

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Sound Production: Location Recording

Unit code: DJ2C 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to undertake practical recording out with normal audio recording environments as well as understand the associated problems. It is intended to equip candidates with the skills and knowledge to seek employment in the field of sound production.

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

1. Arrange an acoustic recording and specify appropriate equipment set up.
2. Record an acoustic sound source direct to an appropriate format.
3. Edit recording and present a report outlining the technical process involved in the recording.

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 some knowledge of sound and recording techniques. This could be evidenced for example, by undertaking the HN units Sound Production Theory 1, Sound Production Practice 1 and/or Digital Audio Workstations 1. Candidates should also have good communication skills. These may be demonstrated by the achievement of core skill Communication at Higher level or by possession of Higher English and Communication or a suitable NQ Communication Unit (SCQF level 5/6).

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 is an optional unit in the framework for HNC/D Sound Production. 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.

General information for centres (cont)

Assessment: This Unit lends itself to one holistic assessment, which would require candidates to produce a report and an original master recording. It would also be possible to break the assessment down into three separate assessment events, which assess each Outcome separately.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Sound Production: Location Recording

Unit code: DJ2C 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

Arrange an acoustic recording and specify appropriate equipment set up

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Demonstrate effectively and appropriate communication with client
- ◆ Demonstrate effective technical preparation for the recording, taking venue characteristics and health and safety into account

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ communicate effectively with client(s)
- ◆ produce an equipment installation plan
- ◆ assess venue with respect to equipment installation taking health and safety into account
- ◆ assess venue with respect to acoustic characteristics
- ◆ select appropriate microphone techniques taking sound source and final format into account
- ◆ produce a floor plan.

Candidates will need evidence to show they can prepare to undertake a location recording. The candidate will require to make a reconnaissance of the venue in order to plan their equipment installation for a recording. The evidence can be presented as part of a final report, which would also provide evidence for Outcomes 2 and 3. In addition the candidate will be required to produce a floor plan of the venue providing clear and accurate representation of recording equipment placement.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of the Outcome can be combined with Outcomes 2 and 3 as part of a single holistic assessment for the unit.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Sound Production: Location Recording

Should there be ambiguity regarding a candidate's response, oral questioning may be used to eliminate any doubt as to the candidate's understanding. The lecturer should note questions and responses.

Outcome 2

Record an acoustic sound source direct to an appropriate format

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Demonstrate the ability to correctly set up recording equipment
- ◆ Demonstrate the ability to use microphone techniques appropriate for the final product format
- ◆ Demonstrate the use of equipment to gain optimum performance

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ interface recording equipment correctly
- ◆ use multi-channel microphone techniques
- ◆ use a recorder correctly to obtain a recording of optimum quality

Candidates will need evidence to show they can undertake a location recording. The evidence can be presented as part of a final report, which would also provide evidence for Outcomes 1 and 3. Candidates will also need to submit an original master recording to provide evidence for this outcome as well as Outcome 3.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of the Outcome can be combined with Outcomes 1 and 3 as part of a single holistic assessment for the unit.

Should there be ambiguity regarding a candidate's response, oral questioning may be used to eliminate any doubt as to the candidate's understanding. The lecturer should note questions and responses.

Outcome 3

Edit recording and present a report outlining the technical process involved in the recording

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Sound Production: Location Recording

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Demonstrate the ability to edit a recording to a given brief
- ◆ Demonstrate the ability to create an original master of the recording on an appropriate format
- ◆ Preparing and presenting a written report
- ◆ Analyse original master and techniques used

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ use an editing system to undertake basic editing
- ◆ create an original master
- ◆ present a report containing accurate and detailed information, including track edit list
- ◆ analyse the recording and critically examine techniques used and problems encountered

Candidates will need evidence to show they can edit a recording to provide an original master. Candidates will need to submit an original master recording to provide evidence for this outcome as well as Outcome 2. The evidence (*for knowledge and/or skills areas 3 and 4*) will also be presented as part of a final report that would also provide evidence for Outcomes 1 and 2. The report should include details of the social, recording and editing processes and should be critically reflective.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome can be combined with Outcomes 1 and 2 as part of a single holistic assessment for the unit.

Should there be ambiguity regarding a candidate's response, oral questioning may be used to eliminate any doubt as to the candidate's understanding. The lecturer should note questions and responses.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DJ2C 34

Unit title: Sound Production: Location Recording

Superclass category: KA

Date of publication: September 2004

Version: 02

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Removal of Word Count.	02/06/11

Source: SQA

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2004, 2011

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. Please contact the Customer Contact Centre for further details, telephone 0845 279 1000.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Sound Production: Location Recording

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 designed to equip candidates with the skills and knowledge required to undertake an unsupervised location recording session safely and efficiently.

The Unit is an integral part of the HNC Sound Production, which will require the candidates to undertake the HN units Sound Production Theory 1 and Digital Audio Workstations 1. These units will provide the candidates with much of the theory required to undertake the practical tasks required for this unit. The skills acquired by the candidate to achieve the Unit will require the candidate to have a basic understanding of the recording and editing system. The unit should be assessed using an appropriate recording environment with an emphasis on simulating or replicating, as far as possible, a professional location recording equipment set up.

Outcome 1 looks at the planning required before a location recording. Candidates will need to communicate effectively with clients to arrange a suitable event to be recorded. Candidates will also need to be aware of health and safety issues regarding the placement of equipment, cable runs etc. Candidates should also have a basic understanding of acoustics and microphone placement.

In Outcome 2 the candidate is expected to undertake a recording on location. Candidates will need to have the knowledge to correctly set up and operate recording equipment. They should also have knowledge of stereo microphone techniques, basic 'spot' or close microphone techniques, and/or microphone techniques for other multi-channel formats as appropriate.

In Outcome 3 the candidate is expected to edit the recording and produce an audio master on an appropriate format (CD, DAT, DVDA etc). This has been worded as an 'Original Master' and is referenced to the APRS definition of the term.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

The unit forms part of a group award that is primarily designed to provide candidates with technical and professional knowledge and skills related to audio production. Candidates will require training to use the specific equipment used by the centre to undertake this unit. Candidates will also require some input which could be taken from the optional HN unit Acoustics 1 if this is not being delivered as part of a group award.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Sound Production: Location Recording

Open learning

This unit could be delivered by distance learning due to the nature of the assessment and evidence required. Delivering centres will be responsible for ensuring authenticity of candidate's work.

For further information and advice please refer to Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning (SQA, February 2001 – publication code A1030).

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: Sound Production: Location Recording

This unit is designed to provide you with skills required to undertake a location recording assignment. It is primarily intended to prepare you for location work within the audio and broadcast industries.

The unit has three main areas, each of which is the subject of a separate Outcome. To begin with you will look at planning a recording on location. You will examine health and safety issues with regard to your equipment set up and also basic acoustics. You will be expected to arrange a recording of an acoustic event and do a reconnaissance of the venue to plan your set up. You will then complete a recording using knowledge of various microphone techniques and then edit the recording to a given brief.

Finally you will present a report outlining the technical processes involved, details of edits undertaken, as well as the interaction with clients and a master recording on an appropriate format.

On completion of the Unit you should be able to:

1. Arrange an acoustic recording and specify appropriate equipment set up.
2. Record an acoustic sound source direct to an appropriate format.
3. Edit recording and present a report outlining the technical process involved in the recording.