

SAMPLE ASSIGNMENT BRIEF

UNIT 6 - VALUE AND USE OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT: COMMUNITIES



Construction and the Built Environment Higher (Level 2) Unit 6 Value and use of the built environment: communities (CBE2U6)

Sample Assignment Brief (Approximately eighteen hours under controlled conditions)

Introduction

This unit represents an opportunity for you to explore how the built environment contributes to communities in terms of providing a basis for physical, spiritual and emotional wellbeing and economic prosperity, of individuals and the community. It also looks at the ways in which individuals and communities can contribute to sustainability and how property services and housing contribute to the wider community. The unit will help to make you aware of the career opportunities available in valuing and using the built environment.

This unit, alongside the others within the Level 2 Principal Learning in Construction and the Built Environment, has been designed to allow you the opportunity to develop a range of Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS), and to demonstrate these on more than one occasion. This approach will allow you to build towards a full range of PLTS.

Learning Outcomes:

- to understand the benefits of sustainability in the built environment
- to understand how communities can be sustainable, and the effects of this
- to know how the built environment influences the wellbeing and prosperity of individuals and communities
- to understand how property and housing services make a social and economic contribution to communities
- to know about possible career opportunities within value and use of the built environment.

Assignment brief

You will be expected to spend about **18 hours** on this internally assessed assignment.

Marking of the assessment will be determined by the criteria set out on the assessment grid. The unit is assessed through this centre set and marked assignment. Internal assessments are subject to moderation by our awarding body which is: AQA-City & Guilds.

Your assignment report should be a word processed A4 document and will be included in your portfolio. Photographs and other images to support your work may be included in your assignment report. Should you wish to include any drawings or sketches then they should be no larger than A3 sheets.

If there is the opportunity to talk with or interview experienced property services personnel, housing association officers, estate and letting agents or other related professional people, you should ask them for their advice, comments and opinions, reflect on them and include them in the report to support and provide case studies for your work.

Each page of your portfolio should be numbered and include the following information:

- candidate name; candidate number; centre name and centre number.

You should concentrate your efforts on these requirements in order to help maximise your final marks for this unit. When you work in teams you should clearly identify your own contributions.

Assignment Task:

The assignment task is in five parts

Part A

Undertake research and prepare an illustrated report which outlines the benefits to your local community of a sustainable approach to construction projects. You should include examples from both traditional and modern community situations to explain how sustainable materials and processes contribute to improving the environment. You might include for example, the provision of shops, postal services, doctors' surgeries, recreational areas, community centres and services, schools, places of worship and recycling facilities in the immediate locality.

Part B

Undertake research and prepare a diagrammatic report which demonstrates the principles and practices of how sustainable communities develop. You should include references to the usage of local materials, local services and transport systems.

Part C

Undertake research and produce a presentation of ways in which the built environment can enhance the lives of communities and individuals. You might consider working in teams for your presentation and think about some of the local amenities that have been provided by the Local Authority to make comparisons between them.

Part D

Prepare a comparative report on the different social and economic contributions that are made by property and housing services in both the private and public sector in relation to residential, industrial and commercial property markets.

Part E

Undertake research and prepare a career plan of opportunities for property and housing services including housing association officers, estate and letting agencies and property development or other related professional personnel. Select **two** professional careers and outline the progression pathways into supervisory roles, project, and senior management and proprietor situations. If you are able to interview personnel use them as case study material in your report.

Weighting of assessment criteria topics

Assessment criteria topic	Weighting	Marks
1 Benefits of sustainability	25%	12
2 Sustainable communities	25%	12
3 Enhancing the lives of communities and individuals	12.5%	6
4 Property and housing services	25%	12
5 Career opportunities	12.5%	6
Total	100%	48

Assignment structure

A suggested assignment structure, which would allow you to meet the evidence requirements, may include the following aspects:

Part A (assessment criteria topic A)

1 Benefits of sustainability

- a identify and describe the benefits of sustainability in terms of the following factors:
 - i environmental
 - ii economic
 - iii social

- b explain how sustainable materials and processes
 - i benefit the built environment and the local community
 - ii contribute to environmental protection
 - iii help reduce emissions and pollution
 - iv help create sustainable communities.

Part B (assessment criteria topic B)

2 Sustainable communities

- a describe how sustainable communities can be created through the:
 - i use of local materials
 - ii use of renewable, re-usable and recycled materials
 - iii procurement of local services
 - iv contribution of individuals and community
 - v effective management of local infrastructure and transport services
 - vi development of a balance between social, environmental and economic impacts

- b analyse modern community development practices and suggest ways in which individuals and communities can exert a positive influence on their built environment.

Part C (assessment criteria topic C)

3 Enhancing the lives of communities and individuals

- a explain how the built environment can enhance individual and community life:
 - i physical wellbeing
 - ii spiritual wellbeing
 - iii emotional wellbeing
 - iv economic prosperity
 - v health, safety and welfare.

Part D (assessment criteria topic D)

4 Property and housing services

- a explain how property and housing services make a social and economic contribution by:
 - i maintaining a balance between public and private housing
 - ii setting standards and requirements for property development
 - iii monitoring community aspects during the design and planning of developments
 - iv reviewing the residential, industrial and commercial property market
 - v enhancing wealth through the purchase, control and disposal of assets
 - vi providing the local community with a valuable range of built assets to use
 - vii supporting the local economy both directly and indirectly.

Part E (assessment criteria topic E)

5 Career opportunities

- a compare and contrast career opportunities in the value and use of the built environment:
 - i range of available careers
 - ii level of available careers:
 - technical
 - supervisory
 - professional and management
 - iii nature of interactions between those who value and use the built environment
 - iv organisations involved in housing and property services:
 - housing associations
 - local authorities
 - estate agencies
 - private and commercial letting agencies
 - private and corporate property developers
 - v role of the professional institutions involved in value and use of the built environment
 - vi progression opportunities available to those responsible for valuing and controlling the use of the built environment, in particular, property and housing services.
 - vii qualifications needed to support career progression of those responsible for valuing the built environment.

Possible evidence to be included in your portfolio

In this assignment, you will need to produce evidence of achievement of the assessment criteria.

In the assignment you might produce:

- 1 illustrated reports and presentations on:
 - a the general benefits of sustainability in social, economic and environmental terms and the particular benefits of sustainable construction processes and materials with examples from both traditional and modern communities
 - b the principles and practices used to create sustainable communities
 - c how a properly planned and managed built environment can enhance the life of everyone in the community in terms of wellbeing, security and prosperity

- d the differences between property services and housing services and between the private sector and the public sector in terms of aims and objectives, together with an explanation of the social and economic contribution made by each
- e a career development plan showing opportunities and progression routes available in the professions related to those responsible for valuing and controlling the use of the built environment, in particular, property and housing services.

In order to attain a high mark in this unit, you must address all of the above. It may, however, be possible to achieve a pass mark without producing every one of the evidence requirements. A table showing how the assessment topics are weighted is included below.

The final reports can be presented through whatever media is seen as suitable, as long as all of the evidence requirements are met and the task can be moderated by AQA-City & Guilds.

Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS)

The learner could develop PLTS by:

Independent enquirers

- planning and carrying out research into the features of the built environment associated with sustainable communities
- exploring issues and problems from individual and community perspectives

Creative thinkers

- asking questions of experienced personnel from property development and services organisations

Reflective learners

- inviting feedback to their specifications for sustainable communities and dealing positively with both praise and criticism

Team workers

- working with others towards preparing a summary of the economic benefits of sustainable communities

Self-managers

- organising their time and resources to achieve activity targets

Effective participators

- presenting and discussing their career development plans.

Assessment Criteria

Assessment criteria topic	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3
	The learner has:		
1 Benefits of sustainability	<p>0 – 4 marks</p> <p>Identified and briefly described a limited number of the benefits to the local community of a sustainable approach to construction.</p> <p>Supported this work with simple examples from either traditional or sustainable communities.</p>	<p>5 – 8 marks</p> <p>Identified and clearly described a wide range of the benefits to the local community of a sustainable approach to construction.</p> <p>Supported this work with clear and accurate examples from both traditional and sustainable communities.</p>	<p>9 – 12 marks</p> <p>Identified and clearly and precisely described a comprehensive range of the benefits to the local community of a sustainable approach to construction.</p> <p>Supported this work with detailed examples from both traditional and sustainable communities.</p>
2 Sustainable communities	<p>0 – 4 marks</p> <p>Produced a superficial explanation of a limited number of the principles and practices on which sustainable development depends.</p>	<p>5 – 8 marks</p> <p>Produced a clear and coherent explanation of a wide range of the principles and practices on which sustainable development depends.</p>	<p>9 – 12 marks</p> <p>Produced a thorough and detailed explanation of a comprehensive range of the principles and practices on which sustainable development depends.</p>
3 Enhancing the lives of communities and individuals	<p>0 – 2 marks</p> <p>Produced a superficial explanation of a limited number of the ways in which the built environment can enhance the lives of communities and individuals.</p> <p>Identified and briefly described some of the ways in which the individual can contribute to community life.</p>	<p>3 – 4 marks</p> <p>Produced a coherent explanation of a wide range of the ways in which the built environment can enhance the lives of communities and individuals.</p> <p>Identified and clearly described most of the ways in which the individual can contribute to community life.</p>	<p>5 – 6 marks</p> <p>Produced a detailed explanation of all or nearly all of the ways in which the built environment can enhance the lives of communities and individuals.</p> <p>Identified and precisely described all, or nearly all, of the ways in which the individual can contribute to community life.</p>
4 Property and housing services	<p>0 – 4 marks</p> <p>Produced a brief and elementary description of some of the differences between property services and housing services, and the private and public sector, along with a superficial explanation of the social and economic contribution of each.</p>	<p>5 – 8 marks</p> <p>Produced a clear and accurate description of most of the differences between property services and housing services, and the private and public sector, and a coherent and reasoned explanation of the social and economic contribution of each.</p>	<p>9 – 12 marks</p> <p>Produced a full and precise explanation of all of the important differences between property services and housing services, and the private and public sector, and a thorough and detailed explanation of the social and economic contribution of each.</p>
5 Career opportunities	<p>0 – 2 marks</p> <p>Produced a superficial comparison between any two of the careers available in the value and use sector of the built environment.</p> <p>Provided a brief and elementary summary of career progression for the above careers, up to professional level.</p>	<p>3 – 4 marks</p> <p>Produced a useful comparison between any two of the careers available in the value and use sector of the built environment.</p> <p>Provided a clear and coherent summary of career progression for the above careers, up to professional level.</p>	<p>5 – 6 marks</p> <p>Produced a detailed comparison between any two of the careers available in the value and use sector of the built environment.</p> <p>Provided a precise and accurate summary of career progression for the above careers, up to professional level.</p>