



Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Television Scriptwriting: Factual Programmes

Unit code: F45R 35

Unit purpose: The purpose of this Unit is to provide candidates with the knowledge and/or skills to write scripts for factual television programmes.

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

- 1 Create synopses and treatments for given factual production briefs.
- 2 Create complete production scripts for factual programmes from synopses, treatments and research findings.

Credit points and level: 2 HN credits at SCQF level 8: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8*)

**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 is at the discretion of the centre. However, it is recommended that the candidate has some prior knowledge and/or skills in the creative industries sector. This may be evidenced by possession of HN Units: *Creative Project* and *Introduction to the Creative Industries*.

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 is assessed by means of two complete script folios which have been compiled to meet the requirements of given production briefs within the category of factual programme making.

Each folio will contain:

- ◆ a brief
- ◆ a synopsis
- ◆ a treatment
- ◆ a production script

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

Create synopses and treatments for given factual production briefs

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ How to write a synopsis
- ◆ How to write a treatment

Outcome 2

Create complete production scripts for factual programmes from synopses, treatments and research findings

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Write production scripts that are an effective and accurate realisation of the content and purpose of the programme briefs
- ◆ Knowledge of current technical conventions of professional scriptwriting
- ◆ Knowledge of the language of professional production techniques
- ◆ Create scripts that are realisable within the constraints of the budgets allocated for given briefs

Evidence Requirements for the Unit

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can produce:

- ◆ synopses which accurately describe programme content and purpose and meet the requirements of the project brief
- ◆ treatments which accurately describe the programme style and purpose and which meet the requirements of the project brief, including resource constraints
- ◆ production scripts which accurately reflect the content and purpose of the programme brief, utilise the language of professional production and conform to current technical conventions of professional scriptwriting
- ◆ scripts which will be achievable within the constraints of the budgets allocated for given briefs

Two treatments and two synopses will need to be produced to meet project requirements. The written treatment must include the following information about the programme: title, target audience, aims, duration, structure and budget.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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The synopsis must be clear, concise and no longer than 300 words. The treatment should be a maximum of 500 words.

Assessment Guidelines

Candidates will need to learn how to write synopses and treatments. If possible, exemplar materials of synopses and treatments should be provided.

Candidates should be aware of the conventional forms of scripts and storyboards eg studio/AV form, traditional film form. At least one script folio should be a post production narration script. Centres should also try to provide briefs that are clear and unambiguous, achievable within centre resources and provide enough substance for the creative development of ideas. The programme types that can be considered for this Unit could include: extended news reports, education and training material, documentary, magazine and talk shows. The preceding list is by no means prescriptive and is provided as guidance only.

It is recommended that the assessment of Outcomes 1 and 2 should be combined by using projects covering both Outcomes.

At least one script folio should be a post production narration script.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F45R 35

Unit title: Television Scriptwriting: Factual Programmes

Superclass category: KC

Original date of publication: August 2008

Version: 01

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
01	This Unit F45R 35 replaces DM2F 35 which finishes on 31 July 2009.	28/08/08

Source: SQA

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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 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

If it is delivered as part of Creative Audio Visual Industries: *HNC/D Creative Industries: Television*, there are opportunities for integration with units DM2E 35 *Television Research*, DM2C 35 *Television Production Management: Factual Programmes* and DM29 35 *Television Directing: Factual Programmes*.

The purpose of this Unit is to provide candidates the opportunity to write a range of scripts for given factual programme briefs. The scripts should be written to the stage of a production script. The generation of a shooting script should take place within the context of Production Management and Direction.

A factual Programme script can also be produced as a post production narration script where, for example, the programme brief is an observational documentary.

It would be helpful to candidates if they had also undertaken, or were concurrently undertaking, a theory-based Unit which covers narrative, genre, institutional, audience and creative writing elements which could provide a good theoretical backdrop to this practical Unit.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

The emphasis of this Unit is to produce scripts to briefs that will be supplied by the centre. Centres should also provide the opportunity for candidates to produce post production narration scripts. This could be part of the process of producing an observational/participative documentary programme.

Centres should consider briefs that require writing within realistic programme time constraints. Consideration should be given to utilising real programme briefs, eg Channel 4 or BBC programme briefs. If possible, candidates should be given the opportunity to use commercial software for scriptwriting. Although this requirement is not mandatory, it would be a very useful experience for candidates to take at least one folio through to product completion.

Open learning

This Unit may be delivered by Open Learning.

Candidates with 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

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This Unit is designed to enable you to write scripts for factual television programmes.

You will learn how to write synopses, treatments and production scripts. At least one of your folios will be a postproduction narration script.

You will be assessed on the standard of your completed production documentation.