



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Technical Theatre: Score Reading

Unit code: F38C 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to enable candidates to effectively recognise, understand and interpret notation of musical and vocal scores for use in stage management. It is primarily intended to enable candidates to understand aspects of musical notation that will allow them to follow a score whilst controlling a performance. This Unit should be a process of learning through practice, and emphasis should be set on practical recognition, understanding and interpretation of scores.

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

- 1 Describe aspects of musical scores.
- 2 Create a musical score stage management book.
- 3 Follow and interpret a musical score.

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 to this Unit will be at the discretion of the centre. However, it would be beneficial if candidates had completed a relevant National Qualification in Technical Theatre.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Working with Others, Information Technology and Communication at SCQF level 5 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.

General information for centres (cont)

Assessment: This Unit will be assessed by three instruments of assessment, which require candidates to produce evidence of understanding, creation and interpretation of a musical score stage management book.

Outcome 1 will be assessed through the description of aspects of musical scores. Outcome 1 could be assessed through controlled examination conditions.

Outcome 2 should be assessed via the creation of a stage score management book.

Outcome 3 should be a practical assessment of the delivery of the stage score management book created in Outcome 2.

Candidates must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified for each Outcome, combination of Outcomes, or for the Unit as a whole, to pass the Unit.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Technical Theatre: Score Reading

Unit code: F38C 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

Describe aspects of musical scores

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Note names
- ◆ Note values
- ◆ Time signatures
- ◆ Repeats
- ◆ Rests
- ◆ Bars and beats
- ◆ Tempo markings
- ◆ Da Capo (DC)
- ◆ Coda

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by describing:

- ◆ all note names in treble and bass clef
- ◆ all note values ranging from semi quavers to semi breves
- ◆ a minimum of 4 time signatures
- ◆ all rests ranging from semi quavers to semi breves
- ◆ all repeat markings including 1st, 2nd and 3rd time bars
- ◆ bars and beats
- ◆ a minimum of four tempo markings and include 'note value equals' and at least five common Italian terms
- ◆ Da Capo
- ◆ Coda

Candidates must provide a satisfactory response to all of the above items via a written or oral assessment.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Technical Theatre: Score Reading

Assessment Guidelines

Candidates may be given a music score on which they could detail their understanding of the above requirements.

Outcome 1 could be assessed through controlled examination conditions.

Outcome 2

Create a musical score stage management book

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Lighting cues (LX)
- ◆ Sound cues
- ◆ Sound effects (SFX) cues
- ◆ Stage crew cues
- ◆ Front of house cues
- ◆ Stand by cues
- ◆ Cue spreadsheet

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by including five of each of the seven Knowledge and/or Skills items (ie 35 cues in total) within a musical score and cue spreadsheet. Each cue must be labelled correctly and detailed upon a separate cue spreadsheet as well as in a musical score. The musical score should be a standard piano/vocal score that can be utilised by a deputy stage manager.

Assessment Guidelines

Candidates may be given a musical score on which to mark the items.

It is recommended that a brief be given to the candidate from the tutor/director that details the placement of the cues. Each candidate could be asked to create a spreadsheet detailing the cues. The spreadsheet should contain score page numbers, cue numbers, cue description and bar and beat numbers.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Technical Theatre: Score Reading

Outcome 3

Follow and interpret a musical score

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Calling cues
- ◆ Running of a performance
- ◆ Team work

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can act as a deputy stage manager and run a performance via a musical score. Candidates are required to call a performance from a musical score. This performance should:

- ◆ contain a minimum of ten cues as detailed in Outcome 2
- ◆ last no less than ten minutes
- ◆ be assessed in a live performance situation

The candidate should deliver all cue calls successfully to achieve this Outcome and should demonstrate effective team work by communicating with team members and colleagues.

Assessment Guidelines

It is recommended that this Outcome be assessed via a real time production under performance circumstances.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F38C 34
Unit title: Technical Theatre: Score Reading
Superclass category: LF
Original date of publication: August 2008
Version: 01

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2008

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: Technical Theatre: Score Reading

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 HNC Technical Theatre course. However, it could be taught alongside practical technical Units within the course (such as Stage Management). The Unit develops the candidates' ability to recognise musical elements within a vocal score and follow through to the delivery of that score as a stage management book. Outcome 1 concentrates on introducing the candidate to varying music reading skills. Outcome 2 concentrates on creating a stage management book on a given score. Outcome 3 can be taught in conjunction with the Stage Management Unit and emphasis will be placed on the candidate's practical skills of following a score in a performance situation.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit requires the candidate to practise their skills throughout the duration of the Unit. It is recommended that the Outcomes are taught in the given order. Candidates should be made aware that score reading is very desirable for continued success in Higher Education or certain areas of professional work. Delivery of the Unit could be completed via classroom teaching and practical sessions during rehearsal periods. It is suggested that all candidates are introduced to musical scores at the earliest possible opportunity and should be encouraged to follow the scores.

Areas for assessment could be taken from productions the candidate is currently working on.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Working with Others, Information Technology and Communication in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

The delivery and assessment of this Unit may contribute towards the component 'Written Communication' of the Core Skill of Communication at SCQF level 5, particularly in the preparation of a musical score stage management book. The general skills of the component are 'read, understand and evaluate written communication' for its reading element and 'produce well-structured written communication' for its written element. The delivery and assessment of this Unit may contribute towards the component 'Oral Communication' of the Core Skill of Communication at SCQF level 5, particularly in the running of a performance from a musical score. Any preparation towards producing a stage management book within the folio of evidence, such as reading and research will facilitate development of the component's reading element, as candidates will need to examine a variety of information.

The delivery and assessment of this Unit may offer opportunities to develop the Core Skill of Information Technology' at SCQF level 5, by the creation and use of spreadsheets.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Technical Theatre: Score Reading

The delivery and assessment of this Unit may contribute towards the Core Skill of ‘Working with Others at SCQF level 5. The candidate will be acting as a deputy stage manager and run a performance including ‘calling’ it from a musical score, they will therefore be communicating with team members and colleagues.

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 further information and advice please refer to the SQA document *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning* which is available on SQA’s website: **www.sqa.org.uk**.

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: Technical Theatre: Score Reading

This Unit is designed to help you understand and perform given aspects of score interpretation and preparation of a stage manager's score. You will be taught to understand and recognise common elements of musical notation that you will come across whilst working on a musical or opera performance as a Deputy Stage Manager. The fundamental principles of reading music are emphasised within the Unit.

There are three Outcomes in this Unit, which will be assessed separately:

- 1 Describe aspects of musical scores — you will be asked to describe various aspects of musical scores, eg note names in treble and bass clef; time signatures, etc.
- 2 Create a music score stage management book.
- 3 Follow and interpret a musical score.