

## Higher National Unit Specification

### General information for centres

**Unit title:** Acting Methods and Practitioners

**Unit code:** DG3T 34

**Unit purpose:** This unit is designed to enable candidates to recognise the key components of a practitioner's approach to acting and to place the work of the practitioner in a theatrical context. It allows the candidate to practically experience the methods of approach and explore the work in a textual context. It is primarily intended for candidates who expect to enter the professional world of acting and/or theatre after completing a Diploma or Degree at Further or Higher Education level. It would also be relevant to those with appropriate experience of acting and theatre performance who wish to develop their knowledge and understanding of theatre.

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

1. Research and examine the method and theatrical context of a practitioner's work.
2. Explore the practicalities of the chosen practitioner's method of approach to acting.
3. Apply the method of approach to text(s).

**Credit value:** 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:** Access will be at the discretion of the centre and the following recommendations are for guidance only.

Where a candidate has achieved the course entry criteria for HNC/D Acting and Performance, they will have shown sufficient knowledge and skills for access to this unit. For this unit, it would be beneficial, although not essential, if candidates had some experience of theatre performance or had participated in an NQ Theatre Arts or equivalent performance-related programme. Candidates will find added value if they have completed, or are in the midst of undergoing the HNC Acting Skills Unit.

**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.

## **General information for centres (cont)**

**Context for delivery:** This unit is included in the optional framework of HNC/D Acting and Performance. If this Unit is delivered as part of a group award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the group award to which it contributes.

**Assessment:** This unit will be assessed by two instruments of assessment which require the candidate to produce evidence of knowledge, understanding and practice of a practitioner's method of approach to acting. Outcome 1 requires the candidate to undertake a research project and present their findings in a practical presentation and a folio of evidence, of approximately 1,000 words. The candidate will be required to work in a small group and create a practical presentation of the key findings of that group, which will be shared with the rest of the cohort group. The group should consist of four or five candidates and the presentation should last approximately ten minutes. The presentation and the folio will be assessed through observation checklists. Outcomes 2 and 3 will be assessed through observation checklists that indicate that the candidate has developed an understanding of the method and demonstrated effective application of the skills. The candidate should be able to apply the practitioner's method to text with a fair level of insight and awareness.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards**

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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**

Research and examine the method and theatrical context of a practitioner's work.

#### **Knowledge and/or skills**

- ◆ Exploration of the relevant theatrical context
- ◆ History of the practitioner
- ◆ Key components of practitioner's theory
- ◆ Presentation of research

#### **Evidence requirements**

Evidence will be provided by a practical presentation of research findings, on ONE topic from the knowledge and/or skills list. The presentation should demonstrate key aspects of the findings through creatively effective means, and should be supported by a folio of research evidence, of approximately 1000 words. The presentation must last around ten minutes in total, with time for questions and discussion after that. Candidates must demonstrate an adequate general understanding of the topic which is under study.

#### **Assessment guidelines**

One particular topic from the knowledge and skills list will be assigned by the tutor, and may be assigned to individuals or groups. The fact that findings are presented will give all candidates in the group the chance to develop a general understanding of the full range of knowledge and skills. The practical presentation of the findings and the supporting folio should be assessed through observation checklists. When assessing group work, the tutor should be satisfied that the candidate can demonstrate that they have undertaken work in one particular area.

The folio should include a note of reference sources and may contain graphic or other evidence. The findings may be collated into a booklet for the whole group's reference.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Acting Methods and Practitioners

### **Outcome 2**

Explore the practicalities of the chosen practitioner's method of approach to acting.

#### **Knowledge and/or skills**

- ◆ Exploring the method of approach to acting
- ◆ Appreciating options and constraints of method in practice
- ◆ Recognising the method in relation to developing as an actor
- ◆ Considering the effectiveness of the method as a means of communicating

#### **Evidence requirements**

Evidence for the entire knowledge and skills list for this Outcome will be provided by practical exercises that explore the practitioner's method of approach to acting. The candidate must show an understanding and/or demonstrate effective application of the skills listed through practical sessions. The candidate should demonstrate progress in terms of understanding and application of the method, and must therefore remain open to experimentation and be able to identify areas of strength and weakness throughout the process of development.

#### **Assessment guidelines**

This Outcome should be assessed through observation checklists that demand a progression of understanding of the method. This should be gauged through on-going discussion and debate as part of the practical activities throughout the Outcome. The checklists should also require that the candidate demonstrates effective application of the skills, where appropriate. The practical assessment for Outcomes 2 and 3 could be integrated and assessed through observation checklists.

### **Outcome 3**

Apply the method of approach to text(s).

#### **Knowledge and/or skills**

- ◆ Considering options and constraints of the method in practice with text
- ◆ Developing character through method of approach
- ◆ Exploring physical and emotional action in text through the method
- ◆ Exploring thoughts versus feelings versus behaviour in relation to the acting method
- ◆ Exploring relationship with an audience through the method

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Acting Methods and Practitioners

### **Evidence requirements**

Evidence for the knowledge and/or skills in this Outcome will be demonstrated by the candidate through practical exercises that explore the practitioner's method of approach in practice with text(s). The candidate must effectively apply all the areas listed under knowledge and skills.

### **Assessment guidelines**

Assessors should use observation checklists that require an on-going progression of understanding and application of the method in practice with text. The checklists should indicate that the candidate demonstrates effective application of the skills and is able to apply the practitioner's method to text with a fair level of insight and awareness. The practical assessments for Outcomes 2 and 3 could be integrated and assessed through observation checklists.

## **Administrative Information**

<b>Unit code:</b>	DG3T 34
<b>Unit title:</b>	Acting Methods and Practitioners
<b>Superclass category:</b>	LC
<b>Date of publication:</b>	1 July 2004
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## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes**

### **Unit title:** Acting Methods and Practitioners

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 would be best served if it is delivered as a series of practical workshops and exercises. Although it is a stand-alone unit there are opportunities here for it to operate in conjunction with a performance unit where the text selected uses the acting methods of the selected practitioner under study. It would be beneficial if the candidate was undergoing, or had completed an acting skills unit so that s/he was in a position to make comparisons and draw on his/her acting experience.

It is highly recommended that the candidate receives feedback and guidance on his/her progress throughout the unit and that the tutor offers the candidate recommendations for development work in a practical way together, perhaps, with recommendations for further reading.

Wherever possible theoretical notes relating to the practitioner or method should be discussed and demonstrated in a practical environment. The individual research findings may be collated into a booklet for the whole group's reference.

Although not compulsory, the tutor might like to consider the following additional topics for exploration in exercises throughout the unit:

- ◆ method in relation to understanding of self and others
- ◆ method in relation to environment
- ◆ method in relation to the physical self
- ◆ selecting and examining a variety of texts
- ◆ exploring means of playing intentions
- ◆ exploring intensity of action
- ◆ exploring status through the method

### **Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit**

This unit is designed to enable candidates to recognise the key components of a practitioner's approach to acting and to place the work of the practitioner in a theatrical context. It allows the candidate to practically experience the methods of approach and explore the work in a textual context.

## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)**

### **Unit title:** Acting Methods and Practitioners

The tutor will need to pre-determine which practitioner's work s/he intends to explore and ensure that the centre library has relevant study books for research together with multiple copies available for particular and essential individual reading on the subject. This unit is intended to be broad in the knowledge and skills required for each learning Outcome so that it allows each centre to select the work of any practitioner. It may be necessary to pay much more attention to one or two of the knowledge/skills list as it reflects on the particular issues for the practitioner. Indeed the centre may need to add particular skills according to the method under study. A centre may choose to use this unit to develop a deeper and more in depth study on the work of Stanislavski, for example, even although many of his methods may be explored in HNC and HND Acting Units.

### **Open learning**

The Outcomes in this unit rely on developing skills through interaction with a lecturer and/or fellow candidates, and so the opportunities for distance learning are very limited. Centres may, however, find it possible to develop solutions, provided all unit and moderation requirements are met in full. Technological advances may make the possibility of such creative solutions more widespread in the future.

Because of the intensive nature of the training and the rehearsal requirements for this unit when taken as part of a course, part-time provision would be most unusual and difficult to achieve.

For information on normal open learning arrangements, please refer to the SQA guide *Assessment and Quality Assurance and Distance Learning (SQA 2000)*.

### **Special needs**

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering special alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment Arrangements (SQA, 2001)*.



## General information for candidates

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This unit is designed to enable candidates to recognise the key components of a practitioner's approach to acting and to place the work of the practitioner in a theatrical context. It allows the candidate to practically experience the methods of approach and explore the work in a textual context.

It will:

- ◆ introduce the work of a practitioner
- ◆ enable opportunities to research and examine the theatrical context and theory of a practitioner
- ◆ enable application of research in a practical presentation
- ◆ enable exploration of a method of approach to acting through practical exercises
- ◆ enable analysis of the method in terms of options and constraints and in relation to the development of an actor
- ◆ enable the assimilation of the method of acting through work with text
- ◆ enable the exploration of the method through character and action in text
- ◆ enable the exploration of relationship with an audience through the method.

There are two main assessments:

1. Outcome 1 requires the candidate to undertake a piece of research. Findings will be presented practically to the group. A folio of evidence, of around 1000 words, should also be produced.
2. Assessment will be on-going and recorded through a series of checklists for Outcomes 1, 2 and 3.