**National Unit Specification: general information**

**UNIT**      Technical Theatre in Context (SCQF level 6)

**CODE**      F5L5 12

## SUMMARY

This Unit is designed for candidates who have an interest in and/or prior experience of technical theatre. Candidates will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of the roles and responsibilities of theatre personnel involved in the production process and will be introduced to the technical aspects and terminology of a theatre production. Applying the required knowledge and understanding, candidates will analyse a live theatre production enabling them to integrate the various areas of technical theatre.

This is a mandatory Unit within the National Certificate in Technical Theatre (SCQF level 6), but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

## OUTCOMES

1    Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of theatre roles, terminology and practices within the production process.
2    Investigate a range of performance spaces.
3    Identify technical aspects required within a textual extract.
4    Identify and describe the technical aspects of a live production.

## RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

## CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at SCQF level 6 (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6*).

*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.*

# National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

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**CORE SKILLS**

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

This Unit provides opportunities for candidate to develop aspects of the following Core Skills:

♦   Communication
♦   Problem Solving

These opportunities are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit Specification.

# National Unit Specification: statement of standards

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Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit Specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

### OUTCOME 1

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of theatre roles, terminology and practices within the production process.

### Performance Criteria

(a) Identify roles, responsibilities and hierarchy within the performance, production, technical, and design teams.
(b) Demonstrate understanding of theatre terminology.
(c) Demonstrate awareness of health and safety within theatre.
(d) Demonstrate awareness of legislation within theatre.

### OUTCOME 2

Investigate a range of performance spaces.

### Performance Criteria

(a) Describe a range of performance spaces.
(b) Explain the suitability of performance spaces for different productions.
(c) Explain the constraints associated with different performance spaces.
(d) Investigate operating performance spaces and auditoria.

### OUTCOME 3

Identify technical aspects required within a textual extract.

### Performance Criteria

(a) Identify sound requirements within a textual extract.
(b) Identify lighting requirements within a textual extract.
(c) Identify set requirements within a textual extract.
(d) Identify prop requirements within a textual extract.

# National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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## OUTCOME 4

Identify and describe the technical aspects of a live production.

### Performance Criteria

(a)  Describe technical aspects in relation to performance space and auditorium.
(b)  Identify relevant health and safety issues in relation to a live production.
(c)  Identify, where appropriate, legislation pertinent to a production.
(d)  Describe the use and effect of the technical aspects within a production.

### EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

Evidence is required that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

For Outcomes 1 and 2, written and/or oral evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved the standard specified in the Outcomes and Performance Criteria. The evidence will be obtained under closed-book, supervised conditions.

For Outcome 3, product evidence is required in the form of a portfolio of technical requirements for a textual extract. The portfolio will contain notes, sketches and completed forms on the technical requirements for:

♦  sound
♦  lighting
♦  set
♦  props

Evidence for this Outcome will be obtained in open-book conditions.

For Outcome 4, written and/or oral evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved the standard specified in the Outcome and Performance Criteria. The candidate will be required to view a live production and identify health and safety issues, legislation requirements and the use and effect of technical aspects.

Evidence will be obtained in open-book, supervised conditions on one assessment occasion towards the end of the Unit.

The Assessment Support Pack (ASP) for this Unit provides sample assessment material including assessor checklists. Centres wishing to develop their own assessments should refer to the Assessment Support Pack to ensure a comparable standard.

# National Unit Specification: support notes

## UNIT　　Technical Theatre in Context (SCQF level 6)

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 a mandatory Unit of the National Certificate in Technical Theatre (SCQF level 6). The Unit may also be offered as a free standing Unit, which may be studied as part of a general education, for vocational reasons or as a leisure interest.

This Unit is intended to provide candidates with a brief introduction to a range of aspects related to technical theatre. As well as gaining knowledge and understanding of the roles and responsibilities of theatre personnel involved in the production process, candidates should be introduced to, and become familiar with, theatre terminology and practices. The candidate will then use this knowledge and understanding to analyse the technical aspects of a live production.

### Outcome 1

This Outcome should provide candidates with the knowledge and understanding of theatre roles, terminology and practices. Roles, hierarchy and responsibilities should be related to:

♦ Human Resources: agents, artistes, promoters etc
♦ managerial roles: tour manager, production manager, stage manager etc
♦ non-managerial roles: sound engineer, sound crew, lighting operator, lighting crew, set carpenter etc
♦ venue roles: get in/out crew, stagehands, riggers, electricians, follow spot operators, venue front of house staff etc

Theatre terminology should be restricted to essential terms. Candidates should be encouraged to research terminology out with the most commonly used terms.

Health and safety and legislation should be considered within the following areas of control:

♦ noise
♦ fire
♦ alcohol
♦ hazardous substances
♦ audiences
♦ pyrotechnics
♦ electrical
♦ mechanical
♦ exits
♦ lifting and carrying
♦ working at height
♦ children
♦ performing rights
♦ copyright

## National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Candidates are not expected to have detailed knowledge in all areas. However, it is essential that they are aware that Health and Safety and legislation exist in these areas. The above list is not exhaustive and should be treated as guidance only.

Types of regulation considered should be:

♦ statutory regulations
♦ codes of practice
♦ standards

**Outcome 2**

This Outcome is intended to provide candidates with knowledge and understanding of performance spaces. A range of performance spaces (including auditoria) should be discussed for their suitability for specific types of productions. The candidate should investigate currently operating performance spaces and auditoria — ideally at a live event. Backstage tours would also be ideal for this Outcome.

**Outcome 3**

This Outcome is intended to allow candidates to analyse a textual extract and interpret the associated technical aspects. The textual extract should be of a complexity to allow for interpretation of sound, lighting, setting and prop requirements. The length of the text extract is not as important as the ability to meet the requirements as stated above.

Candidates should create, for a textual extract, a portfolio of technical requirements compiled from notes, sketches and completed forms.

**Outcome 4**

This Outcome is intended to allow candidates the opportunity to integrate knowledge and understanding developed in Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 by identifying the technical aspects of a live production. The candidate will be expected to view a live production and analyse the technical aspects within it. This should not be an analysis of the performances or play/musical etc, but purely the technical aspects ie aspects of lighting, sound, space and auditorium, Health and Safety and legislation issues. The candidate should identify the use and effect of the technical aspects within a production eg how and when is light and/or sound used to enhance the production.

**GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT**

The Outcomes within this Unit should be delivered in sequence to enable the candidate to use and integrate the knowledge and understanding required for Outcome 4. Theatre terminology should be extended and expanded throughout the Unit. Research should be encouraged through reading technical theatre books, via the internet and visits to the theatre.

# National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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## OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

In this Unit candidates are required to investigate the use and effect of the technical aspects of a live performance. This is a good opportunity for the candidate to develop aspects of Core Skill in *Problem Solving*.

Candidates will be producing written and/or oral evidence for Outcome 1, 2 and 4 as part of the assessment. This offers ideal opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill *Communication*.

## GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

A suitable instrument of assessment for Outcome 1 could be multiple choice questions.

Outcome 2 could be assessed using short answer questions.

Outcome 3 could be assessed by a portfolio containing notes, sketches and completed forms.

Outcome 4 could be assessed by means of an oral presentation.

Time should be allowed for any necessary reassessment.

### Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by information and communications technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003), SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

## 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**