



## National Unit Specification: general information

**UNIT**        Theatrical Prop Making (SCQF level 6)

**CODE**        F5LE 12

### SUMMARY

This Unit offers candidates the opportunity to develop practical prop making skills. Candidates will use a range of prop making materials and construction methods and will have the opportunity to research, interpret designs and construct theatrical props. This is a mainly practical Unit in which candidates will gain experience of making and maintaining props for a theatre production.

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

This Unit is suitable for candidates with experience and/or an interest in practical theatre skills and in developing creative prop making for a production. This Unit may be taken as part of a wider programme of study, for vocational reasons or as a leisure interest.

### OUTCOMES

- 1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of theatrical prop design and construction techniques.
- 2 Provide, manage and maintain props for a 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.*

---

### Administrative Information

**Superclass:**        LE

**Publication date:**    March 2009

**Source:**             Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:**            01

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2009

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 Customer Contact Centre, telephone 0845 279 1000.

## **National Unit Specification: general information (cont)**

**UNIT**      Theatrical Prop Making (SCQF level 6)

### **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
- ◆ Working with Others

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

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards**

### **UNIT Theatrical Prop Making (SCQF level 6)**

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 the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

#### **OUTCOME 1**

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of theatrical prop design and construction techniques.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Describe the key components of theatrical prop design and construction.
- (b) Describe a range of theatrical prop construction techniques.

#### **OUTCOME 2**

Provide, manage and maintain props for a production.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify prop requirements for a production in liaison with appropriate member(s) of the production team.
- (b) Produce an accurate and detailed props list.
- (c) Use tools and resources safely to make and/or adapt props.
- (d) Store and label props appropriately.
- (e) Maintain, improve, and/or repair props.

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)**

### **UNIT        Theatrical Prop Making (SCQF level 6)**

#### **EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT**

Evidence is required which demonstrates that the candidate has achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

##### **Outcome 1**

Written and/or oral evidence is required for Outcome 1. Candidates must be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of: the prop design process, the functions of prop design and construction and the materials and tools used.

Evidence will be gathered under closed book, supervised conditions on one assessment occasion.

##### **Outcome 2**

Written and/or oral evidence, product evidence and performance evidence, supplemented by an Assessor Observation Checklist, is required for Outcome 2.

##### **Written and/or Oral Evidence**

Candidates will provide written and/or oral evidence containing:

- ◆ A minimum of 4 production meeting reports with action points.
- ◆ An accurate and detailed props list for a full production. This list should identify props to be made and/or adapted.
- ◆ Maintenance, repair and improvement checklists/log for props during a production

This evidence will be gathered at appropriate times throughout the Unit.

##### **Product evidence**

Product evidence will consist of made and/or adapted props for the production (a minimum of 4 props are required, a minimum of 2 of which must be made). This evidence may take the form of the props themselves or photographic and/or video/DVD evidence of the finished props in use. This evidence will be gathered at appropriate points near the end of the Unit.

Candidates must use tools and resources to make and/or adapt props in accordance with the agreed prop requirements list. In doing so, candidates must demonstrate safe working practice at all times.

##### **Performance evidence**

Performance evidence, supplemented by an Assessor Observation Checklist, is required to show that the candidate can store and label the props appropriately during a production run and effectively carry out any maintenance, improvements and/or repairs, as required. This evidence will be gathered towards the end of the Unit, either at a technical rehearsal, dress rehearsal or during the production run.

## National Unit Specification: support notes

### UNIT      Theatrical Prop Making (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 is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Technical Theatre (SCQF level 6), but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit will allow candidates to build on basic theatre production skills and develop an area of expertise within a production team. Candidates will gain knowledge and understanding of prop design and various construction techniques.

This is a mainly practical Unit in which candidates have the opportunity to work effectively and creatively as a member of a production team. This Unit aims to provide candidates with an understanding of the skills required to provide, manage and maintain props for and during a production. This Unit will enable candidates to express ideas and realise these ideas through the production of appropriate and creative props for a production.

This Unit could be integrated with other Units in the National Certificate in Technical Theatre (SCQF level 6), eg *Theatrical Design* (SCQF level 6), *Theatre Stage Model Set Construction* (SCQF level 6).

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

This Unit should be delivered using a combination of practical work, discussion and tutor-led demonstrations.

The main emphasis of this Unit is to provide and manage props for a production, and it would be valuable for the candidate to have a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of prop making in a small to medium size production. The content of the Unit should encourage candidates to work as part of a team; with this in mind, candidates must attend regular production meetings.

The candidate should meet with both the director and designer, where appropriate, to discuss the production style, budget, available work space and any specific information required for props. The candidate should carry out research on the production and the type of props to be constructed. Following this, the tutor should lead workshops on specific construction techniques. It might also be useful for candidates to visit a theatre which has a prop making department, or to meet an experienced prop maker and designer.

Candidates should be given the opportunity for fairly complex prop construction as well as adapting and finding existing props. As such, the production choice should provide opportunities for creative prop construction.

Candidate should be introduced to a variety of prop making tools and resources which may include:

**Tools:** brushes, hand saw, tenon saw, jig saw, hammer, chisel, scalpel, measuring tape, scale ruler, nails, needle and thread, screws and screw driver, scissors, electric carving knife, hot glue gun, other glues and adhesive materials and paints.

## National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

### UNIT Theatrical Prop Making (SCQF level 6)

**Materials:** Latex, paper mache, foam, polystyrene, cardboard, clay, plasticine, wood, spray foam, polyfilla, string, cling film, various papers and cards.

Experimentation should be encouraged; this is best done in small groups to ensure a sharing of resources and for development of ideas.

Health and safety should be integral to teaching and learning and centres should view this holistically in any practical exercises. Candidates should be made aware that health and safety is the concern of all professionals and should adhere to current legislation.

When repairing and/or improving props during a production, it is important that candidates are organised and are able to respond to the needs of a production and recognise that props need to function well.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

This Unit offers opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of the Core Skill *Communication* through the requirement to produce written and/or oral evidence for Outcome 1. Candidates will work as part of a production team during the delivery of this Unit. This offers opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill *Working with Others*.

### GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

A suitable instrument of assessment for Outcome 1 could be short answer questions or a presentation.

The suggested instrument of assessment for Outcome 2 is a folio and practical assignments. Where possible, the final props used in the production should be retained as evidence for this Outcome or photographs or video/DVD footage should be gathered.

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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)