

Geography: Physical Environments

SCQF: level 6 (6 SCQF credit points)

Unit code: J2EF 76

Unit outline

The general aim of this unit is to develop learners' geographical skills in a range of physical environment contexts. Learners will develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the processes and interactions at work within physical environments on a local, regional and global scale.

Learners who complete this unit will be able to:

- 1 Use a range of mapping skills and techniques in physical environment contexts
- 2 Draw on and apply knowledge and understanding of the processes and interactions at work within physical environments on a local, regional or global scale

This unit 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:

Geography (National 5) course or relevant units

Environmental Science (National 5) course

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 mapping skills and techniques in physical environment contexts by:**
 - 1.1 Interpreting complex geographical information from at least two sources; one source must be a map and the other source must relate to the area shown on the map
 - 1.2 Annotating a geographical resource using a map
 - 1.3 Presenting complex geographical information using a map or a map based diagram

Outcome 2

The learner will:

- 2 Draw on and apply knowledge and understanding of the processes and interactions at work within physical environments on a local, regional or global scale by:**
 - 2.1 Explaining, in detail, a process/interaction at work in a physical environment
 - 2.2 Explaining, in detail, the impact of weather/climate on a physical environment
 - 2.3 Explaining, in detail, a complex issue in a physical environment

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.

A range of maps may be used in this unit including Ordnance Survey maps where appropriate.

Where 'mapping skills' are being assessed in the context of this unit suitable maps include:

- ◆ Ordnance Survey map
- ◆ weather/climate map
- ◆ information from GIS
- ◆ atlas
- ◆ thematic map
- ◆ topographic map
- ◆ street map
- ◆ political map
- ◆ topological map, etc, as appropriate to the topic being assessed

This may be supplemented by other geographical information such as:

- ◆ aerial photograph
- ◆ climate graph
- ◆ cross section
- ◆ diagram
- ◆ graph
- ◆ sketch
- ◆ transect, etc

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 or units by combining assessment holistically.

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:

- ◆ Assessment standards 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3. 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

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: May 2024 (version 5.0)

Superclass: RF

History of changes to National Unit Specification

Version	Description of change	Date
1.1	Assessment Standards amended to provide open and flexible opportunities for assessment.	April 2014
2.0	Assessment Standard 1.4 removed. All remaining Assessment Standards amended to provide clarity and reduce the amount of assessment evidence required.	April 2015
2.1	Amendments to Assessment Standards 1.1 and 1.2 to provide clarity.	August 2015
3.0	Level changed from Higher to SCQF level 6. Assessment standard threshold added.	September 2018
4.0	Unit code updated	July 2019
5.0	Reference to units as part of the Higher Geography course removed.	May 2024

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