



Drama (National 5)

Draft National Course Assessment Specification



This edition: November 2011, draft version 1.0

Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Course Assessment Specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

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Course outline

Course title:	Drama (National 5)
SCQF level:	5 (24 SCQF credit points)
Course code:	to be advised
Course assessment code:	to be advised

The purpose of the Course Assessment Specification is to ensure consistent and transparent assessment year on year. It describes the structure of the Course assessment and the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding that will be assessed.

Course assessment structure

Component 1 — performance	60 marks
Component 2 — question paper	40 marks
Total marks	100 marks

This Course includes six SCQF credit points for 40 additional programmed hours to allow preparation for Course assessment. The Course assessment covers the added value of the Course.

Equality and inclusion

This Course Assessment Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to assessment. Assessments have been designed to promote equal opportunities while maintaining the integrity of the qualification.

For guidance on assessment arrangements for disabled learners and/or those with additional support needs, please follow the link to the Assessment Arrangements web page: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/14977.html.

Guidance on inclusive approaches to delivery and assessment of this Course will be provided in the *Course Support Notes*.

Assessment

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all the Units as well as the Course assessment. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

Course assessment

SQA will produce and give instructions for the production and conduct of Course assessments based on the information provided in this document.

Added value

The purpose of the Course assessment is to assess added value of the Course as well as confirming attainment in the Course and providing a grade. The added value for the Course will address the key purposes and aims of the Course as defined in the Course Rationale. It will do this by addressing one or more of breadth, challenge, or application.

In this Course assessment, added value will focus on the following:

- ◆ challenge — requiring greater depth or extension of knowledge and/or skills application — requiring application of knowledge and/or skills in practical contexts as appropriate

The added value will enable the learner to:

- ◆ extend their creativity and apply their skills in a more challenging way to prepare for, and perform, a complex piece of drama
- ◆ apply skills in problem solving to work collaboratively with others to create and present a drama performance
- ◆ extend their knowledge and understanding of drama processes and production techniques
- ◆ apply their knowledge and understanding

Grading

Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

The Course assessment is graded A–D. The grade is determined on the basis of the total mark for all Course assessments together.

A learner's overall grade will be determined by their performance across the Course assessment.

Grade description for C

For the award of Grade C, learners will have demonstrated successful performance in all of the Units of the Course. In the Course assessment, learners will typically have demonstrated successful performance in relation to the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course.

successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen, effective contributor

Grade description for A

For the award of Grade A, learners will have demonstrated successful performance in all of the Units of the Course. In the Course assessment, learners will typically have demonstrated a consistently high level of performance in relation to the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course.

Credit

To take account of the extended range of learning and teaching approaches, remediation, consolidation of learning and integration needed for preparation for external assessment, six SCQF credit points are available in Courses at National 5 and Higher, and eight SCQF credit points in Courses at Advanced Higher. These points will be awarded when a grade D or better is achieved.

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Structure and coverage of the Course assessment

The Course assessment will consist of two Components: a performance and a question paper. The Drama performance will enable the learner to be assessed in either an acting **or** production role. The performance will have two Sections.

Component 1 — Drama performance

The purpose of the Drama performance is to enable learners to draw on, extend and apply the skills they have learned during the Course. The drama performance will assess the learner's preparation and performance of a production based around a textual extract. The learner may be assessed in either an acting or production role. The production roles are as follows:

- ◆ set designer
- ◆ lighting designer
- ◆ costume designer
- ◆ sound designer
- ◆ make-up designer
- ◆ props designer
- ◆ stage manager

The Drama performance will give learners an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ working independently and collaboratively
- ◆ communicating thoughts and ideas
- ◆ responding to text
- ◆ developing character or creatively using production skills
- ◆ using a range of production or acting skills
- ◆ concentration and focus
- ◆ ability to communicate to an audience

The performance should be of sufficient length to allow for all learners to be challenged and apply their skills fully.

The Drama performance will have 60 marks.

The Drama performance has two Sections.

Section A, titled 'Support log' will have 20 marks.

This will contain the materials necessary for the learner to prepare for the performance in either their acting or production role.

Fifteen marks will be awarded for:

- ◆ creativity, detail, accuracy and clarity of the materials presented
- ◆ evaluation of the on-going preparation for performance

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Five marks will be awarded for:

- ◆ the ability to explain and demonstrate preparation for the chosen acting or production role

Section B titled 'Practical performance' will have 40 marks.

Thirty-five marks will be awarded for:

- ◆ effectiveness of acting or production area throughout the performance

Five marks will be awarded for:

- ◆ ability to react and adapt to a live audience and work collaboratively with others during a performance

Component 2 — question paper

The purpose of this question paper is to enable learners to apply the knowledge and understanding from across the Course. The question paper will assess the learner's knowledge and understanding of drama skills and processes, and of production skills and techniques.

This question paper will give learners an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, and knowledge and understanding of:

- ◆ processes such as characterisation, creating and presenting
- ◆ a range of drama techniques and conventions
- ◆ a range of different forms and structures
- ◆ a range of production areas
- ◆ different stagings, settings and styles of production
- ◆ problem solving, critical thinking and reflection
- ◆ responding to stimuli

The question paper will have 40 marks.

In the question paper, the learner will select from given stimuli to answer a series of questions. The question paper will have a range of different stimuli, which may include: textual extracts, visual images, poetry/lyrics, newspaper headlines or photographs.

The question paper will contain:

- ◆ short-answer questions testing knowledge and understanding of a range of areas from across the Course
- ◆ detailed response questions, assessing the dramatic interpretation of stimuli in an area specifically chosen by the learner, from the range shown above

Setting, conducting and marking of assessment

Controlled assessment — performance

The support log is:

- ◆ set by centres within SQA guidelines
- ◆ conducted under some supervision and control

Evidence will be internally marked by centre staff in line with SQA marking instructions.

The Drama performance is:

- ◆ set by centres within SQA guidelines
- ◆ conducted under a high degree of supervision and control

Visiting Assessors appointed by SQA will carry out the assessment.

All marking will be quality assured by SQA.

Question paper

This question paper will be set and marked by SQA, and conducted in centres under conditions specified for external examinations by SQA. Learners will complete this in 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Further mandatory information on Course coverage

The following gives details of mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Drama (National 5) Course. Course assessment will involve sampling the skills, knowledge and understanding.

The Course assessments are designed to combine skills from across the breadth of the Course and enable learners to apply skills learnt in a challenging way.

In the performance, learners will choose an acting or production role. Production roles will be one of the following:

- ◆ set designer
- ◆ lighting designer
- ◆ costume designer
- ◆ sound designer
- ◆ make-up designer
- ◆ props designer
- ◆ stage manager

Learners will prepare for a performance by working collaboratively with others and with the teacher/lecturer in the role of Director. The choice of performance material will be made by the teacher/lecturer in agreement with the learners.

Published text should form the most substantial part of the performance material, but devised material arising from response to the text as stimulus or as part of the rehearsal process may also be incorporated.

Learners will perform to an audience and will also be assessed on their preparation in the form of a support log which may contain the following information:

- ◆ Production role: designs, measurement charts, initial ideas and drawings, ground plans, lists, prompt copy, and any material generated in the process of preparing for the performance appropriate to the chosen production role.
- ◆ Acting role: annotated script/scenario; character card; log of rehearsals, including on-going evaluation work; and notes on costume and make-up.

The question paper will consist of questions which will enable the learner to show knowledge and understanding of a range of areas from the Course. The learner will also answer, in detail, on a chosen area and will be assessed on the creativity of their response as well as their knowledge and understanding of that area.

Administrative information

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Superclass: to be advised

History of changes

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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