
Modern Studies: International Issues

SCQF: level 6 (6 SCQF credit points)

Unit code: J2A8 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 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 Modern Studies Course or relevant 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 Unit.

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

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*.

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:

- ◆ 3 out of the 4 Assessment Standards must be achieved

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 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

Published: October 2023 (version 3.1)

Superclass: FB

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
2.0	Level changed from Higher to SCQF level 6.	Qualifications Manager	September 2018
3.0	Unit code updated	Qualifications Manager	July 2019
3.1	Typographical error removed from unit title. No other changes	Qualifications Manager	October 2023

This specification may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged. Additional copies of this Unit can be downloaded from SQA's website at www.sqa.org.uk.

Note: readers are advised to check SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk to ensure they are using the most up-to-date version of the Unit Specification.

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2023