

Award specification

Scottish Studies Award (SCQF level 1)

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|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Scottish Studies Award code | GV89 41 |
| Valid from | session 2024–25 |

This document provides detailed information about the award to ensure consistent and transparent assessment year on year.

This document is for teachers and lecturers and contains all the mandatory information required to deliver and assess the award.

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Award overview

Learning about Scotland, in terms of its people, society, culture, natural and built environment, and heritage, provides many opportunities for candidates to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding, and to make connections across the curriculum. This is because Scotland and its people have made, and continue to make, contributions in many different areas, for example literature and language, the arts, media, and the environment.

The Scottish Studies Award at SCQF level 1 has a broad and flexible framework because there are a range of subject areas that can be studied in a Scottish context. In common with all awards, it reflects the values, purposes and principles of Curriculum for Excellence. It offers flexibility, allows time for learning and reflection, focuses on the development of skills and the application of learning, and provides scope for personalisation and choice.

| Recommended entry | Progression |
|--|---|
| <p>Entry to this award is at the discretion of the centre.</p> <p>It may help if candidates complete some units at SCQF levels 1 or 2 before they start this award but this is not a requirement for entry.</p> <p>If candidates have achieved a mandatory and/or optional unit(s) before they begin this award, the unit(s) they have completed can contribute towards the award.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ other units or awards at SCQF level 1 in similar or related areas♦ Scottish Studies Award and/or other units at SCQF level 2 |

Purpose and aims

The purpose of this award is to allow candidates to find out about Scotland while also developing skills, knowledge and understanding that are relevant in chosen subject areas. There is a choice of units, from a range of subject areas, which they can study in a Scottish context.

General aims of the qualification

The general aims of the award are to give candidates the opportunity to:

- ♦ develop, with support, skills, knowledge and understanding in different subject areas
- ♦ make connections across these areas by studying them in a Scottish context
- ♦ learn about a selected aspect of Scotland
- ♦ develop, with support, thinking and communication skills
- ♦ develop the ability to express preferences in relation to learning activities

Who is this award for?

This award is suitable for candidates working at SCQF level 1 who have an interest in learning about Scotland, its people, society, culture, and/or natural heritage. Young people and adult candidates studying in Scotland — in schools, further education colleges or community learning and development settings — may find the award of particular interest. It will provide opportunities for them to learn about the society in which they live. This, in turn, will provide opportunities to develop candidates' own sense of identity as residents of Scotland. They will develop relevant skills, knowledge, and understanding in chosen subject areas.

Entry requirements

As this is an SCQF level 1 award, there are no specific entry requirements. Entry is therefore at the discretion of the centre. Candidates may be more familiar with the approaches taken to assessment if they have previously completed other level 1 units, however, this is not a requirement for entry to the award.

Structure

This award consists of 18 SCQF credit points. Each unit in the award consists of 6 SCQF credit points.

The award consists of three units. Candidates must achieve the mandatory unit and two optional units chosen from the alternatives listed in the framework below.

Framework

Mandatory units

(all candidates must complete the mandatory unit)

| Unit code | Unit title |
|-----------|---|
| J8V3 71 | Scottish Studies: Learning about Scotland |

Optional units

(all candidates must achieve two of the optional units listed)

| Unit code | Unit title |
|-----------|--|
| J8V4 71 | Communication: Responding to Ideas in Fiction with a Scottish Context |
| H6BH 71 | Communication: Listening and Responding to Scottish Texts |
| J8V6 71 | Communication: Recognising Character in Fiction with a Scottish Context |
| J8V7 71 | Social Subjects: The Natural World with a Scottish Context |
| J8V8 71 | Social Subjects: Cultural Celebrations and Festivals with a Scottish Context |
| J8V9 71 | Social Subjects: People and Society with a Scottish Context |
| J8VA 71 | Practical Craft Skills: Making a Craftwork Item with a Scottish Context |
| J8VC 71 | Food Preparation: Baking with a Scottish Context |
| J8VD 71 | Creative Arts: Working with Textiles with a Scottish Context |
| J8VE 71 | Creative Arts: Creating Materials for Display with a Scottish Context |
| J8VF 71 | Creative Arts: Creating Materials for Performance with a Scottish Context |
| J8VG 71 | Food Preparation: Presenting Food with a Scottish Context |
| J8VH 71 | Enterprising Scotland |

Skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

This award helps candidates to develop broad, generic skills. These skills are based on [SQA's Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work](#) and draw from the following main skills areas:

1 Literacy

1.3 Listening and talking

3 Health and wellbeing

3.1 Personal learning

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

4.4 Enterprise

4.6 Citizenship

5 Thinking skills

5.5 Creating

You must build these skills into the award at an appropriate level, where there are suitable opportunities. Learning for Sustainability contexts may provide you with opportunities to develop key aspects of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

Assessment

Assessment for the award consists of gathering evidence to show that candidates have successfully completed the outcomes and assessment standards in the units.

You can gather assessment evidence from a variety of activities, and candidates can present their evidence in a variety of formats:

- ◆ paper-based or recorded (oral, visual or electronic)
- ◆ performance or product evidence, recorded through assessor observations detailed on assessor checklists
- ◆ audio or video recordings

You can find evidence requirements for the units in the unit specifications.

Approaches to delivery and assessment

At SCQF level 1, evidence for assessment is often gathered on a naturally occurring, ongoing basis, rather than from more formal assessment methods. There are many contexts that you might use for gathering evidence, for example, extra-curricular and/or outdoor learning.

You should focus on small, well-defined steps in learning. In this way, candidates are more likely to achieve success in the units and in any subsequent learning.

Candidates benefit from receiving accurate and regular feedback regarding their learning. This helps to ensure they are actively involved in the assessment process. It is important that you use different approaches to assessment to suit the varying needs of candidates.

At all times it is important to review and monitor the type and amount of support each candidate is given to achieve the units in this award. Although you should give candidates as much support as they need to meet the assessment standards, you should encourage them to try and complete tasks with less support wherever that may be possible.

On some occasions it may be possible to measure a candidate's progress through slight reductions or changes in the support they need to complete tasks. You may therefore find it helpful to keep clear records of the support given to candidates during assessment, so that you can track and monitor potential progress.

Planning delivery

You can deliver the Scottish Studies Award (SCQF level 1) in a number of ways, for example over a concentrated block of time or on a full or part-time basis. Alternatively, you can deliver the award in conjunction with other qualifications over one or more academic years. The appropriate length of time will depend on the time and resources available and the needs and support you give to each candidate.

The award is also cross-curricular. Candidates could complete units from two different subject areas, as well as the mandatory unit, Scottish Studies: Learning About Scotland (SCQF level 1). You and candidates have a range of potential units and subject areas to choose from.

Combining assessment across units

If you are delivering the Scottish Studies Award (SCQF level 1) alongside an existing range or programme of National 1 units, you may be able to take a combined approach to delivery and assessment. For example, if you plan to deliver the freestanding unit in Social Subjects: People and Society (SCQF level 1), you could deliver the Scottish context version, rather than completing the original version of the unit. You might find it helpful to plan a coordinated approach to delivery across relevant subject areas and departments, faculties or curricular areas before delivering the award.

Candidates can complete the units required to achieve this award in any order, either in parallel or one after the other. Any units candidates have completed over different years will still be allowed to contribute towards the award.

Where there are similar assessment requirements, you may have opportunities to collect evidence by integrating or combining assessment across units within the award. However, at SCQF level 1, carrying out similar assessments in different contexts and/or repeating similar assessments can help reinforce learning and may help candidates retain information.

Assessment support materials

Most of the optional units within this award are new versions of existing National 1 units, but for the purposes of this award, they must be completed in a Scottish context. Centres should note that each Scottish context version has a different unit code from the original version of the unit. Only the unit codes relating to the Scottish context versions of these units will count towards completion of the award.

Where candidates have previously completed and been certificated for one of the original versions of these units, they must achieve the unit again using the Scottish context and using the appropriate unit code.

Unit assessment support packs have not been produced for the Scottish context units. Instead, centres can use the unit assessment support packs for the original units. The unit assessment support packs for the original units provide examples of the type of task that may be appropriate to assess candidates and you should adapt these to Scottish contexts. You can decide what you deem to be an appropriate Scottish context for candidates, for example it might relate to clothing, food, culture, entertainment, sport, history or landscape.

Equality and inclusion

The units making up this award have been designed to be as fair and accessible as possible with no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. You should take into account the needs of individual candidates when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Guidance on assessment arrangements for disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs is available on the assessment arrangements web page:

www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

Further information

The following links provide useful information and background:

- ♦ [Assessment arrangements](#)
- ♦ [Building the Curriculum 3–5](#)
- ♦ [Guide to Assessment](#)
- ♦ [Recent SQA research](#)
- ♦ [Remote assessment](#)
- ♦ [SCQF Handbook](#)
- ♦ [Know Your SCQF Level - Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework](#)
- ♦ [SQA's Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work](#)

Administrative information

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History of changes

| Version | Description of change | Date |
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Note: please check SQA's website to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of this document, and check SQA's APS Navigator to ensure you are using the most up-to-date qualification structure.