



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Voice Skills for the Media (SCQF level 5)

Unit code: H1TE 11

Superclass: LC

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Summary

This Unit enables candidates to develop and perform vocal techniques to create a character for a fictional media text or to deliver non-fiction media content in an appropriate manner. Candidates will participate in vocal exercises designed to develop vocal control and will be given the opportunity to explore a range of different ways in which the voice is used in a range of media. In addition, candidates will explore a range of fiction and non-fiction media texts to assist them in their development of creative expression through the use of voice. This Unit provides candidates with the opportunity to evaluate their own voice skills.

This is an optional Unit in the National Certificate in Creative Industries at SCQF level 5. It is also available as a freestanding Unit.

Outcomes

- 1 Research the use of voice in media texts.
- 2 Use vocal techniques to deliver a media text.
- 3 Perform vocal techniques and evaluate own performance.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, an interest in the media and developing vocal skills would be beneficial.

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 5: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5*)

**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.*

General information (cont)

Unit title: Voice Skills for the Media (SCQF level 5)

Core Skills

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills component:

Complete Core Skill None

Core Skill component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Voice Skills for the Media (SCQF level 5)

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

Research the use of voice in media texts.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify media texts where voice is used.
- (b) Identify the types of vocal technique used in creating media texts.

Outcome 2

Use vocal techniques to deliver a media text.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Select a text.
- (b) Use breath control appropriate to a selected text.
- (c) Use a range of pitch, tone and resonance appropriate to a selected text.
- (d) Use articulation skills appropriate to a selected text.

Outcome 3

Perform vocal techniques and evaluate own performance.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Give a performance incorporating vocal techniques, appropriate to the selected medium.
- (b) Evaluate strengths and weaknesses of voice skills in own performance.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Evidence is required to show that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria. All evidence must be produced in supervised open-book conditions. Evidence may be produced holistically or Outcome by Outcome.

Outcome 1

Written and/or recorded oral evidence is required. Candidates must identify at least two media texts where voice is used and identify the range of vocal techniques employed.

Outcome 2

Performance evidence is required to show that candidates can demonstrate effective breath control, a range of pitch, tone and resonance and effective articulation skills appropriate to a selected text.

Evidence must be gathered in supervised conditions.

Outcome 3

Performance evidence is required for Performance Criterion (a). Candidates will deliver a vocal performance which demonstrates an understanding of utilising appropriate vocal techniques either for conveying a character, or for narration/reporting. The vocal performance will last a minimum of two minutes.

Written and/or oral recorded evidence of at least 300 words is required for Performance Criterion (b). Candidates must identify individual strengths and weaknesses in their vocal skills with reference to pitch, tone, resonance, articulation, breath control and delivery of performance.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Voice Skills for the Media (SCQF level 5)

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 broadly aligned to the following National Occupational Standards from Creative Skillset:

- ◆ X1 Contribute ideas for production
- ◆ CPD1 Improving your skills

This is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Creative Industries (SCQF 5). It is also available as a freestanding Unit.

This is a practical Unit which is designed to encourage candidates to explore the range of opportunities to utilise vocal skills within the media. This Unit will provide candidates with a basic understanding of the techniques involved in creating character through voice, narration techniques and delivery of news broadcast. The development of voice skills will allow candidates to perform with creativity and to explore creative expression.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

It is recommended that Outcome 1 includes exploration of different media texts that will allow candidates to consider the range of vocal skills utilised within the media. This may include examination of video games, animation, comedy sketches or any other appropriate medium to explore the ways in which character voices are created and used for effect.

Outcome 2 offers opportunities for candidates to develop vocal skills. It should include vocal exercises at the start of each class, covering breath control, pitch, tone and resonance exercises. Articulation exercises should also be introduced to candidates. Vocal energy should be used in all voice activities. Tutor feedback and recommendations for improvement of vocal technique should be provided on an ongoing basis. Candidates will be required to use vocal techniques either through performing from an existing script or by creating their own short piece of text to perform. In either instance, tutor guidance should be provided to ensure that candidates select a text which will allow them to fully utilise their range of vocal skills. Evidence gathered in supervised conditions, should be collected at appropriate points in the Unit.

Outcome 3 should involve application of all that is learned in Outcomes 1 and 2, to allow candidates to demonstrate an understanding of the utilisation of vocal skills in the media. Where appropriate, candidates should be encouraged to work in groups as well as individually, to evaluate their own strengths and weaknesses.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

A suitable method of assessment for Outcome 1 could be a paper of around 300 words in which candidates demonstrate their understanding of the ways in which vocal techniques are used within different media.

Outcome 2 could be assessed by practical exercises which are recorded by the assessor on observation checklists. This need not be covered in a single assessment but evidence could be produced through observation of candidates participating in a series of practical workshops.

The performance evidence for Outcome 3 should be gathered from the presentation of each candidate's selected media text. This piece should last for a minimum of two minutes. An assessor checklist should be used to supplement the performance evidence. It is also recommended that the final performance be recorded on video, DVD or audio device.

For Performance Criteria (b) of Outcome 3, a suitable assessment method could be a written or oral evaluation. This could take the form of a logbook which is completed at suitable points throughout the Unit, up to and including the final performance.

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 Communication 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)*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will explore the range of opportunities to utilise vocal skills within the media. The development of voice skills will allow candidates to perform with creativity and to explore creative expression.

Candidates will:

- ◆ evaluate their voice skills
- ◆ identify media texts where voice is used and the techniques employed

This means that as candidates are doing this Unit they may develop aspects of the Core Skills of *Communication* and *Problem Solving*. In addition, aspects of the following Core Skills could be developed where particular learning and teaching approaches are adopted:

- ◆ *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* — through recording performance
- ◆ *Working with Others* — through group work and exercises

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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This Unit has the Critical Thinking component of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when candidates achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4.

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
02	Core Skills Component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4 embedded.	08/10/2012

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