

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Production 1: Developing Skills

Unit code: DG47 34

Unit purpose: This unit is designed to enable candidates to effectively research, rehearse and perform in a production. It allows the candidates to practically experience the process of preparing for a role in a full length production and performing to an audience more than once. It prepares them by giving them the underpinning knowledge of the fundamental principles of researching a text, exploring rehearsal techniques and developing and sustaining character in performance. It is primarily intended for candidates who expect to enter the professional world of acting and/or theatre. 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 should be able to:

1. Examine and research the play.
2. Prepare and rehearse a role in production.
3. Perform a role in production.
4. Evaluate the production process.

Credit value: 3 HN Credits at SCQF level 7: (24 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 HN Unit *Acting 1: Developing Skills*.

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 mandatory section 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 four instruments of assessment which require the candidate to produce evidence of knowledge, understanding and practical application in the development and creation of character for the production of a full length play. Outcome 1 requires the candidate to respond to a practical assignment and create a folio of evidence as part of a research project. This evidence should be shared with the rest of the group. Outcomes 2 and 3 should be assessed through observation checklists that indicate that the candidate has participated appropriately and responded to the requirements of the knowledge and skills lists throughout the rehearsal process and during performance. It is recommended that for Outcome 2 the candidate produce a development study that contains the relevant details for the creation of character, interpretation of text and day-to-day rehearsal notes. Outcome 4 requires the candidate to undertake an extended response paper in the form of an evaluative report of between 1000 and 1500 words. A video of the production is required to provide supporting evidence. An SQA assessment exemplar has been produced.

Assessment may be integrated between Outcomes 2 and 3, 'Prepare and rehearse a role in production' and 'Perform a role in production' with Outcome 3 from the unit *Acting 1: Developing Skills*, 'Develop and demonstrate an approach to creating and building a character through observation and text'. There may be opportunity to integrate assessments with optional Units eg Theatre Styles.

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

Examine and research the play.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Exploration of the context of the play
- ◆ Examination of themes and issues within the play
- ◆ Historical background
- ◆ Social background
- ◆ Group discussion skills

Evidence requirements

Evidence will be provided by an oral report, which could be a presentation, on ONE aspect of the play. The report must be supported by a folio of research evidence. Candidates must interact with, and answer questions from, the group. The oral report must last a minimum of five minutes and a maximum of six minutes per candidate, with additional time allowed for questions and discussion. The report will demonstrate a good grasp of the most fundamental issues around the aspect which is under study.

Assessment Guidelines

One particular topic from the knowledge and skills list will be assigned by the lecturer/director, 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.

Each candidate will be required to gather a folio of evidence on an aspect of the play and present their findings to group members in a formal discussion. The folio should include a note of reference sources and may contain photographic evidence/ drawings/ samples of music.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Production 1: Developing Skills

Outcome 2

Prepare and rehearse a role in production.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Annotate script
- ◆ Analysis of text
- ◆ Character development notes
- ◆ Rehearsal notes
- ◆ Director's notes
- ◆ Establish and develop character relationships
- ◆ Develop subtext
- ◆ Develop physical characterisation
- ◆ Explore language in terms of expressive functions
- ◆ Develop vocal characterisation
- ◆ Learn lines
- ◆ Respond positively to direction
- ◆ Work with others in the creative process
- ◆ Adhere to professional practice

Evidence requirements

Candidates must develop a thorough understanding of all the components within the headings in the knowledge and skills list, as relevant to the play under study. Evidence will be provided by a development study that contains day-to-day rehearsal notes and a detailed character study based on interpretation of the text and approach to building a character. The candidate will explore the given circumstances and facts that relate to his/her character and take into account relationships with other relevant characters. Additional evidence will be provided through practical application during the rehearsal process.

The candidate must be able to:

- ◆ Assimilate all the relevant research in terms of building a character
- ◆ Establish and develop effective relationships with other characters
- ◆ Develop physical and vocal characterisation in accordance with the creation of character
- ◆ Sustain character appropriately in rehearsal
- ◆ Respond positively to direction
- ◆ Adhere to professional practice.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Production 1: Developing Skills

Assessment Guidelines

The development study should demonstrate the following knowledge and skills:

- ◆ Analysis of text (in relation to character/s under study)
- ◆ Annotate script
- ◆ Character development notes
- ◆ Rehearsal notes
- ◆ Director's notes

A candidate's response can be judged to be satisfactory where the evidence provided in the development study shows that the candidate has satisfactorily demonstrated an understanding of the principles of analysing text. This should include listing all the relevant data that demonstrates that the candidate has developed an in-depth understanding of the character s/he is examining. This preparatory work should be discussed and developed throughout the rehearsal period. The candidate should be prepared to make amendments to their study according to the rehearsal process and director's notes. Naturally, the academics of a development study cannot work in isolation and have to be married with the practical application of the findings which should be demonstrated throughout the rehearsal process.

The remaining knowledge and skills should be effectively demonstrated in rehearsal. The candidate is required to combine all the skills to develop and create a fully rounded character. Assessment will be on-going throughout the rehearsal process as the candidate develops the character and the character in relationships.

Outcome 3

Perform a role in production.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Synthesis of rehearsal process
- ◆ Listen and react
- ◆ Retain spontaneity
- ◆ Sustain character
- ◆ Maintain focus
- ◆ Adapt to circumstances
- ◆ Develop character
- ◆ Retain rehearsal shape and structure

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Production 1: Developing Skills

- ◆ Engage with stage etiquette
- ◆ Communicate with audience
- ◆ Respond to director's notes

Evidence requirements

Evidence for the knowledge and/or skills in this Outcome will require the candidate to perform and sustain a role that demonstrates the synthesis of all the research and rehearsal skills. A video of the production will provide supporting evidence. A candidate's response can be judged to be satisfactory where the evidence provided is sufficient to meet the requirements of an observation checklist that indicates that the candidate is able to:

- ◆ Demonstrate a synthesis of the rehearsal process in performance
- ◆ Demonstrate appropriate relationships with other characters and audience
- ◆ Sustain character, retain spontaneity and maintain focus
- ◆ Retain rehearsal shape and structure
- ◆ Extend development of character
- ◆ Respond to director's notes and adapt to circumstances.

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome relates to performing in front of an audience. There should be a minimum of two performances to allow the candidate to develop character and audience relationships. The assessment checklists should be completed after the second night of performance.

Outcome 4

Evaluate the production process.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Approach to analysis of text
- ◆ Analysis of character work
- ◆ Analysis of use of body
- ◆ Analysis of use of voice
- ◆ Analysis of individual development in performance
- ◆ Identification of personal strengths and weaknesses
- ◆ Strategies for personal development
- ◆ Group performance in production

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Production 1: Developing Skills

Evidence Requirements

Evidence for the knowledge and/or skills in this Outcome will be provided through an evaluative report of between 1000 and 1500 words. The candidate will consider all the areas listed above in the knowledge and skills list and report on his/her progress and process throughout rehearsal and performance. In addition the candidate will comment on the effectiveness of the group in production.

Assessment guidelines

A candidate's response can be judged to be satisfactory where the evidence provided shows that they have thoroughly examined all the areas listed in the knowledge and skills list. The evaluative report should be handed in to the tutor on the designated date, which should be approximately one week after the final performance of the production.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DG47 34
Unit title:	Production 1: Developing Skills
Superclass category:	LC
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Production 1: Developing Skills

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 120 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This unit is intended as part of a core study covering acting, voice and movement allowing integration of skills to take place. It would be most beneficial if the candidate had completed an acting skills unit. For Outcome 1 the candidate is invited to create a folio of evidence in relation to research of the play under study which should be shared with the rest of the group. There may be some value in inviting the candidate to work as part of a small team to create a presentation for the rest of the cohort group, to show, through practical means, the combined findings of their research. The length of the presentation should be based on a rough estimation of approximately 5 minutes per person. Indeed it may be possible to create teams from the group to collaborate together on areas of the research itself. For example 4 or 5 candidates may undertake to explore 4 or 5 topics listed under the umbrella heading of 'historical background'. In this case the team would create one larger folio of evidence. Alternatively each candidate may undergo individual research. The practical sharing of information may also take the form of a solo presentation lasting approximately five minutes. It is highly recommended that the contents of the folios of the whole group are gathered together to create a master booklet for each candidate's reference.

If a candidate has been given the challenge of working on two roles in the production, he/she should focus on providing evidence on *one* of the characters within the development study. Assessment should be based on this work alone. Expectations are, however, that the candidate would select to undergo similar analysis on the second character, although this would not be required as evidence for assessment purposes. The decision of which character will be explored should be at the discretion of the director.

Although not compulsory, the tutor might like to additionally consider the following areas for exploration in rehearsal:

- Imaginatively explore time gaps based on facts about character
- Improvise units of play
- Establish character through-line
- Define tempo rhythm of each physical action

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Production 1: Developing Skills

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This unit requires the candidate to research, prepare, rehearse and perform in a full-length production. The director of the production will need to pre-determine the topics for individual research for Outcome 1. It may be necessary for the director to discuss with the group his/her particular style and requirements for annotating script and analysing text. It is strongly recommended that the director clarifies that the candidate has an understanding of how to prepare analysis of text and s/he may find it necessary to work through an example of text according to his/her methods of approach to analysis. The means of analysis of text will be determined by the style of play, so it may be necessary to include additional areas of analysis – for example, if the director selects an Elizabethan play, s/he may require the candidate to ‘translate’ areas of text into modern language.

Wherever possible the director of the production should offer feedback to the candidate on his/her progress throughout the production process and propose tasks for the candidate to explore in order to develop his/her skills and understanding of the development of character and building of relationships. The candidate should appreciate that, although perhaps not required to attend every rehearsal, there is much to explore in preparation outwith the rehearsal room.

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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It is expected that the candidate will bring all the skills gained from the mandatory units; Acting, Voice and Movement and develop them in this unit.

This unit will:

- ◆ enable opportunities to research the context and content of the play and share findings with the rest of the group
- ◆ introduce a means of understanding text through analysis
- ◆ enable the development of character through the creation of a development study
- ◆ enable the creation of character through a rehearsal process
- ◆ enable the development of relationships with other characters through a rehearsal process
- ◆ enable opportunities for a minimum of two performances in front of an audience
- ◆ introduce a means for evaluation and analysis of the production and rehearsal process.

There are four main assessments:

1. Candidates will be required to undertake a research project.
2. Practical assessment will be on-going throughout the rehearsal process through checklists.
3. Candidates will be required to create a development study that contains relevant details for the creation of character, interpretation of text and day-to-day rehearsal notes.
4. Candidates will be required to undertake an extended response paper in the form of an evaluative report of between 1000 and 1500 words.