



## Higher National Unit specification: general information

**Unit title:** Technical Theatre: Research Techniques

**Unit code:** FA00 35

**Superclass:** LE

**Publication date:** August 2010

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

### Unit purpose

This Unit aims to provide candidates with the knowledge and skills to recognise a range of theatrical spaces and genres, to identify and use research material relevant to their role and to understand and articulate the design style of an individual production.

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

- ◆ Research a theatrical production
- ◆ Analyse theatre spaces and genres
- ◆ Identify and evaluate the particular design style and theatrical conventions of an individual production

### Recommended prior knowledge and skills

Entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the delivering centre, no specific prior knowledge and skills are required however candidates would benefit from a familiarity with theatrical productions and theatrical conventions.

### Credit points and level

1 Higher National Unit credit at SCQF level 8: (8 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.*

## **General information (cont)**

### **Core Skills**

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication*, *ICT* and *Problem Solving* at SCQF Level 6 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**

Outcome 1 of this Unit could be assessed through the production of a written or recorded oral report. Outcome 2 could be assessed through a series of restricted response questions and a short report. Outcome 3 could be assessed by a production analysis in the form of a written or recorded oral report.

## Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

**Unit title:** Technical Theatre: Research Techniques

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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

Research a theatrical production

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Script analysis and interpretation
- ◆ Research skills
- ◆ Research conventions
- ◆ Sources of information

#### Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ Research a specific theatrical production
- ◆ Analyse a minimum of six specific visual and/or aural references from a range of sources
- ◆ Attribute all sources of information

#### Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by the production of a research report on a specific theatrical production. It may be beneficial for candidates to research a production they are currently involved in.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Technical Theatre: Research Techniques

### **Outcome 2**

Analyse theatre spaces and genres

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Theatre spaces
- ◆ Key theatrical genres

#### **Evidence Requirements**

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

- ◆ Identify a range of theatrical spaces
- ◆ Analyse the major features of a theatrical genre and relate them to a specific production

The assessment for this Outcome should be conducted under closed-book supervised conditions.

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

This Outcome could be assessed by a series of restricted response questions in relation to theatrical spaces and a written or recorded oral report of approximately 500 words or equivalent.

## Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

**Unit title:** Technical Theatre: Research Techniques

### Outcome 3

Identify and evaluate the particular design style and theatrical conventions of an individual production

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Industry specific terminology and language
- ◆ Theatrical styles and conventions

#### Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ Analyse a theatrical production
- ◆ Evaluate the design style with regard to:
  - Set
  - Props and Furniture
  - Costumes
  - Lighting
  - Sound
  - Overall effect

#### Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by a written or recorded oral report of approximately 1,500 words or equivalent. It may be beneficial for the candidate to use a show they have seen within the last three months.

## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes**

### **Unit title: Technical Theatre: Research Techniques**

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**

In Outcome 1 the candidate should select a suitable theatrical production to research, the tutor should provide guidance to ensure a suitable production is selected. There will be opportunities to integrate this Unit with other Units in the HND in Technical Theatre Award as candidates would benefit from researching a production they are involved in with other Units. Candidates should be introduced to standard research conventions and encouraged to use as wide a range of sources as possible.

In Outcome 2 candidates should be introduced to a wide range of theatrical spaces and should be encouraged to consider spaces that they may be unfamiliar with or have not worked in before. Again a wide range of key theatrical genres should be covered. The candidate will have opportunities to integrate the assessment for this Outcome with Outcome 1 and with other Units in the HND if they select a genre relevant to a production they are involved in.

In Outcome 3 candidates should be encouraged to develop their knowledge of and use industry specific terminology and language throughout. Where ever possible the production chosen for analysis should be one that the candidate has seen recently. Some guidance should be given by the tutor to ensure the chosen production provides sufficient opportunities to meet the Evidence Requirements.

### **Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit**

Where this award is delivered as part of the HND in Technical Theatre centres may be able to identify opportunities to integrate the delivery and assessment of this Unit with other Units in the award. The various aspects covered in this Unit could be related to and assessed in conjunction with productions the candidate has been involved with in other Units. This would allow candidates to relate their research to real productions and venues and to make links between this Unit and other more practically focused Units.

Outcome 1 could be assessed by the production of research report. Where this is the case the report should conform to standard report writing conventions and all sources must be attributed.

In Outcome 2 the first part of the assessment could take the form of an identification exercise which requires the candidate to identify a range of theatrical spaces from descriptions and photographs.

In Outcome 3 centres should ensure that candidates select a suitable production to base their report on and must be made aware of the various points which must be covered in the report (as detailed in the Evidence Requirements).

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Technical Theatre: Research Techniques

### Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication*, *ICT* and *Problem Solving* at SCQF Level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

There will be opportunities to develop written and oral communication skills throughout this Unit through the production of reports etc and to develop ICT and Problem Solving Skills while undertaking and reporting on the research upon which this Unit is based.

### Open learning

Given this is a research based Unit there are opportunities for this Unit to be delivered and assessed through Open or Distance Learning. Where this is the case the centre should ensure mechanisms are in place to provide guidance and feedback to the candidate and to authenticate that any evidence produced is the candidates own.

### Disabled candidates and/or those 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 whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)

## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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## General information for candidates

### Unit title: Technical Theatre: Research Techniques

This Unit aims to provide you with the knowledge and skills to recognise a range of theatrical spaces and genres, to identify and use research material relevant to your role and to understand and articulate the design style of an individual production.

On completion of the Unit you should be able to:

- ◆ Research a theatrical production
- ◆ Analyse theatre spaces and genres
- ◆ Identify and evaluate the particular design style and theatrical conventions of an individual production

You are likely to be assessed in this Unit through a mixture of reports based on your research and a series of restricted response questions.