

GCE Physical Education – Exemplar Materials

Unit 2: The Critical Sports Performer (6PE02)

Task 2.3 – National Study (title of activity)

Mark band five (13-15):

“The student has demonstrated a very high level of knowledge of the local provision in their chosen physical activity.”

General comments

This is a well-constructed and carefully researched piece of work which provides an excellent overview of the structures and pathways of the national game. The content is supported by extensive amounts of supporting evidence which are referred to in the appendix. The work is well written and covers almost all the key areas in excellent detail.

Word limit

The word limit is adhered to although it is perfectly reasonable for candidates to include case studies and tables to illustrate or develop points providing they are properly contextualised, add relevant depth to the work and are not simply additional words conveniently ‘boxed’.

Marking guide grid - to be considered in conjunction with descriptors in the specification

Primary areas required for consideration in the specification	Role of national governing body	Pathways	Additional agencies / schemes	Talent identification / academies	Gender	Opportunities for disabled	Funding	Analysis Additional detail	Mark
Student marks	2	3	1	2	1	1	2	2	14

Content

The study opens logically with a short overview of the role of the national governing body and a reference to the performance pathways – each is supported with evidence which is found in the appendix.

The next few paragraphs provide a succinct and helpful overview of the way academies and national performance centre underpin the single system of elite performer development and explains how the elite coaching system underpins the drive for performance improvement. As with the other sections, points are well made and supported by additional information and detail, found in the appendices.

The next two paragraphs demonstrate how hockey seeks to ensure that the first level elite programmes link effectively with the systems in place for elite and potential elite players; there are rightly distinct references to hockey both in schools and clubs. The reader is able to appreciate how the players might make progression from foundation to elite performance in the pyramid.

The funding arrangements and support which hockey enjoys are described and there is reference and explanation regarding issues relating to gender and disability, the latter of which is referred to in the final analysis.

The final paragraph provides a thoughtful analysis of the national game and identifies areas which the candidate believes need additional investment in order to further enhance the sport nationwide.

Areas for improvement

The final mark would have been awarded had the candidate more fully explained how the development of the national game is supported by the various additional agencies which provide backing in preparation for global games (such as the BOA and the EIS) and which, for example, underpin the enhancement of the coaching system (Sports coach UK) – nevertheless this is a very well-crafted piece of work; most certainly worthy of a top band mark.

Task 2.3 — National Study	Max. word limit adhered to 999	14/15
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AS P.E COURSEWORK: NATIONAL STUDY

The England Hockey Board (EHB) is the National Governing Body for hockey in England. It employs 70 people, but is supported by many volunteers from club to national level (Appendix 1). EHB undertakes a range of roles (Appendix 2), but its main aim is to provide an excellent level of hockey to players.

The Single System is a development pathway for players of all abilities to reach their full potential (Appendix 3). It provides fair opportunities for both sexes and also between different counties and regions (Appendix 4). The Single System has been very successful in the development of players since it was put into place in 2006.

The Single System begins through school and club links, allowing players to progress and improve from school to county level. The Junior Development Centres (JDCs) (Appendix 5) are available to any player who has been nominated by their club, school or coach, between the ages of 13-17. They provide coaching for players at sub county level and are offered at locations around the country (Appendix 6). The British Universities Sports Association has developed an improved plan for university teams to start the pathway for senior level hockey. This plan was turned into guidance to clubs to link with Further and Higher Education organisations.

Junior Academy Centres (JACs) (Appendix 7) are open to players between 13-17 years that have been nominated by their JDC coach or have been previously involved in Tier 2 of a Junior Regional Performance Centre (JRPC). JACs provide regular training sessions at county level to enhance core skills and also match play, as there is competition between local JACs. They are located around the country (Appendix 8). Senior Regional Performance Centres (SRPCs) allow late developers or new players to the sport aged 18+ to achieve their potential.

JRPCs (Appendix 9) provide a high level of coaching for U15-U18 age groups from the Regional Hockey Association (RHA) and also England Hockey's Centrally Contracted Coaches (CCCs). Any player who has come through their JAC successfully or who has been previously involved in National Age Group Squads (NAGS) are able to attend and they can be found at these 12 locations (Appendix 10).

JRPCs are split into two separate stages; Tier 1 activity and Tier 2 activity. Tier 1 activity involves a phase of training followed by two days of competition against other JRPCs. In Tier 1 competition, the JRPCs are grouped into 4 clusters of 3 teams (Appendix 11). If players are successful in Tier 1 activity then they progress to Tier 2 to represent one of the cluster squads. Tier 2 activity is a phase of training followed by either a High Performance Assessment Camp (HiPAC) for U15 and U17 squads or the England Hockey Futures Cup (EHFC) for U16 and U18 squads (Appendix 12).

National Performance Centres (NPCs) provide excellent facilities and a high-level hockey programme to selected players aged between 18-23 years. The NPCs have been chosen by England Hockey to work in association with the National Governing Body and there are currently 6 NPCs across the country (Appendix 13), coaching the top 100 players aged 18-23 who can be selected for the national squads.

NAGS represent England at U16 and U18 level. After assessment and development camps, players that progress to HiPAC and EHFC can be selected for these squads.

For the U16 and U18 England squads, talent identification takes place at JRPCs and also at Regional and National Assessments. For U21 squads talent can be identified at SRPCs, NPCs and previous junior international matches. For senior squads, SRPCs, NPCs, England Development Squads and also previous international matches can draw attention to players' talent.

Clubs linking with schools and School Sports Partnerships (Appendix 14) are essential as the first stage of hockey for young players who would like to take up hockey outside of school, because this prepares them for their development through the Player Pathway.

ClubsFirst (Appendix 15) is EHB's Scheme for Clubs. Clubs that gain ClubsFirst also achieve the Sport England Clubmark, which is an award for sports clubs that is distinguished nationally. Clubs that achieve these awards are increasingly recognised by County Sport Partnerships and funding agencies and are more likely to work alongside them.

The Regional Hockey Associations (RHAs) and County Hockey Associations (CHAs) have been involved in the development of the Single System Pathway. The CHAs and County Sports Partnerships (CSPs) have also been creating plans, which include the setting up of JDCs and JACs across the country.

The National Hockey Foundation (Appendix 16) provides financial support to the development of sport, particularly at youth level. Grants are usually awarded to organisations working with young people under 21 supported by England Hockey (Appendix 17). The Hockey Youth Trust (Appendix 18) supports the development of youth hockey in schools and clubs and also offers grants (Appendix 19). England Hockey have a number of other sponsors (Appendix 20).

Generally there aren't any gender issues in hockey as both men and women can play because most clubs offer both men's and women's teams. Despite this, both genders don't have equal opportunities; Appendix 21 demonstrates that there is more provision for men than women, also showing that more men play hockey because there is a significant demand for more teams.

Disability Sport England (Appendix 22) aim to create opportunities for disabled people to participate in sport regardless of their age or ability. Field hockey isn't commonly played by disabled people because it has not been developed. However, Zone Hockey (Appendix 23) has been created specifically for disabled people. Unfortunately, hardly any clubs provide zone hockey, so opportunity is limited, making it difficult for disabled people to take part in hockey.

To conclude this study, I think that since the Single System has been in place it has provided fairer opportunities to everyone and the development player pathway allows players to improve and gain more skills. I believe more support should be given to zone hockey and opportunities for disabled people and that there should be more promotion of the 'Back to Hockey' initiative for women as there more provision for men. I also think there should be more funding through England Hockey so that facilities and provisions can be enhanced nationally. Hockey is becoming an increasing popular sport, particularly due to the introduction of 'Quicksticks' an adapted game of hockey for grassroots level.

Word Count: 999 words¹

¹ 999 words not including words in brackets e.g. (EHB)

Appendix

Appendix 1

England Hockey Board (EHB):

<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=46§ionTitle=About+the+England+Hockey+y+Board>

Appendix 2

The Roles of EHB:

<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=52§ionTitle=What+We+Do>

Appendix 3

U18 and Over U18 Player Pathway:



Appendix 4

Single System:

[http://englandhockey.co.uk/player_pathway.asp?section=898§ionTitle=Single+System+\(LTAD\)](http://englandhockey.co.uk/player_pathway.asp?section=898§ionTitle=Single+System+(LTAD))

Appendix 5

Junior Development Centres (JDCs):

[http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=503§ionTitle=Junior+Development+Centres+\(JDCs\)](http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=503§ionTitle=Junior+Development+Centres+(JDCs))

Appendix 6

JDC Locations:

<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=507§ionTitle=JDC+Locations>

Appendix 7

Junior Academy Centres (JACs):

[http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=504§ionTitle=Junior+Academy+Centres+\(JACs\)](http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=504§ionTitle=Junior+Academy+Centres+(JACs))

Appendix 8

JAC Locations:

<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=508§ionTitle=JAC+Locations>

Appendix 9

Junior Regional Performance Centres (JRPCs) (Tier 1):

[http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=505§ionTitle=Junior+Regional+Performance+Centres+\(JRPCs\)+Tier+1+Activity](http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=505§ionTitle=Junior+Regional+Performance+Centres+(JRPCs)+Tier+1+Activity)

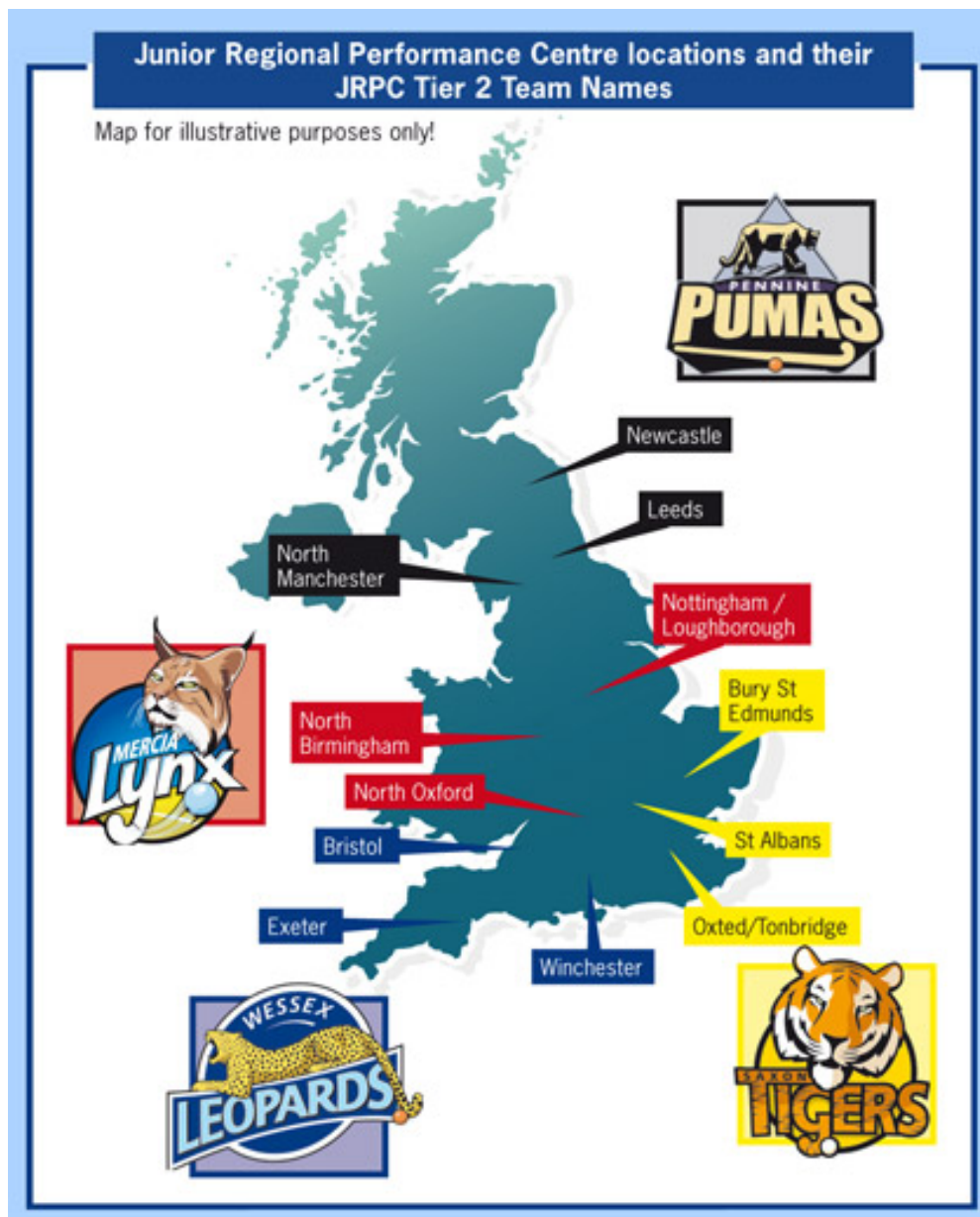
Appendix 10

12 JRPC Locations:

Target Location	Confirmed Venue (Apr 2009)	Confirmed JRPC Name (May 2009)
Newcastle	University of Durham	Newcastle Pumas JRPC
Manchester	Belle Vue, Manchester	Manchester Pumas JRPC
Leeds	University of Leeds	Leeds Pumas JRPC
Nottingham / Loughborough	Highfields Hockey Centre	Nottingham Lynx JRPC
North Birmingham	Cannock HC	Birmingham Lynx JRPC
Oxford	Oxford Consortium – Oxford Hawks HC, Oxford University & Oxford Brookes University	Oxford Lynx JRPC
St Albans	Merchant Taylors School	Northwood Tigers JRPC
Bury St Edmunds	Culford School & Bury St Edmunds HC	Bury Tigers JRPC
Oxted	Tonbridge School	Tonbridge Tigers JRPC
Bristol	University of the West of England	Bristol Leopards JRPC
Exeter	University of Exeter	Exeter Leopards JRPC
Winchester	Trojans Hockey Club	Eastleigh Leopards JRPC

Appendix 11

The 4 Clusters of JRPCs:



Appendix 12

Junior Regional Performance Centres (JRPCs) (Tier 2):

[http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=841%A7ionTitle=Junior+Regional+Performance+Centres+\(JRPCs\)+Tier+Two+Activity](http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=841%A7ionTitle=Junior+Regional+Performance+Centres+(JRPCs)+Tier+Two+Activity)

Appendix 13

The 6 National Performance Centres (NPCs):

East Midlands NPC- (Nottingham Trent University, Loughborough University and Nottingham University consortia)

Hockey West NPC- (University of Bath, University of Bristol and University of the West of England- UWE consortia)

Manchester NPC- (The University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University)

South Coast NPC- (University of Southampton, Southampton Solent University and the University of Portsmouth consortia)

West Midlands NPC- (University of Birmingham, University of Worcester, Warwick University, Coventry University, Aston University, Wolverhampton University and Staffordshire University consortia)

Yorkshire NPC- (Sheffield Hallam University, The University of Sheffield consortia)

Appendix 14

School and Club Links:

<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=58§ionTitle=Club-School+Links>

Appendix 15

ClubsFirst Scheme:

<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=76§ionTitle=ClubsFirst>

Appendix 16

The National Hockey Foundation:

<http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/>

Appendix 17

Grants awarded by The National Hockey Foundation:

So far this year (2011/2012) conditional grants have been approved to the following:

Highfield Sports Club	£40,000
Marlow Sports Club	£60,000
St Albans HC	£60,000
Wakefield HC	£60,000
The Hockey Youth Trust	£15,000
Sport Milton Keynes	£ 8,000
ABA	£19,400

In the Financial Year 2010/2011 grants were approved to the following:

Olney TC	£23,000
Southgate HC	£50,000
Bletchley RFC	£40,000
Oxford Hawks HC	£70,000
Alderley Edge HC	£50,000
Alderley Edge HC (additional)	£12,500
Woking HC	£40,000
Sheffield HC	£25,000
Thirsk HC	£30,000
MK Dons Sport & Education Trust (year 3)	£61,000
Oxted HC	£15,000
Eastcote HC	£40,000
Salisbury HC	£50,000
Norwich Dragons HC	£50,000
Stourport Sports Club	£50,000
Northampton HC	£25,000

In the Financial Year 2009/2010 grants were approved to the following:

England Hockey – Youth Festival	£20,000
Haversham Sailing Club	£14,000
Wolverton CC	£10,000
MK Dons Sport & Education Trust (year 2)	£67,000
Hampstead & Westminster HC	£55,000
Fareham HC	£50,000
MK City Korfbal Club	£15,000

Appendix 18

The Hockey Youth Trust:

<http://thehockeyyouthtrust.co.uk/>

Appendix 19

Grants Awarded by the Hockey Youth Trust:

In 2012, 30 awards totalling £12,059 were made by the Trust.

In 2009, 19 awards totalling £9,586 were made by the Trust.

In 2008, 91 awards totalling £11,414 were made by the Trust.

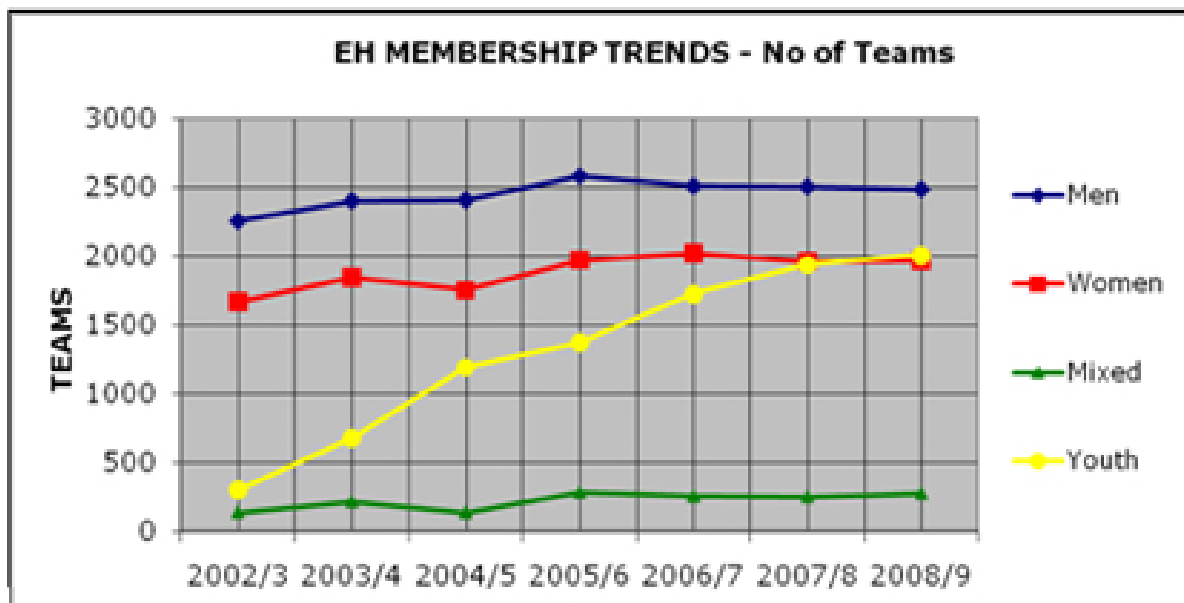
Awards generally range from £100 to £1,200.

Appendix 20

<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=838§ionTitle=Official+Suppliers>

Appendix 21

Male and Female Provision:



Appendix 22

Disability Sport England:

<http://www.eng.umu.se/e3ht02/camilla/disabled.htm>

Appendix 23

Zone Hockey:

<http://www.eng.umu.se/e3ht02/camilla/disabled.htm#zhockey>