

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Women's Health

Unit code: DH47 34

Unit purpose: This unit is designed to enable candidates to recognise and explore key issues relating to women's health. Candidates will examine different concepts of health, including feminist critiques of existing models. Candidates will further develop their understanding by relating this knowledge to the specific areas of reproductive and mental health.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

1. Explain and exemplify the influence of different concepts of health on women's health.
2. Describe and analyse the main factors affecting women's reproductive health.
3. Describe and analyse the main factors affecting women's mental health.

Credit points and level: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Candidates should have good communication skills. Some prior study of a social science or care related subject would be useful but is not essential.

Ultimately, entry is at the discretion of the centre.

Core skills: There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards core skills in this unit, although there is no automatic certification of core skills or core skills components.

Context for delivery: This unit is included in the framework for PDA Women's Studies. It may also be suitable for delivery as a stand-alone unit for candidates with a specific interest in this area, or those studying Health Care, Social Care or Social Science.

Assessment: Outcomes 1 and 2 will be assessed by one instrument of assessment. This will take the form of one open book assessment with extended response questions. This will be conducted under supervision. Candidates will not see the question papers in advance. It is recommended that the assessment will be undertaken in one sitting of two-three hours' duration. The candidate's response will be approximately 1200 words.

General information for centres (cont)

Outcome 3 will be assessed by a written report or a written response to questions. The candidate's response should be approximately 1000 words in length and should be completed in open-book conditions.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Women's Health

Unit code: DH47 34

The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and evidence requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Explain and exemplify the influence of different concepts of health on women's health

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Concepts of health: medical/Western Scientific, holistic, health-illness continuum, World Health Organisation
- ◆ Critiques of existing concepts of health
- ◆ Factors affecting women's health

Evidence requirements

Evidence for the knowledge and/or skills in this Outcome will be provided on a sample basis. Candidates must give an accurate and clear explanation of different concepts of health and how they impact upon women's health.

Each candidate will need evidence to show that she/he can:

- ◆ describe at least **two** different concepts of health in line with current views
- ◆ describe major critiques of the **two** concepts outlined
- ◆ discuss and illustrate a minimum of **three** factors which affect women's health

Assessment for this Outcome will be integrated with Outcome 2 and take the form of extended response questions in an open-book, supervised setting. The candidate's response will be approximately 1200 words.

It is recommended that the assessment take place in one sitting of two-three hours duration.

Assessment guidelines

Assessment guidelines for this Outcome are contained within the Evidence Requirements. Where a resit assessment is required, candidates should provide evidence relating to different concepts and factors from those used in the first attempt.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Women's Health

Outcome 2

Describe and analyse the main factors affecting women's reproductive health

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Historical overview of reproductive health
- ◆ Medicalisation of reproductive health
- ◆ Critiques of medicalisation

Evidence requirements

Each candidate will need evidence to show that she/he can:

- ◆ describe the main historical changes in reproductive health
- ◆ outline the main factors in the medicalisation of reproductive health and major critiques of this development.

Assessment for this Outcome will be integrated with Outcome 1 and take the form of extended response questions in an open-book, supervised setting. The candidate's response will be approximately 1200 words.

Assessment guidelines

Assessment guidelines for this Outcome are contained within the Evidence Requirements.

Outcome 3

Describe and analyse the main factors affecting women's mental health

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Historical overview of women and mental health
- ◆ Psychologisation of women's health
- ◆ Diagnosis and treatment of women's mental health

Evidence requirements

Each candidate must be able to show that she/he can give an accurate and clear explanation of the major factors affecting women's mental health and mental health care.

Candidates must be able to:

- analyse the major historical factors affecting current understanding and treatment of women's mental health

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Women's Health

- explain the feminist critique of the medical model of health and the debate on the 'psychologisation' of women's health
- describe current practice in diagnosis and treatment of women's health in at least **one** specific area of mental health

This Outcome may be assessed by a written or oral response to questions. The candidate's response should be approximately 1000 words in length and should be completed under open book conditions.

Assessment guidelines

Assessment guidelines for this Outcome are contained within the Evidence Requirements. A response in report format would also be acceptable for this Outcome.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DH47 34
Unit title:	Women's Health
Superclass category:	HJ
Date of publication:	October 2004
Version:	01
Source:	SQA

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2004

This publication 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.

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of Higher National qualifications.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. The cost for each Unit specification is £2.50. (A handling charge of £1.95 will apply to all orders for priced items.)

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Women's Health

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This unit is intended to enable candidates to explore key issues relating to women's health and health care. It is envisaged that many candidates will have had first hand experience of the issues raised in the unit and such candidates should be encouraged to use and build upon their existing knowledge.

Outcome 1 looks at general concepts of health and factors affecting our health.

Dimensions of health may include physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual health.

Candidates should be encouraged to explore differences between the medical/Western Scientific concept of health and alternatives such as the WHO definition (health as the resources for everyday life) and the Health illness continuum (health, illness and disease are not static but an ongoing process).

Candidates' attention should be drawn to key critiques of the current concepts of health, particularly of the Western Scientific model (Illich/clinical iatrogenesis, feminist critiques).

Social and cultural influences on concepts of health should be discussed, including differing concepts of need.

Outcome 2 looks at issues and developments in the field of reproductive health. A historical overview of reproductive health may include the development of the NHS, the abortion debate, changes in contraception and social attitudes to reproduction.

Theories and critiques relating to the medicalisation of reproductive health should build on the knowledge gained in Outcome 1 and apply this knowledge within the specific context of reproductive health. Critiques of medicalisation should include the large body of feminist literature on the topic.

Outcome 3 looks at issues concerning women's health in the specific context of mental health.

A historical overview of women and mental health should outline the changing attitudes to women's mental health and mental health care over time. This could include treatment of witches/superstitions in medieval times, the use of asylums, ECT, the 1990 NHS and Community Care Act, The Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Women's Health

The medical model of health is covered in Outcome 1 and Outcome 2, and the emphasis in Outcome 3 should be on the medical approach to mental health and the psychologisation of women's health in general. Candidates should be encouraged to explore alternative models such as the social model, feminist and other critiques.

In exploring a specific area of women's mental health, such as depression, eating disorders, etc, candidates should explore issues of diagnosis (DSM-IV) and treatment (medical, psychological approaches).

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is likely to form part of a group award that is designed to give candidates an understanding of the issues relating to women in society. It is also suitable for stand-alone delivery.

Candidates are likely to have work and life experience relating to the issues raised in this Unit and wherever possible, links should be drawn from situations which candidates will understand.

Assessment for Outcome 1 and 2 will be by one open-book, supervised assessment. Candidates will answer extended response questions, writing about 1200 words in total. Candidates will not know the questions in advance of the assessment. Assessment for Outcome 3 will be by written or oral report or a written or oral response to questions, of approximately 1000 words. This will be conducted under open book conditions.

In Outcome 3, there are opportunities for integration of delivery with Women and Psychology, Outcome 3, covering self-image and eating disorders, and candidates should be encouraged to draw upon learning elsewhere in the PDA.

Open learning

The Unit could be delivered by open or distance learning. However, it would require planning by the centre to ensure sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence. Arrangements would have to be made to ensure that the assessment was conducted under supervision. For further information on Open and Distance Learning, please refer to the SQA publication, *Assessment and Quality Assurance of Open and Distance Learning* (SQA, 2000).

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Women's Health

Candidates with additional support needs

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Additional Support Needs* (BA 2399, SQA, due 2004).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Women's Health

This Unit is designed to give you an introduction to key issues relating to Women's Health. Outcome 1 provides an overview of different concepts of health and factors that affect our health. In Outcomes 2 and 3, you will use this knowledge to look in more detail at the specific areas of reproductive health, including historical changes and the medicalisation of reproductive health, and mental health, including 'psychologisation' of women's health.

At the end of Outcome 1 and 2, you will complete an open book, supervised assessment. You will not know the questions before the assessment. You should write about 1200 words in total.

At the end of Outcome 3, you will either write a report or answer questions provided by your tutor. You will be able to complete this assessment in your own time under open book conditions. You should write about 1000 words.