



Higher National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Acting 2: Applying Skills in Performance

Unit code: H1KV 35

Superclass: LC

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Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to bring into focus and effectively apply the fundamental principles of building a character (developed in *Acting 1: Developing Skills*) in order to perform a role according to given circumstances in two contrasting projects. It prepares them for the creative process of rehearsals and the structural craft of performance.

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

- 1 Build a character according to given circumstances.
- 2 Prepare, rehearse and perform a role in a text-based project.
- 3 Prepare, rehearse and perform a role in a contrasting project (devised, text-based or musical theatre).

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

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

The candidate must have successfully completed *Acting 1: Developing Skills* or an equivalent performance-related Unit. This Unit develops the work explored in Unit *Acting 1: Developing Skills*.

General information (cont)

Credit points and level

1.5 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 8: (12 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.

Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit Specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

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.

This Unit is included in the mandatory section of HNC/HND Acting and Performance.

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

Build a character according to given circumstances.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Observation
- ◆ Explore physical and vocal characterisation
- ◆ Explore inner and outer tempo-rhythm
- ◆ Use imagination to build on facts
- ◆ Examine action/re-action
- ◆ Consider character objectives
- ◆ Determine justification of thought and action
- ◆ Explore through line of thought
- ◆ Explore through line of action

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they thoroughly understand all the components within the headings in the Knowledge and Skills list, through participation in a series of practical exercises that will require the candidate to demonstrate a systematic approach to building a character according to given circumstances. The given circumstances may relate to a character from a piece of text or from information relating to devising a character. Whatever the selection, it should support either Outcome 2 or 3 in the preparation for performance of a devised, text-based, or musical theatre project. A candidate's response can be judged to be satisfactory where the evidence provided is sufficient to meet the requirements of observation checklists that require the candidate to:

- ◆ demonstrate the building of a character according to determined circumstances.
- ◆ determine and demonstrate physical and vocal characterisation.
- ◆ demonstrate through-line of thought and action.
- ◆ explore action/re-action
- ◆ use imagination and observation to identify character facts and objectives.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Acting 2: Applying Skills in Performance

Outcome 2

Prepare, rehearse and perform a role in a text-based project.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Analyse text
- ◆ Identify textual facts
- ◆ Identify objectives
- ◆ Identify inner/outer obstacles
- ◆ Identify through line of action
- ◆ Identify subtext
- ◆ Develop physical characterisation
- ◆ Develop vocal characterisation
- ◆ Develop relationships
- ◆ Develop vocal and physical clarity
- ◆ Sustain role
- ◆ Sustain circle of concentration and communication

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate all the components within the headings in the Knowledge and Skills list. This will be achieved through participation in a series of practical exercises and rehearsals which will demonstrate the performance of a role in a text-based project lasting a minimum of 20 minutes.

Candidates should produce a character study covering the following from the knowledge and skills list: analyse text, identify textual facts, identify objectives, identify inner/outer obstacles, identify through line of action and identify subtext.

A recording of the performance of the text-based project will provide supporting evidence. A candidate's response can be judged to be satisfactory where the evidence provided is sufficient to meet the requirements of observation checklists that require the candidate to:

- ◆ demonstrate physical and vocal characterisation.
- ◆ develop relationships.
- ◆ demonstrate synthesis of technique.
- ◆ sustain role and circle of concentration and communication.
- ◆ effectively rehearse and present a role from text.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Acting 2: Applying Skills in Performance

Outcome 3

Prepare, rehearse and perform a role in a contrasting project (devised, text-based or musical theatre).

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Create character
- ◆ Determine given circumstances
- ◆ Develop relationships
- ◆ Explore physical action/re-action
- ◆ Explore vocal action/re-action
- ◆ Explore character in relation to plot
- ◆ Examine structure of a scene
- ◆ Consider spatial awareness
- ◆ Examine environment in relation to character

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they thoroughly understanding of all the components within the headings in the Knowledge and Skills list. This will be achieved through participation in a series of practical exercises and rehearsals which will demonstrate an imaginative approach to performing a role in a devised, text-based or musical project, lasting a minimum of twenty minutes, based around their created structured rehearsal process. A recording of the performance of the scenes will provide supporting evidence. A candidate's response can be judged to be satisfactory where the evidence provided is sufficient to meet the requirements of observation checklists that require the candidate to:

- ◆ demonstrate the creation of character.
- ◆ develop relationships with other characters.
- ◆ demonstrate awareness of space and environment on character.
- ◆ demonstrate a synthesis of technique.
- ◆ demonstrate an understanding of structure of scene and plot.
- ◆ effectively rehearse and present a contrasting character from that which was explored in Outcome 2.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Acting 2: Applying Skills in Performance

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 60 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is primarily intended as part of a core of study covering acting, voice, movement and production, allowing integration of assessment to take place.

The Unit places emphasis on the development and application of the fundamental skills required to create fully formed three-dimensional characters. Using a variety of dramatic stimuli and circumstances, assessment could take place through a series of practical exercises with the application of these skills and knowledge assessed in controlled dramatic structures. As in *Acting 1: Developing Skills*, it is essential that these skills be placed in the context of a presentation of scenes based on devised, text-based or musical theatre.

Wherever possible, handouts and theoretical notes relating to all the Outcomes should be discussed, explored and demonstrated in a practical environment. It is anticipated that the tutor gives the candidate continuous verbal feedback on their progress throughout the practical exercises and makes recommendations for development.

Guidance on the delivery of this Unit

This Unit requires the candidate to bring into focus and effectively apply the fundamental principles of building a character (developed in *Acting 1: Developing Skills*) in order to perform a role according to given circumstances in two contrasting projects. It prepares them for the creative process of rehearsals and the structural craft of performance.

Candidates will be expected to develop their level of awareness and understanding through observation of others, independent work on character study and analysis of text, and practise in rehearsal and performance. Exercises should enable candidates to reflect deeply upon their own development and raise many opportunities for the candidate to take risks in acting through the exploration of character. Tutors may consider developing acting exercises based on the similar and contrasting theories and practices of, for example, Stanislavski, Hagen, Grotowski, Meyerhold, Brook and Brecht. The candidate should experience, as broadly as is practical, a variety of means of building character. The candidate should experience working in groups, pairs and alone and be encouraged to give and receive feedback on their own and others' work. Equally, the candidate should be encouraged to research and read around the subject of acting theories and the biographical experiences of practising professional actors.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Acting 2: Applying Skills in Performance

Guidance on the assessment of this Unit

Candidates will be required to produce evidence of knowledge, understanding and practical application of the process of acting through building a character according to given circumstances. They will also provide evidence of preparing, rehearsing and performing a role in one text-based project and one contrasting project (devised, text-based or musical theatre).

Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 will be assessed through a number of observation checklists that indicate that the candidate has participated appropriately in a series of practical workshops and exercises that explore the relevant knowledge and skills list. The candidate will be required to produce a character study for Outcome 2. A recording of the performance in both projects is required to provide supporting evidence.

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 1

The candidate will be required to demonstrate an effective and appropriate understanding and application of the requirements in relation to the building of character according to given circumstances. As this Outcome is about building a character, assessment should be ongoing and the observation checklists should show that the tutor has observed the candidate make the transition from the real 'I' (the development and knowledge of the self) into the dramatic 'I' (the ability to adapt, apply and communicate another 'I' according to given circumstances) over a period of time.

The practical exercises should therefore develop in complexity throughout the Outcome. These exercises may include improvisation where candidates explore problems and situations that enable the candidate to fully explore the requirements of the observation checklists above so that they are able to appropriately live truthfully in the imagined and/or given circumstances and effectively demonstrate a systematic approach to building character. Candidates should be actively involved in discussion that explores thoughts, feelings, action, reaction and lack of action in relation to a variety of situations. Candidates may be invited to take part in group activities, relaxation and concentration exercises and games workshops that explore areas in the Knowledge/Skills list.

Outcome 2

Candidates must produce a character study, which may take the form of a piece of written evidence, or a well annotated script, but must cover the named areas from the Knowledge and Skills list. This could also be supported by additional character notes, a daily acting journal and any other research that may be relevant. Alternatively, assessment of the character study could take the form of a discussion/interview with the assessor.

The candidate will be required to demonstrate an effective and appropriate understanding and application of the requirements in relation to the preparation, rehearsal and performance of a role in a text-based project. The candidate should participate appropriately in rehearsal and demonstrate a fully rounded and sustained character in performance in the text-based project.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Acting 2: Applying Skills in Performance

Outcome 3

The candidate will be required to demonstrate an effective and appropriate understanding and application of the requirements of the observation checklists in relation to the preparation and rehearsal of a contrasting role in a performance in a devised, text-based or musical theatre project. This does not need to be a full length production, but could instead involve the cohort group being divided into small groups to create a piece of musical theatre.

The series of practical exercises should involve the candidates experiencing through 'doing', by being placed in a number of situations where they are required to explore areas of the Knowledge and Skills list. For example, candidates may be required to imagine their character in a particular place and explore the possibilities for developing a relationship with another character(s) while remaining true to the given circumstances of their created character. The candidate should explore the effects of, say, shifts in atmosphere, change in status, change in intentions, change in environment or time, and find the means to develop relationships with other characters in the group. The candidate should participate appropriately in rehearsal and demonstrate a fully rounded and sustained character in performance.

Online and Distance Learning

The Outcomes in this Unit rely on developing skills through interaction with fellow candidates and/or tutor, and so the opportunities for distance learning may be very limited. Centres may, however, find it possible to develop solutions, provided all Unit and verification requirements are met in full.

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

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for candidates

Unit title: Acting 2: Applying Skills in Performance

This Unit requires you to bring into focus and effectively apply the fundamental principles of building a character (developed in *Acting 1: Developing Skills*) in order to perform a role according to given circumstances in two contrasting projects. It will prepare you in the creative process of rehearsals and the structural craft of performance.

This Unit will:

- ◆ introduce the work and theories of a variety of practitioners in relation to building character.
- ◆ introduce practical exercises that will help develop a deeper understanding of developing a systematic approach to building character according to given circumstances.
- ◆ enable the creation of a character study through analysis and understanding of text.
- ◆ enable exploration of vocal and physical characterisation.
- ◆ enable the exploration of the development of relationships with other character/s.
- ◆ enable opportunities to develop a role in the context of a text-based and a second devised, text-based or musical theatre project.
- ◆ enable opportunities to raise confidence through rehearsal and performance.
- ◆ enable evaluation and reflection on the acting process.

There are three main assessments:

- 1 Assessment will be on-going and recorded through a series of observation checklists based on the practical work undertaken in acting sessions.
- 2 You will be required to develop a piece of theatre and perform a role in a text-based project.
- 3 You will be required to rehearse and perform a role in a second, contrasting project which could be devised, text-based, or musical theatre.