



Higher National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Vocal Techniques for Musical Theatre 1

Unit code: H1KY 34

Superclass: LC

Publication date: June 2012

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to provide candidates with practical knowledge and understanding of vocal techniques. It will develop skills by giving candidates the underpinning knowledge of voice theory and its application, which will be developed through a series of practical exercises.

It is primarily intended for candidates who wish to work as performers or practitioners in the musical theatre/entertainment industry.

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

- 1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of voice theory.
- 2 Demonstrate warm-up techniques and vocal exercises to develop vocal techniques.
- 3 Demonstrate own development of vocal techniques.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

Access will be at the discretion of the centre and the following recommendations are for guidance only. Candidates should have good vocal skills which may be demonstrated by the achievement of the Unit *Drama: Voice Skills* (F5LF12). It would be beneficial if the candidate had some experience as a performer but it is not essential.

General information (cont)

Credit points and level

1 Higher National Unit 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.*

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.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Vocal Techniques for Musical Theatre 1

Unit code: H1KY 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

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of voice theory.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Physiology of the breathing process
- ◆ Physiology of pitch, tone and resonance
- ◆ Physiology of articulation

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ can answer specific questions and label anatomical diagrams.
- ◆ have an accurate understanding of the process of voice production.
- ◆ can accurately identify, using the correct terminology, the processes involved in voice production.

All areas of Knowledge and Skills must be tested, and candidates must provide accurate responses to specific questions. This assessment should be carried out under controlled conditions.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Vocal Techniques for Musical Theatre 1

Outcome 2

Demonstrate warm-up techniques and vocal exercises to develop vocal techniques.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Warm-up techniques
- ◆ Vocal exercises

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ practise exercises to effectively warm up the body and voice.
- ◆ practise exercises which will be used to develop the individual's own vocal technique.

Candidates must provide a satisfactory response through performance evidence.

The candidate's progress will be supported and assessed by observation checklists.

Outcome 3

Demonstrate own development of vocal techniques.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Exploration of various texts
- ◆ Appropriate application of vocal technique
- ◆ Evaluation of progress and development

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ demonstrate vocal development through various texts.
- ◆ demonstrate accurate use of the voice in relation to pitch, resonance, tone, articulation, breath control and projection as appropriate to the text and performance space.
- ◆ evaluate audio-recordings of their voice by completing a progress record.

The candidate's progress will be supported and assessed by observation checklists.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Vocal Techniques for Musical Theatre 1

The candidate will complete a self-evaluative record of their individual vocal development and progress. The progress record should be visited at regular intervals (a minimum of four times) throughout the Unit. The candidate will record their learning experiences and set milestones for their development. These targets for vocal development must be evaluated regularly. The last entry in the self-evaluative record will be a self-diagnostic profile in which the candidate listens to an initial audio recording of their voice and compares this with a re-recording of the same piece at the end of the Unit.

Candidates must provide a satisfactory response to all items through performance evidence, and within their progress record.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Vocal Techniques for Musical Theatre 1

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 is a mandatory Unit in the framework for HNC/HND Musical Theatre and is designed to give candidates practical knowledge and understanding of vocal technique.

Guidance on the delivery of this Unit

Ideally, this Unit should be delivered as a series of practical workshops in conjunction with other performance Units. If possible, handouts and theory exercises relating to Outcome 1 should be discussed and demonstrated in a practical environment.

In Outcome 2, small group or individual tutorials are important, wherever possible, to ensure that candidates can correctly identify their own development requirements. Tutors may wish to ask small groups to research and present subjects (eg The Breathing Process), reinforcing information together with practising general presenting skills.

Texts should be chosen by or in collaboration with the tutor, ensuring that they are varied and of an appropriate level. These may include any of the following: storytelling and narration, poetry and verse, dramatic dialogue, monologue, adverts, voiceovers, songs and any other texts demonstrating vocal techniques required in preparation for employment in musical theatre and/or entertainment industry.

There is scope for integration of assessment with *Singing Skills for Musical Theatre 1*.

Guidance on the assessment of this Unit

This Unit will be assessed using observational checklists, which require the lecturer to assess whether the candidate has produced sufficient evidence of vocal knowledge and skills and shown sufficient development in the course of the Unit. Candidates will also complete a progress record, which must show sufficient awareness of their own voice and speech development using acquired vocal techniques.

Please note candidates must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified for each Outcome in order to pass the Unit.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Vocal Techniques for Musical Theatre 1

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 1

For Outcome 1, candidates will demonstrate their knowledge of voice theory through a series of questions carried out under controlled conditions.

Outcome 2

For Outcomes 2 and 3, candidates will undertake a series of practical exercises, to be assessed using an observational checklist. Candidates will also evaluate their progress.

Outcome 3

The evaluative aspect of Outcome 3 requires candidates to complete a personal progress record, in which they will analyse their own vocal progress from an initial diagnostic test, through their Unit study, to a self-diagnostic profile based on a final audio recording. It is expected that candidates will make at least four entries into the record throughout the duration of the Unit.

Online and Distance 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 limited. Centres may, however, find it possible to develop solutions, provided all Unit and verification requirements are met in full.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Candidates will have the opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skill *Communication* when producing written and/or oral evidence for the assessment of Outcome 1.

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

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2012

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.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Business Development and Customer Support team, telephone 0303 333 0330.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Vocal Techniques for Musical Theatre 1

This Unit is designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills to use your voice effectively. It will:

- ◆ give you theory required to understand the workings of the body in voice production.
- ◆ introduce you to important practical exercises to help improve the volume, clarity and character of your voice.
- ◆ enable strengths and areas for improvement to be identified.
- ◆ give opportunities for guidance in the use of vocal techniques for delivery of different styles of text.
- ◆ give you confidence and variety in the voice.

Assessment will be on-going and will be based around the following assessments:

- 1 A series of questions on vocal anatomy.
- 2 Tutor observation and questioning.
- 3 An on-going progress record, in which you will be required to assess your own skills development and set yourself vocal targets. To aid evaluation you will initially make an audio recording of your voice, which you will listen to and compare with a final recording of your voice on completion of the Unit.

The emphasis is on practical work and the development of your voice.