

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Score Interpretation for Musical Theatre

Unit code: DP8W 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to effectively recognise, understand and interpret notation of musical theatre vocal scores. It is primarily to enable candidates to understand aspects of musical notation that will allow them to interpret musical techniques adequately for production. This Unit should be a process of learning through practice, and emphasis should be set on practical recognition, understanding and interpretation.

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

- 1 Recognise and understand aspects of musical scores.
- 2 Interpret vocal lines from musical scores.

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

The candidate should have completed a relevant National Qualification in Performing Arts. Associated Board Music Theory Grades 1–5 would be helpful in gaining some aspects of this Unit but not essential.

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: 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 recognition, understanding and interpretation of vocal musical scores. It is recommended that Outcomes 1 and 2 should be assessed through controlled examination conditions. Outcome 2 should be assessed individually under the same conditions. Outcome 1 is a written exercises and Outcome 2 should be a practical exercise and should be recorded via a checklist.

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

Recognise and understand aspects of musical scores

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ notes
- ◆ note values
- ◆ key signatures
- ◆ time signatures
- ◆ clef/s
- ◆ accidentals
- ◆ ties
- ◆ slurs
- ◆ repeats
- ◆ rests
- ◆ phrase marks
- ◆ staccato
- ◆ accents
- ◆ dynamics
- ◆ tempo markings
- ◆ abbreviations terminology

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can identify and understand all the components within the knowledge and skills list. In the event of re-assessment, candidates should sit a different question paper.

Assessment guidelines

The candidate should be given a musical score on which they can identify all aspects from the skills list. The candidate should also be given an accompanying question paper that asks the candidate to identify and explain the skills list. A pass mark of 60% is recommended.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Score Interpretation for Musical Theatre

Outcome 2

Interpret vocal lines from musical scores

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ note and rhythmic accuracy
- ◆ musical phrasing
- ◆ dynamic variance
- ◆ tempo

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can sing a vocal passage of music with piano accompaniment which is to last 15 bars. A checklist with the vocal passage attached to it should be used as evidence. Candidates should be given the score fifteen minutes before their assessment. Outcome 2 is a singing skills test and emphasis should be placed on the accuracy of the deliverance of the above knowledge and skills.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome is obviously a practical one, and all of the above knowledge and skills need to be assessed. It is recommended that the candidate should identify all musical phrasing, dynamic variance and tempo correctly. Note and rhythmic accuracy shall be judged by the assessor via a percentage scale. A pass mark of 60% is recommended.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DP8W 34
Unit title:	Score Interpretation for Musical Theatre
Superclass category:	LF
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History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Outcome 1 — Assessment guidelines — Wording added to end of paragraph.	30/08/07

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

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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 intended as an optional Unit within the Musical Theatre HND course, however it should be taught along side practical musical skills Units within the course (such as singing skills). The Unit develops the candidate's ability of being able to recognise musical elements within a vocal score that are important performance interpretation. Outcome 1 concentrates on introducing the candidate to varying musical symbols and skills and should be utilised to give the candidate a firm understanding of their processes; additionally on teaching the candidate to recognise the notation within given scores. It is highly recommended that examples from many different musical theatre scores are utilised (in different print formats). Familiarity is the emphasis on this Outcome.

Outcome 2 can be taught in conjunction with the singing Unit and emphasis is placed on the candidate's practical skills of reading and performing passages of music. Again, emphasis should be placed on giving the candidate as many different examples as possible, and learning through practice is recommended.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit requires the candidate to research and practice their skills throughout the duration of the Unit. Areas for assessment could be taken from productions the candidate is currently working on or indeed vocal pieces the candidate is studying in other Units. It is recommended that the Outcomes are taught in the given order. The candidate should be made aware that score reading is very desirable for continued success in higher education or professional work.

In Outcome 1 the candidate should not be given the examination paper in advance, and another set of questions should be utilised in re-sit cases. Outcome 2 should be given to the candidate 15 minutes in advance of the assessment. It is recommended that the assessor has several sight reading examples to hand on the day of assessment to prevent knowledge of questions being distributed amongst candidates after their assessment. The assessor should also have examples suitable for all voice ranges.

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.

For information on normal open learning arrangements, please refer to the SQA guide *Assessment and Quality Assurance and Distance Learning (A1030)*.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

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Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

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. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Score Interpretation for Musical Theatre

This Unit is designed to enable you to effectively understand and perform given aspects of musical notation on a vocal score. You will be taught to understand and recognise common elements in musical notation that you will come across by studying and performing musical theatre songs. The fundamental principles of reading music are emphasised within the Unit and then demonstrated by a short sight reading exercise towards the end of the delivery of the Unit.

This Unit will:

- ◆ allow you to recognise and understand given musical terminology
- ◆ prepare you to demonstrate knowledge learnt throughout the delivery of this Unit

There are two main assessments:

- 1 Recognise and understand aspects of musical scores where you will be asked to sit a written examination.
- 2 Interpret vocal lines from musical scores where you will be asked to sit a practical examination.