



Higher National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Vocal Techniques for Musical Theatre 2

Unit code: H1L0 35

Superclass: LC

Publication date: June 2012

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Unit purpose

The purpose of this Unit is to equip candidates with the theoretical and practical means/skills to extend and apply voice and speech production to complex aspects of presentation and performance.

This Unit is intended to develop skills covered in *Vocal Techniques 1* and to give candidates more detailed knowledge and understanding of voice and speech production. It is primarily intended for candidates who wish to work as performers/practitioners in the musical theatre/entertainment industry.

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

- 1 Develop and present a range of accents.
- 2 Demonstrate sight-reading technique.
- 3 Prepare and present a range of contrasting dramatic texts to performance standard.
- 4 Evaluate own vocal technique.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

Access will be at the discretion of the centre and the following recommendations are for guidance only. It is recommended that the candidate has successfully completed *Vocal Techniques for Musical Theatre 1* or an equivalent performance-related Unit. This Unit develops the work explored in the Unit *Vocal Techniques for Musical Theatre 1*.

General information (cont)

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.*

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 2

Unit code: H1L0 35

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

Develop and present a range of accents.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Practical methods of producing a range of accents
- ◆ Vocalisation of a range of accents from a negotiated range of texts

Evidence Requirements

Evidence will be required to demonstrate all aspects of Knowledge and/or Skills in this Outcome, showing that candidates have an accurate understanding of the practical methods of producing a range of accents. The candidate should also accurately demonstrate the pronunciation of a minimum of two accents from negotiated texts lasting a minimum of one minute each. Candidates will be assessed using an observation checklist.

Outcome 2

Demonstrate individual sight reading technique.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Sight reading techniques

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will read two contrasting texts accurately, fluently and expressively, sight unseen. Each text should last a minimum of one minute for a monologue and two minutes for a duologue.

The evidence presented should accurately demonstrate:

- ◆ an effective portrayal of character, style, mood, feeling and atmosphere.
- ◆ appropriate use of vocal technique for performance.
- ◆ effective communication through accuracy, fluency and expressiveness.

Candidates will be assessed using an observation checklist.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Vocal Techniques for Musical Theatre 2

Outcome 3

Prepare and present a range of contrasting dramatic texts to performance standard.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Preparation and presentation of contrasting dramatic texts
- ◆ Delivery of appropriate vocal choices informed by detailed analysis and interpretation of text
- ◆ Appropriate extension and use of vocal technique
- ◆ Application of rehearsal process to preparation for performance

Evidence Requirements

Candidates are required to present two contrasting texts which last for a total of 5–6 minutes. The pieces should be vocally challenging and delivered to performance standards. The candidate will be assessed using an observational checklist.

Outcome 4

Evaluate own vocal technique.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Analysis of vocal development
- ◆ Analysis of strengths and weaknesses
- ◆ Strategies for development

Evidence Requirements

The candidate should produce a report of approximately 1,000 words in which they evaluate the whole experience of developing their voice skills and the process of preparation for the final performance. The evaluation must include all items in the Knowledge and/or Skills list.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Vocal Techniques for Musical Theatre 2

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 primarily intended to equip candidates with the practical means/skills to extend and apply voice and speech production to more complex aspects of presentation and performance.

This is a mandatory Unit within the framework of the HNC/HND Musical Theatre Group Award and is intended to consolidate and extend the skills covered in the Unit *Vocal Techniques for Musical Theatre 1* and to give candidates more detailed knowledge and understanding of voice and speech production which they will be able to apply in performance.

Candidates who wish to work as practitioners/performers in the musical theatre/entertainment industry would benefit considerably from the more complex aspects of vocal skills which are developed in this Unit.

Candidates should be encouraged to consider the Unit as part of the essential training required as a performer in musical theatre. It should be integrated, where possible, with other Units, eg *Acting 2: Applying skills in Performance*, *Performance 2: Applying Skills for Musical Theatre* and *Musical Theatre: Graded Unit 2*.

In Outcome 1, the candidate will develop and present a range of accents, indigenous and non-indigenous. They will work through a series of short exercises in which they will develop an understanding of the best ways to produce accents. The exercises might be speeches taken from dramatic texts which have been written to be performed in particular accents, eg *The Slab Boys* by John Byrne (Glasgow, Scotland), *Under Milk Wood* by Dylan Thomas (Welsh) or *Bold Girls* by Rona Munro (Belfast, NI), *A Street Car Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams ('Deep South', USA). These examples are only suggestions, as each centre would choose appropriate texts. Candidates should be encouraged to work practically on these exercises, analysing the characteristics of the accents which will be practised in order to develop accuracy in production of the accent.

One approach might be to encourage candidates to listen to professionally produced versions of the selected accents, analysing the characteristics of each accent prior to practising the accent. Textbooks about accents which have accompanying CDs would be a useful resource, eg *Accents* by Blumenfeld. Candidates should also listen to their own versions of accents by having audio recordings of their work produced. This will help the analytical process.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Vocal Techniques for Musical Theatre 2

Candidates might be introduced to The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) where the application of phonetic symbols to descriptions of vowels and consonants would clarify the exact positioning of these sounds within the vocal mechanism and would enhance the candidate's learning experience. Frequently, the IPA is referred to and used in standard voice, speech and accent training textbooks and candidates might be placed at a disadvantage if they were to have no understanding of the IPA (Reference book: *An Introduction to the Pronunciation of English* by A C Gimson). However, it is not necessary to assess candidates on their knowledge of the IPA as a separate skill.

In Outcome 2, candidates should develop consistent accuracy, fluency and expressiveness in sight reading skills by using various stimuli in order to develop effective communication.

In Outcome 3, the candidate will prepare and present a range of contrasting texts/materials to performance standards. This Outcome will demonstrate the culmination of the candidate's vocal development throughout the Unit and it is important that the candidate prepares the texts to performance standard, ensuring that the pieces are vocally challenging and appropriate to their ability.

The candidate will select, with help from the tutor, the most appropriate pieces to perform, bearing in mind that a time limit of five to six minutes is recommended for the presentation. Candidates may wish to select dramatic texts which may be used for future audition purposes or for use in the final showcase (Graded Unit) where this could be successfully integrated, or for use in the final production (if this is not the Graded Unit). The final presentation of the text will be performed to an appropriate audience and the candidate should demonstrate sensitivity and awareness to both the audience and the performance space.

The most appropriate pieces might be chosen from the following categories:

- ◆ A classical speech (principal character and appropriate accent)
- ◆ A modern speech (principal character and appropriate accent)
- ◆ A song (from a musical/Scottish/standard/character)

The candidate must ensure that the texts chosen demonstrate sufficient contrast.

It is recommended that candidates avoid the selection of speeches/texts which are over-performed, nor should they choose speeches/songs from audition speech textbooks unless they can put the speech/text into context, nor should they choose unpublished work unless approved by the tutor. It is not recommended that candidates choose speeches/texts for the opposite sex unless it is the playwright's intention to have the character performed that way.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Vocal Techniques for Musical Theatre 2

Guidance on the delivery of this Unit

Although this Unit can be delivered on a free standing, standalone basis it also forms part of a Group Award, which is primarily designed to provide candidates with technical and professional knowledge and skills related to working as performers in the musical theatre or entertainment industry. It would be expected that those who successfully complete the Group Award would be likely to progress to looking for work as performers or practitioners. In these circumstances, the Unit is likely to be delivered in year two of the Group Award by which time candidates will have a good appreciation of the training in voice and acting skills which would inform the delivery of this Unit. This should allow the Unit to be delivered in a way that enables candidates to appreciate its relevance to the musical theatre/entertainment industry.

Three instruments of assessment will be used throughout the delivery period of the Unit at times when the tutor decides that the candidate is ready to be assessed, bearing in mind the recommendation to integrate some assessments with those of other mandatory Units. The assessment of this Unit requires tutor observation and support as each candidate progresses through the stages of development. Practical exercises may be supported by audio recordings.

Guidance on the assessment of this Unit

This Unit could be assessed by three instruments of assessment, which require candidates to produce evidence of complex aspects of vocal development.

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.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Vocal Techniques for Musical Theatre 2

Assessment Guidelines

For Outcome 1, a practical exercise is the instrument of assessment in which the candidate demonstrates a range of accents from a negotiated range of dramatic texts.

For Outcome 2, a practical exercise whereby the candidate will be assessed on their ability to read two contrasting pieces of text, sight unseen.

For Outcome 3, candidates will be assessed by a practical exercise whereby candidates perform two contrasting speeches.

For Outcome 4, candidates will be assessed by either a written or an oral report.

Candidates must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified for each Outcome, in order to pass 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 carrying out research online for Outcome 1 may have opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)*.

Candidates will be producing written and/or oral evidence for Outcome 4, offering ideal opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skill *Communication*.

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 2

This Unit is designed to equip you with the theoretical and practical means/skills to extend and apply voice and speech production to more complex aspects of presentation and performance. It is primarily intended to prepare you to extend your vocal skills in order to assist you to work as a performer in the musical theatre or entertainment industry. On completion of this Unit, you will have gained a wide range of practical/performance and theoretical experiences which you can apply to acting and production.

To begin with, in Outcome 1, you will learn how to produce different accents.

In Outcome 2, you will develop sight-reading techniques and apply them to reading various texts, sight unseen.

In Outcome 3, you will prepare and present a range of contrasting texts/materials which you will deliver to performance standard. These dramatic texts should be vocally challenging and should be selected to show your individual strengths as a performer. They may be used for audition purposes in the future.

Finally, you will evaluate your individual vocal technique.

In order to complete this Unit successfully, you will be required to complete four different types of assessment.

The first one will be a series of practical exercises in which you demonstrate a range of accents as well as produce evidence that you understand the practical methods of producing different accents.

The second assessment will be a practical exercise in which you perform two contrasting sight reading exercises.

The third assessment will be a practical exercise in which you perform two contrasting texts.

The fourth assessment will be a written or oral report in which you evaluate your individual vocal technique.