate information. Present arguments. Synthesise information.</p> <p>Organise and structure complex communication effectively.</p> <p>Use referencing, citation and bibliography systems.</p> <p>Use accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation.</p>
Numeracy	5	Interpretation of data and statistics.
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	5	<p>Present information using PowerPoint or other ICT presentation tools.</p> <p>Search websites for relevant information.</p> <p>Present formative and summative evidence electronically, for example: creating a blog; keeping a reflective electronic journal; making a podcast; ePortfolio.</p> <p>Use of word processing/ spreadsheet/PowerPoint.</p> <p>Use of various audio-visual software.</p>
Problem Solving	5	<p>Project based learning activities. Active learning/cooperative learning activities.</p>

Core Skill	Recommended SCQF entry profile	Associated assessment activities
Working with Others	5	Active learning/cooperative learning activities.

5 Additional benefits of the qualification in meeting employer needs

This qualification was designed to meet a specific purpose and what follows are details on how that purpose has been met through mapping of the units to the aims of the qualification. Through meeting the aims, additional value has been achieved by linking the unit standards with those defined in national occupational standards and/or trade/professional body requirements. In addition, significant opportunities exist for learners to develop the more generic skills, known as Core Skills through doing this qualification.

5.1 Mapping of qualification aims to units

General Aims

Code	Unit title	Aims									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
J48F 45	Criminology: Crime in the Community	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
J48E 45	Criminology: Crime Scenes	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
J48G 45	The History and Development of Criminology	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
J45V 45	Forensic Science: Applications	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
J2A5 75	Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
J46Y 46	Criminology: Nature and Extent of Crime	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
J46W 46	Criminology: Forensic Psychology	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
J46X 46	Criminology: Crime Control Strategies	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
FN51 12	Crime in Society	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Code	Unit title	Aims									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
F824 12	Forensic Science: Practical Techniques	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
J2A6 76	Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Specific aims for SCQF level 5 units

Code	Unit title	Aims							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
J48F 45	Criminology: Crime in the Community	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
J48E 45	Criminology: Crime Scenes	x		x	x	x	x		
J48G 45	The History and Development of Criminology	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
J45V 45	Forensic Science: Applications	x		x	x	x	x		x
J2A5 75	Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom	x	x		x	x	x	x	x

Specific aims for SCQF level 6 units

Code	Unit title	Aims							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
J46Y 46	Criminology: Nature and Extent of Crime	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
J46W 46	Criminology: Forensic Psychology	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
J46X 46	Criminology: Crime Control Strategies	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
FN51 12	Crime in Society	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
F824 12	Forensic Science: Practical Techniques	x			x	x	x		
J2A6 76	Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom	x	x		x	x	x	x	x

5.2 Mapping of Core Skills development opportunities across the qualification(s)

Unit Code	Unit Title	Communication			Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving			Working with Others	
		Written (Reading)	Written (Writing)	Oral	Using Number	Using Graphical Information	Accessing Information	Proving/Creating Information	Critical Thinking	Planning and Organising	Reviewing and Evaluating	Working Co-operatively with Others	Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
J48F 45	Criminology: Crime in the Community	S5	S4			S5	S4	S4		S5		S5	
J48E 45	Criminology: Crime Scenes	S4	S4				S4		S5			S5	
J2A5 75	Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom	S5	S5		S4	S4	S4		S5			S5	
J48G 45	The History and Development of Criminology	S5	S4				S4	S4		S5		S5	
J45V 45	Forensic Science: Applications	S4					S4	S4	E5				
J46Y 46	Criminology: Nature and Extent of Crime	S6	S6	S6	S6		S5	S5	E6	S6		S6	

Unit Code	Unit Title	Communication			Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving			Working with Others	
		Written (Reading)	Written (Writing)	Oral	Using Number	Using Graphical Information	Accessing Information	Proving/Creating Information	Critical Thinking	Planning and Organising	Reviewing and Evaluating	Working Co-operatively with Others	Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
FN51 12	Crime in Society	S4	S4	S4			S4		E4	S4	S4	S4	
J2A6 76	Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom	S6	S6	S5			S5					S5	
F824 12	Forensic Science: Practical Techniques	S6	S6	S6			S6	S6	E6	S6	S6		
J46X 48	Criminology: Crime Control Strategies	S6	S6	S6	S6		S5	S5	E6	S6		S6	
J46W 48	Criminology: Forensic Psychology	S5	S4	S5			S4	S4	E6	S5		S5	

5.3 Assessment strategy for the qualification(s)

Unit code and title	Assessment		
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3
J48F 45 Criminology: Crime in the Community	This unit can be assessed using a single, holistic, open-book assessment. Work can be completed on an on-going basis to form a portfolio of evidence comprising approximately 1,000 words or an oral presentation of approximately seven minutes.		
J48E 45 Criminology: Crime Scenes	<p>A closed-book, supervised assessment requiring a written response of 300 words approximately.</p> <p>Short answer questions can be asked requiring learners to produce approximately 100 words to address each of the performance criteria. These could be presented online with learners typing their responses or using traditional pen and paper delivery.</p> <p>An oral response would be four minutes approximately.</p>	<p>An open-book assessment of 700 words approximately where learners are required to respond to a stimulus image of a crime scene.</p> <p>Learners can respond to short questions asking them in general about psychological evidence, and then specifically responding to the stimulus image. This image can be a sketch or a mock crime scene.</p>	

Unit code and title	Assessment		
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3
J48G 45 The History and Development of Criminology	<p>A holistic open-book assessment which could take the form of a project, essay, portfolio, restricted response questions, report or an oral presentation. A written response should be 800 words approximately.</p> <p>Outcomes can be assessed individually. In this case, a written response should be 400 words approximately per outcome.</p>		
J2A5 75 Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom	<p>Learners must study and be assessed on the Crime and the Law option.</p> <p>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 the evidence does not need to be from the one activity. It can be assembled from a variety of tasks and assessments carried out during the duration of the course.</p> <p>Evidence may be presented for individual outcomes or gathered for the unit.</p>	<p>Learners must study and be assessed on the Crime and the Law option.</p> <p>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 the evidence does not need to be from the one activity. It can be assembled from a variety of tasks and assessments carried out during the duration of the course.</p> <p>Evidence may be presented for individual outcomes or gathered for the unit.</p>	

Unit code and title	Assessment		
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3
J45V 45 Forensic Science: Applications	<p>Performance criterion (a) should be assessed by a supervised closed-book assessment. It is recommended that the assessment be completed within 40 minutes.</p> <p>Performance criterion (b) should be assessed by a supervised open-book assessment. This will be a practical assessment and an observation checklist must be used.</p>	This is an open-book assessment. Learners could present the results of their analysis as a structured presentation or as a scientific report or poster.	This is an open-book assessment. Evidence could take the form of a structured presentation or a report.
J46Y 46 Criminology: Nature and Extent of Crime	A closed-book, supervised assessment of 500 words approximately. For example, an essay or structured questions.	An open-book assessment. For example, structured questions, an essay, a blog or an oral presentation. A written response would be 500 words approximately. An oral response would be five minutes approximately.	

Unit code and title	Assessment		
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3
J46W 46 Criminology: Forensic Psychology	An open-book assessment. For example, structured questions, an essay, a blog or an oral presentation. A written response would be 300 words approximately. An oral response would be four minutes approximately.	An open-book assessment. For example, structured questions, an essay, a blog or an oral presentation. A written response would be 400 words approximately. An oral response would be four minutes approximately.	An open-book assessment. For example, a case study, structured questions, an essay, a blog or an oral presentation. A written response would be 400 words approximately. An oral response would be four minutes approximately.
FN51 12 Crime in Society	This unit may be assessed by outcome or holistically. The assessment(s) should be open-book. For example, a research project with the findings presented as a report or oral presentation. Evidence must be produced in controlled conditions.		
J46X 46 Criminology: Crime Control Strategies	A closed-book, supervised assessment of 500 words approximately. For example, an essay, structured questions.	An open-book assessment of 600 words approximately. For example, an essay, a set of structured questions, blog or the creation of a website. An oral presentation would be six minutes approximately.	

Unit code and title	Assessment		
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3
J2A6 76 Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom	<p>Learners must study and be assessed on the Crime and the Law option.</p> <p>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 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.</p> <p>Evidence may be presented for individual outcomes or gathered for the unit, units or course by combining assessment holistically.</p> <p>The sources of information used may be written, numerical, graphical, pictorial, audio-visual or oral.</p>	<p>Learners must study and be assessed on the Crime and the Law option.</p> <p>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 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.</p> <p>Evidence may be presented for individual outcomes or gathered for the unit, units or course by combining assessment holistically.</p> <p>The sources of information used may be written, numerical, graphical, pictorial, audio-visual or oral.</p>	

Unit code and title	Assessment		
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3
F824 12 Forensic Science: Practical Techniques	This outcome should be assessed by a supervised closed-book assessment. For example, structured questions.	<p>The assessment for performance criteria (a) and (b) will be open-book. This will be a practical assessment and an observation checklist must be used.</p> <p>Performance criteria (c) and (d) will be assessed by an openbook assessment. For example, a workbook.</p>	<p>The assessment for performance criterion (a) will be open-book. This will be a practical assessment and an observation checklist must be used.</p> <p>Performance criteria (b) and (c) will be assessed by an open-book assessment. For example, a PowerPoint presentation or poster.</p>

- Centres must put in place appropriate measures to ensure that the evidence is the learner's own work.
- Centres are reminded that prior verification of centre-devised assessments would help to ensure that the national standard is being met.
- Assessors should bear in mind that oral evidence must be recorded (either digitally/mechanically or scribed) for external verification purposes.

6 Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment

Delivery

Please note that some of the topics covered in the Criminology units may be of a sensitive nature. Centres should give consideration to their cohort as some learners may have had personal experience of the criminal justice system or be victims of crime.

The NPAs in Criminology are designed for those who wish to gain a comprehensive knowledge of crime and justice. A questioning and evidence-based approach should be adopted to help the learner to understand the complex relationship between individuals, crime and society.

Another key aim of the qualifications is to develop higher order transferable skills and digital literacy for learning, life and work.

It is important that the full amount of teaching and learning time is allocated to each unit. For National Units at SCQF levels 1- 6 a one credit Unit = 6 SCQF credits (40 hours contact and 20 hours self-directed learning).

Learners must demonstrate their capacity to work independently to achieve the performance criteria and evidence requirements as set out in the component unit specifications.

It is important that steps are taken to ensure that the learner's work is their own. Monitoring can take place during feedback sessions on draft work and after formative and summative assessments. It would be helpful to use anti-plagiarism tools, such as, for example, Turnitin or SafeAssign.

Evidence must be kept of the course team's approach to planning, delivery and assessment of the qualifications for external verification purposes.

The qualifications offer articulation into other Social Science programmes or employment in a range of fields.

Assessment

NB Learners who take units J2A5 75 Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom and J2A6 76 Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom must study and be assessed on the Crime and the Law option. Evidence of achievement must be made available for external verification visits.

The design principles for NPAs encourage a holistic and integrative approach to assessment. A wide range of methods of assessment can be used. These will involve either open-book or closed-book assessment instruments. This allows learners to experience a range of assessment methods and helps them to develop different skills, which should be transferable to the next step of further or higher education or to employment.

Centres should check that their instruments of assessment are current and valid. They must meet the demands of the unit specifications. SQA offers a prior verification service for centre-devised instruments of assessment. This service ensures that the outcomes, performance criteria and evidence requirements of units are being covered and that national standards are being met.

Centres should check the SQA's secure site for current provision of Assessment Support Packs (ASPs).

All assessment materials must be kept secure and should not be shared via emails or on social media channels.

Again, it is important to ensure that the work of the learner is their own.

6.1 Sequencing/integration of units

It would be at the discretion of the centre to determine in which order the units were delivered and to determine whether any integration of assessments would be possible.

6.2 Recognition of prior learning

SQA recognises that learners gain knowledge and skills acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning contexts.

In some instances, a full group award may be achieved through the recognition of prior learning. However, it is unlikely that a learner would have the appropriate prior learning and experience to meet all the requirements of a full group award.

The recognition of prior learning may **not** be used as a method of assessing in the following types of units and assessments:

- ◆ HN Graded Units
- ◆ Course and/or external assessments
- ◆ Other integrative assessment units (which may or not be graded)
- ◆ Certain types of assessment instruments where the standard may be compromised by not using the same assessment method outlined in the unit
- ◆ Where there is an existing requirement for a licence to practice

- ◆ Where there are specific health and safety requirements
- ◆ Where there are regulatory, professional or other statutory requirements
- ◆ Where otherwise specified in an assessment strategy

NB Learners who have achieved units J2A5 75 Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom and J2A6 76 Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom must study and be assessed on the Crime and the Law option. It is not permissible to give RPL to a learner who has achieved these units using the Social Inequality topic.

More information and guidance on the *Recognition of Prior Learning* (RPL) may be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk.

The following sub-sections outline how existing SQA unit(s) may contribute to this group award. Additionally, they also outline how this group award may be recognised for professional and articulation purposes.

6.2.1 Articulation and/or progression

Achievement of the NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 5 could contribute towards progression onto the NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 6 and/or the National Certificate in Social Sciences at SCQF level 6.

Achievement of the NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 6 may help with articulation to the HNC in Social Sciences or the PDA in Criminology at SCQF level 7. It may also help a learner into an HN programme in Legal Services or Working with Communities.

An HNC could then lead onto the corresponding HND and both the HNC and HND can aid articulation into undergraduate studies in a higher education institution.

6.2.2 Credit transfer

All decisions relating to credit transfer remain with centres. Evidence of how credit transfer decisions have been made must be retained as these will be checked at external verification visits. However, SQA carries out an initial mapping between old and new units, to provide guidance.

Existing units	New units	Credit transfer given	Comment
H1WL 11 Criminology: Crime in the Community	J48F 45 Criminology: Crime in the Community	Yes	

Existing units	New units	Credit transfer given	Comment
H1WK 11 Criminology: Crime Scenes	J48E 45 Criminology: Crime Scenes	Yes	
H1WM 12 Criminology: Nature and Extent of Crime	J46Y 46 Criminology: Nature and Extent of Crime	No	J46Y 46 Criminology: Nature and Extent of Crime embeds Critical Thinking at SCQF level 6
H1WP 12 Criminology: Forensic Psychology	J46W 46 Criminology: Forensic Psychology	No	J46W 46 Criminology: Forensic Psychology embeds Critical Thinking at SCQF level 6
H1WN 12 Criminology: Crime Control Strategies	J46X 46 Criminology: Crime Control Strategies	Yes	Both units have Critical Thinking at SCQF level 6 embedded

6.3 Opportunities for e-assessment

Opportunities for e-assessment can be considered.

6.4 Support materials

Unit specifications and exemplars are available from SQA — the former on the main SQA website and the latter on the secure website.

A list of existing Assessment Support Packs (ASPs) is available to view on SQA's website.

6.5 Resource requirements

Staff should be suitably qualified to deliver the subjects at SCQF level 5 and level 6 and should have relevant sources and learning and teaching materials required for delivery. See section 7 for further details.

7 General information for centres

Centres must apply for approval to deliver the NPAs in Criminology. Approval must be sought and granted **prior** to the commencement of delivery of these qualifications.

Centres must provide evidence that they can deliver all components of the NPAs. This involves having appropriately qualified staff and prepared teaching, learning, and assessment materials available **prior** to the approval visit.

Teachers / lecturers, assessors and internal verifiers must meet the requirements as specified in Sections 7.3 and 7.4 of this document.

In order to guarantee approval for delivery in the next session, applications for approval should be made as early as possible in the current session.

Find out more about our Approval processes:

[Become a centre - offer your first SQA qualification - SQA](#)

[Deliver another qualification - SQA](#)

7.1 Equality and inclusion

The unit specifications making up this group award have been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners will be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. Further advice can be found on our website **www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements**.

7.2 Internal and external verification

All assessments used within these qualifications should be internally verified, using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in *SQA's Guide to Assessment* (**www.sqa.org.uk/GuideToAssessment**).

7.3 Guidelines on qualifications required for teaching, assessing and internally verifying the NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 5 (GR4E 45)

To gain approval to deliver the NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 5, centres must provide evidence that they can deliver the award and its component units successfully.

Teachers / lecturers, assessors and internal verifiers must demonstrate competence in line with the requirements of the qualification.

Experience should be relevant to the specialist knowledge and skills contained within the unit specifications. Evidence of this is required in advance of an approval visit.

See Criterion 2.1 of the Systems and Qualification Approval Guide -

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Systems_and_Qualification_Approval_Guide.pdf

SQA must also be satisfied that centres have the required learning and reference materials available to teach and that learners have access to materials that will allow them to meet the requirements of the qualification.

See Criterion 2.4 and Part 2 of the Systems and Qualification approval Guide –

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Systems_and_Qualification_Approval_Guide.pdf

NB For unit J2A5 75 Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom a centre must provide evidence of delivery materials to be used for the Crime and the Law option. You must provide this evidence even if you are already approved for the unit as part of the National Courses in Modern Studies.

Teachers / Lecturers

It would be preferable if those involved in teaching the NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 5 had a degree in Criminology or Sociology or Psychology.

As a minimum, subject expertise in Criminology or Sociology or Psychology to at least SCQF level 8 is required.

In the case of unit J45V 45 Forensic Science: Applications, the unit could be delivered by a science teacher / lecturer. Some centres may split the delivery of the unit between teachers / lecturers due to the requirement for biology, chemistry and physics content. However, it is possible for the unit to be delivered by one teacher/lecturer.

Where there are knowledge deficits, teachers/lecturers should undertake appropriate CPD before delivering the award. For example, the Professional Development Award in Criminology at SCQF level 8 (GK8R 48).

Teachers/Lecturers should hold an appropriate teaching qualification, for example:

- Teaching Qualification Further Education (TQFE)
- Teaching Qualification Secondary Education (PDGE)
- GR5K 49 Teaching Practice in Scotland's Colleges

Assessors

It would be preferable if those involved in assessing the NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 5 had a degree in Criminology or Sociology or Psychology.

As a minimum, subject expertise in Criminology or Sociology or Psychology to at least SCQF level 8 is required.

In the case of unit J45V 45 Forensic Science: Applications, the unit could be assessed by a science teacher / lecturer. Some centres may split the assessment of the unit between teachers / lecturers due to the requirement for biology, chemistry and physics content. However, it is possible for the unit to be assessed by one teacher/lecturer.

Where there are knowledge deficits, assessors should undertake appropriate CPD before assessing the award. For example, the Professional Development Award in Criminology at SCQF level 8 (GK8R 48).

Assessors should hold an appropriate assessing qualification, for example:

- Teaching Qualification Further Education (TQFE)
- Teaching Qualification Secondary Education (PDGE)
- GR5K 49 Teaching Practice in Scotland's Colleges
- GF8P 48 Conduct the Assessment Process

Internal verifiers

It would be preferable if those involved in the quality assurance of the NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 5 had a degree in Criminology or Sociology or Psychology.

As a minimum, subject expertise in Criminology or Sociology or Psychology to at least SCQF level 8 is required.

In the case of unit J45V 45 Forensic Science: Applications, the unit could be internally verified by a science teacher / lecturer. Some centres may split the internal verification of the unit between teachers / lecturers due to the requirement for biology, chemistry and physics content. However, it is possible for the unit to be internally verified by one teacher / lecturer.

Where there are knowledge deficits, internal verifiers should undertake appropriate CPD before internally verifying the award. For example, the Professional Development Award in Criminology at SCQF level 8 (GK8R 48).

Internal verifiers should hold an appropriate internal verification qualification. The following qualifications are acceptable for internally verifying National Units, although this is not an exhaustive list:

- Teaching Qualification Further Education (TQFE)
- Teaching Qualification Secondary Education (PDGE)
- GF8R 48 Professional Development Award: Conduct the Internal Verification Process

7.4 Guidelines on qualifications required for teaching, assessing and internally verifying the NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 6 (GR4E 46)

To gain approval to deliver the NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 6, centres must provide evidence that they can deliver the award and its component units successfully.

Teachers / lecturers, assessors and internal verifiers must demonstrate competence in line with the requirements of the qualification.

Experience should be relevant to the specialist knowledge and skills contained within the unit specifications. Evidence of this is required in advance of an approval visit.

See Criterion 2.1 of the Systems and Qualification Approval Guide -

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Systems_and_Qualification_Approval_Guide.pdf

SQA must also be satisfied that centres have the required learning and reference materials available to teach and that learners have access to materials that will allow them to meet the requirements of the qualification.

See Criterion 2.4 and Part 2 of the Systems and Qualification Approval Guide –

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Systems_and_Qualification_Approval_Guide.pdf

NB For unit J2A6 76 Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom a centre must provide evidence of delivery materials to be used for the Crime and the Law option. You must provide this evidence even if you are already approved for the unit as part of the National Courses in Modern Studies.

Teachers / Lecturers

Those involved in teaching the NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 6 must have a degree in Criminology or Sociology or Psychology.

For the following optional units:

Unit F824 12 Forensic Science: Practical Techniques could be delivered by a science teacher / lecturer. Some centres may split the delivery of the unit between teachers / lecturers due to the requirements for biology, chemistry and physics content. However, it is possible for the unit to be delivered by one teacher / lecturer.

For unit FN51 12 Crime in Society, teachers / lecturers should have knowledge and understanding of Scots Law and how Scottish courts work to at least SCQF level 7. This could be evidenced through degree studies or through, for example, unit F1B4 34 Scottish Criminal Law SCQF level 7. Also, see CPD recommendation below.

Where there are knowledge deficits, teachers / lecturers should undertake appropriate CPD before delivering the award. For example, the Professional Development Award in Criminology at SCQF level 8 (GK8R 48).

Teachers/Lecturers should hold an appropriate teaching qualification, for example:

- Teaching Qualification Further Education (TQFE)
- Teaching Qualification Secondary Education (PDGE)
- GR5K 49 Teaching Practice in Scotland's Colleges

Assessors

Those involved in assessing the NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 6 must have a degree in Criminology or Sociology or Psychology.

For the following optional units:

Unit F824 12 Forensic Science: Practical Techniques could be assessed by a science teacher / lecturer. Some centres may split the assessment of the unit between teachers / lecturers due to the requirements for biology, chemistry and physics content. However, it is possible for the unit to be assessed by one teacher / lecturer.

For unit FN51 12 Crime in Society, assessors should have knowledge and understanding of Scots Law and how Scottish courts work to at least SCQF level 7. This could be evidenced through degree studies or through, for example, unit F1B4 34 Scottish Criminal Law SCQF level 7. Also, see CPD recommendation below.

Where there are knowledge deficits, assessors should undertake appropriate CPD before assessing the award. For example, the Professional Development Award in Criminology at SCQF level 8 (GK8R 48).

Assessors should hold an appropriate assessing qualification, for example:

- Teaching Qualification Further Education (TQFE) Teaching Qualification Secondary Education (PDGE)
- GR5K 49 Teaching Practice in Scotland's Colleges
- GF8P 48 Conduct the Assessment Process

Internal verifiers

Those involved in the internal quality assurance of the NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 6 must have a degree in Criminology or Sociology or Psychology.

For the following optional units:

Unit F824 12 Forensic Science: Practical Techniques could be internally verified by a science teacher / lecturer. Some centres may split internal verification between teachers / lecturers due to the requirements for biology, chemistry and physics content. However, it is possible for the unit to be internally verified by one teacher / lecturer.

For unit FN51 12 Crime in Society, internal verifiers should have knowledge and understanding of Scots Law and how Scottish courts work to at least SCQF level 7. This could be evidenced through degree studies or through, for example, unit F1B4 34 Scottish Criminal Law SCQF level 7. Also, see further CPD recommendation below.

Where there are knowledge deficits, internal verifiers should undertake appropriate CPD before internally verifying the award. For example, the Professional Development Award in Criminology at SCQF level 8 (GK8R 48).

Internal verifiers should hold an appropriate internal verification qualification. The following qualifications are acceptable for internally verifying National Units, although this is not an exhaustive list:

- Teaching Qualification Further Education (TQFE)
- Teaching Qualification Secondary Education (PDGE)
- GF8R 48 Professional Development Award: Conduct the Internal Verification Process

8 Glossary of terms

Embedded Core Skills: is where the assessment evidence for the unit also includes full evidence for complete Core Skill or Core Skill components. A learner successfully completing the unit will be automatically certificated for the Core Skill. (This depends on the unit having been successfully audited and validated for Core Skills certification.)

Finish date: The end of a group award's lapsing period is known as the finish date. After the finish date, the group award will no longer be live, and the following applies:

- ◆ learners may not be entered for the group award
- ◆ the group award will continue to exist only as an archive record on the Awards Processing System (APS)

Lapsing date: When a group award is entered into its lapsing period, the following will apply:

- ◆ the group award will be deleted from the relevant catalogue
- ◆ the group award specification will remain until the qualification reaches its finish date at which point it will be removed from SQA's website and archived
- ◆ no new centres may be approved to offer the group award
- ◆ centres should only enter learners whom they expect to complete the group award during the defined lapsing period

SQA credit value: The credit value allocated to a unit gives an indication of the contribution the unit makes to an SQA group award. An SQA credit value of 1 given to an SQA unit represents approximately 40 hours of programmed learning, teaching and assessment.

SCQF: The Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) provides the national common framework for describing all relevant programmes of learning and qualifications in Scotland. SCQF terminology is used throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk.

SCQF credit points: SCQF credit points provide a means of describing and comparing the amount of learning that is required to complete a qualification at a given level of the Framework. One National Unit credit is equivalent to 6 SCQF credit points. One National Unit credit at Advanced Higher and one Higher National Unit credit (irrespective of level) is equivalent to 8 SCQF credit points.

SCQF levels: The level a qualification is assigned within the framework is an indication of how hard it is to achieve. The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. HNCs and HNDs are available at SCQF levels 7 and 8 respectively. Higher National Units will normally be at levels 6–9 and graded units will be at level 7 and 8. National Qualification Group Awards are available at SCQF levels 2–6 and will normally be made up of National Units which are available from SCQF levels 2–7.

Subject unit: Subject units contain vocational/subject content and are designed to test a specific set of knowledge and skills.

Signposted Core Skills: refers to opportunities to develop Core Skills arise in learning and teaching but are not automatically certificated.

History of changes

It is anticipated that changes will take place during the life of the qualification and this section will record these changes. This document is the latest version and incorporates the changes summarised below. Centres are advised to check SQA's APS Navigator to confirm they are using the up to date qualification structure.

NOTE: Where a unit is revised by another unit:

- ◆ No new centres may be approved to offer the unit which has been revised.
- ◆ Centres should only enter learners for the unit which has been revised where they are expected to complete the unit before its finish date.

Version Number	Description	Date
09	Additional guidance added to: Section 6 – Guidance on Approaches to Delivery and Assessment and Section 7 – General Information for Centres.	24/07/24
08	Revision of Unit: Criminology: Crime Scenes (J48E 45) which finishes on 31/07/2027 has been revised by Criminology: Crime Scenes (J85M 45).	11/04/24
07	Revision of Unit: Criminology: Crime in the Community (J48F 45) which finishes on 31/07/27 has been revised by Criminology: Crime in the Community (J81R 45).	18/12/23

Version Number	Description	Date
06	<p>Section 7 has been updated. Additional example of an assessor award added - GF8P 48 Conduct the Assessment Process.</p> <p>Addition of following statements:</p> <p>Section 6 - NB Learners who take units J2A5 75 Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom and J2A6 76 Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom must study and be assessed on the Crime and the Law option. Evidence of achievement must be made available for external verification visits.</p> <p>Section 6.2 - NB Learners who have achieved units J2A5 75 Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom and J2A6 76 Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom must study and be assessed on the Crime and the Law option. It is not permissible to give RPL to a learner who has achieved these units using the Social Inequality topic.</p> <p>Section 7.3 - NB For unit J2A5 75 Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom a centre must provide evidence of delivery materials to be used for the Crime and the Law option. You must provide this evidence even if you are already approved for the unit as part of the National Courses in Modern Studies.</p> <p>Section 7.4 - NB For unit J2A6 76 Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom a centre must provide evidence of delivery materials to be used for the Crime and the Law option. You must provide this evidence even if you are already approved for the unit as part of the National Courses in Modern Studies.</p>	22/11/23
05	Amendment to Section 7.4 : Removal of this sentence from general guidance – “ <i>They should also have knowledge and understanding of Scots Law and how the Scottish courts work to at least SCQF level 7</i> ”.	19/01/23
04	Section 7 has been updated. For the NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 5 (GR4E 45), the need for 60 credits in one of Criminology or Psychology or Sociology has been removed.	22/09/22

Version Number	Description	Date
03	Guidelines on qualifications required for teaching, assessing, and internally verifying both awards have been updated.	07/03/22
02	Guidelines on qualifications required for teaching, assessing, and internally verifying the NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 5 and 6 have been added to section 7	17/6/2021

Acknowledgement

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of this qualification.

9 General information for learners

This information will help you decide whether this is the qualification for you by explaining what the qualification is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the qualification and opportunities for further learning and employment.

Within the NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 5, you will study:

- ◆ Criminology: Crime in the Community And two units from:
- ◆ Criminology: Crime Scenes
- ◆ Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ The History and Development of Criminology
- ◆ Forensic Science: Applications

Within the NPA in Criminology at SCQF level 6, you will study:

- ◆ Criminology: Nature and Extent of Crime And two units from:
- ◆ Criminology: Forensic Psychology
- ◆ Criminology: Crime in Society
- ◆ Modern Studies: Social Issues in the United Kingdom (SCQF level 6)
- ◆ Forensic Science: Practical Techniques
- ◆ Criminology: Crime Control Strategies

The subject specific units are assessed using a variety of methods of assessment in open and closed-book assessments.

Studying the NPAs will require independent thinking, analytical skills and reasoned evaluation to reach satisfactory conclusions about crime in society. By developing both general and specific skills you will be well on the way to becoming a successful learner. There will be plenty of opportunity for research, debate and classroom discussion. As you gain success in achieving units, you will become a more confident individual.

The NPAs can make a positive contribution to you becoming a critical but responsible citizen as you develop knowledge and understanding of the relationship between crime, society and consider wider, complex ethical and political issues.

By learning to work collaboratively throughout your studies, you will learn to become an effective contributor, applying critical thinking within new contexts, planning group tasks, evaluating data and presenting your findings.

You will develop a range of general skills, for example:

- ◆ time management, goal setting, punctuality and meeting deadlines
- ◆ problem solving
- ◆ reference, citation and bibliography skills
- ◆ organising and planning
- ◆ working individually and with others
- ◆ personal effectiveness
- ◆ the ability to take responsibility for your own learning
- ◆ skills in ICT

You will also develop a range of knowledge and skills specific to the study of criminology, including:

- ◆ how the study of crime and criminology contributes to our understanding of the modern world and human behaviour
- ◆ an understanding of the criminal justice system
- ◆ an open-minded, critical and evaluative approach to study
- ◆ the importance of evidence-based research, including investigation and research skills
- ◆ the causes of crime, including competing views, perspectives, theories and evidence

In addition, the NPAs in Criminology will:

- ◆ enable progression within the SCQF. This may include progression to National Courses, National Certificates in Social Sciences, PDAs in Criminology at SCQF level 7 and 8, HNC/D courses in Social Sciences, Legal Services, Police Studies, Working with Communities, Care and Administrative Practice, Social Services.

Successful achievement of an HNC/HND may allow you to progress onto a degree programme. For example, BA Criminology, BA Criminal Justice, BA Law, BA Social Sciences.

- ◆ provide opportunities for career planning and enhance your employment prospects.