



Access 2 Performance Arts — draft Course rationale and summary

August 2011



This edition: August 2011, draft version 1.0

Published by the Scottish Qualifications Authority
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, Glasgow G2 8DQ
Ironmills Road, Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 1LE

www.sqa.org.uk

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2011

Contents

Course rationale	1
Background	1
Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles	2
Purpose and aims of the Course	3
Information about typical learners who might do the Course	3
Course summary	5
Course outline	5
Course structure and conditions of award	5
Assessment	7

Course rationale

Background

All new and revised National Courses reflect Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles. They offer flexibility, provide more time for learning, more focus on skills and applying learning, and scope for personalisation and choice.

In this Course, and its component Units, there will be an emphasis on skills development and the application of those skills. Assessment approaches will be proportionate, fit for purpose and will promote best practice, enabling learners to achieve the highest standards they can.

This Course provides learners with opportunities to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities as well as skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

All Courses provide opportunities for learners to develop breadth, challenge and application, but the focus and balance of the assessment will be appropriate for the subject area.

Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles

The Access 2 Performance Arts Course sits within the expressive arts curriculum area¹. The expressive arts are rich and stimulating, with the capacity to engage and fascinate learners of all ages and skills. The expressive arts also play an important role in supporting learners to recognise and value the variety and vitality of culture locally, nationally and globally.

By engaging in experiences within the expressive arts, learners will recognise and represent feelings and emotions, both their own and those of others. Learners will be encouraged to develop important skills, attitudes and attributes, including active involvement in creative activities, and carrying out tasks which require a creative response.

The Course provides a framework which encourages learners to express themselves creatively through performance (which can include dance, drama, music, movement, recital and song). Learners will develop practical skills in performing, and explore how the use of self-expression, language, music and movement can develop their ideas and enhance performance.

The Course presents opportunities for learners to apply their creative skills to perform pieces of work and to demonstrate skills and confidence in performance. Learners will also be encouraged to recognise creativity and skill in the work of others, and to show enjoyment of the arts through their own performances and those of others.

This Course also allows learners to develop other skills, attributes and capabilities including: perseverance, resilience and confidence.

Learners are encouraged to exercise imagination and creativity, and to develop an awareness of performance arts as a means of communication. They will find that the skills they acquire by successfully completing this Course will be invaluable for learning, for life and for work.

This Course provides skills that are complementary for learners in other areas of study in the expressive arts, and also provides progression from experiences and outcomes in the expressive arts.

¹ Expressive arts:

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/learningteachingandassessment/curriculumareas/expressivearts/principlesandpractice/index.asp>

Purpose and aims of the Course

The Course provides an opportunity for learners to experience a range of performance art forms (which can include dance, drama, music, movement, recital and song) and to explore and express personal thoughts and ideas through performance.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ demonstrate a basic awareness and understanding of the performance arts
- ◆ work imaginatively and develop individual creativity
- ◆ communicate thoughts, meaning and ideas through performance
- ◆ demonstrate skills in using techniques, processes, materials, media and technology to perform

Course activities also provide opportunities for learners to develop generic and transferable skills in independent working; collaborating and working with others; recognising creativity and skills in the work of others; planning; problem solving and communication.

The integrative design of the Course will foster learners' understanding of the performance arts, helping them experience the links between ideas, creativity, techniques, processes, materials, media and technology and the final performance. The Course will also help learners to develop important skills, attitudes and attributes related to performance that are transferable to other contexts.

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course is suitable for all learners with an interest in performance arts. It is suitable for learners with a general interest in the performance arts and for those wanting to progress to higher levels of study.

The Course is suitable for those wishing to study performance arts for the first time.

This qualification will allow learners to consolidate and further extend their performance arts skills developed by building on the experiences and outcomes for expressive arts.

The Course takes account of the needs of all learners by providing sufficient flexibility to enable learners to achieve in different ways and at a different pace.

On completing the Course, learners will have developed an awareness of different performance arts and of how to communicate thoughts and ideas through performance, and will have developed their practical skills in performance.

successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen, effective contributor

On successful completion of this Course, the learner could progress to:

- ◆ Access 2 Creative Arts Course
- ◆ other Units, Awards and Courses at Access 2
- ◆ Access 3 Art and Design Course
- ◆ Access 3 Drama Course
- ◆ Access 3 Music Course

Draft

Course summary

Course title: Access 2 Performance Arts

SCQF level 2 (18 SCQF credit points)

Course outline

Mandatory Units

Developing Performance Skills (Access 2) (6 SCQF credit points)

Optional Units (two from the following)

Using Performance Skills (Access 2) (6 SCQF credit points)

Contributing to a Performance (Access 2) (6 SCQF credit points)

Developing Personal Ideas: Performance Art (Access 2) (6 SCQF credit points)

To provide flexibility of choice and opportunities for lateral progression, the Course comprises **one** mandatory Unit and **two** optional Units from the list above.

Course structure and conditions of award

This Course consists of a combination of mandatory and optional Units. Learners who complete the mandatory Unit and any combination of optional Units will be able to demonstrate their ability in the same skills. The mandatory Unit provides breadth by introducing learners to the range of skills and contexts available within performance arts. The optional Units provide depth, with scope for personalisation and choice, and provide learners with opportunities to further explore, develop and practice these skills in different contexts.

Some learners may choose to complete additional optional Units from the Course. Learners will benefit from this opportunity to extend their learning.

This Course enables learners to use the performance arts to develop skills in the following areas: demonstrating a basic awareness and understanding of the performance arts; individual creativity; communicating thoughts, meaning and ideas; and using techniques, processes, materials, media and technology.

Units are statements of standards for assessment and not programmes of learning and teaching. They can be delivered in a variety of ways.

Units can be taught sequentially or in parallel to each other. However, learning and teaching approaches should provide opportunities to integrate skills where possible.

Developing Performance Skills (Access 2)

The aim of this Unit is to provide learners with experiences in performing, to allow learners to explore and develop techniques and ways of communicating ideas to an audience, and to encourage them to express ideas in response to a range of stimuli. Performance skills can include dance, drama, music, movement, recital, and song.

Using Performance Skills (Access 2)

In this Unit, learners will develop an appreciation of structure and form in the creation of a performance. They will learn how to appreciate performance styles, approaches and conventions, and to use their performance skills in more challenging contexts. Performance skills can include dance, drama, music, movement, recital, and song.

Contributing to a Performance (Access 2)

In this Unit, learners will draw on and extend their performance skills to perform for others (which can include individual performance, contribution to an organised programme, and collaboration on a staged show) to audience sizes appropriate to the performance activity. Performance activities can include dance, drama, music, movement, recital, and song.

Developing Personal Ideas: Performance Art (Access 2)

In this Unit, learners will develop and perform their own ideas, based on personal interests, through exploring and using a selection of techniques, processes and materials. Learners will choose a theme for study and develop performance activities in the context of the chosen theme. Where appropriate, learners will be encouraged to use media and technologies creatively when developing their ideas and performing. Performance activities can include dance, drama, music, movement, recital, and song.

To achieve the Access 2 Performance Arts Course, learners must pass all of the required Units. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section.

Access 2 Courses are not graded.

Assessment

All Units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in Unit specifications.

They will be assessed pass/fail within centres.

SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

Exemplification of possible approaches for Units will be provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.

Draft