



# Higher Drama — draft Course rationale and summary

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The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, Glasgow G2 8DQ  
Ironmills Road, Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 1LE

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# 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 Course is practical and experiential. Learners will develop skills in performing and creating drama. They will develop skills in performing, design and in technical roles when creating drama. It provides scope for personalisation and choice.

In this Course, learners are encouraged to exercise imagination and creativity. They will develop important skills, attitudes and attributes, and the capabilities of the four capacities, including: creativity, flexibility and adaptability; enthusiasm and a willingness to learn; perseverance, independence and resilience; responsibility and reliability; and confidence, enterprise and leadership.

This Course encourages learners to be creative and to express themselves in different ways. Learning through drama helps learners to develop an appreciation of aesthetic, social and cultural values, identities and ideas.

Learners will develop important skills, attitudes and attributes. Learning in the Course will include active involvement in appreciating and using theatre production techniques to create and produce drama.

## **Purpose and aims of the Course**

The Course should encourage learners to be inspired and challenged when developing skills in performing, directing and production roles. Learners will develop these skills by exploring and communicating their ideas and applying performance concepts and themes to create drama. Learners will also develop appreciation, knowledge and understanding of theatrical form, style, genre, text and drama practice. The skills that learners acquire by successfully completing the Course will be valuable for learning, life and work.

The Course allows learners to broaden their skills base, and to widen their horizons regarding a range of vocations and careers.

As learners apply a range of skills in performing and production techniques, they will develop an appreciation and a knowledge and understanding of cultural and social influences on drama practice. Learners will also investigate, analyse and reflect on how the use of self-expression, language, movement, genre and style will help develop their performance concepts.

Learners will develop problem solving and critical thinking skills as they explore and interpret text and apply dramatic techniques. They will also develop production skills and learn to evaluate their performance and the performance of others.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ develop skills in performing, directing and production roles to create and present drama
- ◆ explore and communicate thoughts, ideas, themes and performance concepts
- ◆ work imaginatively and demonstrate a high level of individual creativity when applying skills in problem solving, research, interpretation, analysis, reflection and evaluation
- ◆ develop knowledge and understanding of theatrical form, style, genre, text and drama practice
- ◆ apply theoretical knowledge to demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of drama practice
- ◆ develop knowledge and understanding of social and cultural influences on drama

The Course provides opportunities for vertical and lateral progression to National Courses, and to other SQA qualifications in drama and other related fields.

## **Information about typical learners who might do the Course**

This Course is a broad-based qualification, suitable for all learners with an interest in drama. It is suitable for learners with a general interest in the subject, or for those wanting to progress onto higher levels of study. This qualification will allow learners to develop and extend their skills in performing, directing and in production roles.

Learners will explore, develop and communicate ideas and performance concepts through performing, directing and in production roles. They will use voice, movement and characterisation skills when creating and performing drama, demonstrating an understanding of the role. Learners will interpret texts and use understanding of form, style, genre and drama practice to inform and communicate their ideas to others.

Learners will also explore the possibilities of production techniques. Using a broad range of production skills, they will design, create and present drama to communicate thoughts, ideas and meaning to an audience.

On completing the Course, learners will be able to: explore and apply skills in performing, directing and production to create and present a drama; communicate a range of thoughts, ideas and meaning to performance concepts; work independently and collaboratively with others to create drama; engage with and apply a range of production skills; create and present drama through performing, directing and using production skills; appreciate and have cultural

*successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen, effective contributor*

and social awareness of a broad range of drama and production techniques; and analyse, reflect on and evaluate their own work and the work of others.

The learning experiences in the Course are flexible and adaptable, with opportunities for personalisation and choice. This makes the qualification highly accessible, as it can be contextualised to suit a diverse range of learners' needs and aspirations. The Course is largely learner-centred, with practical and experiential learning opportunities.

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# Course summary

**Course title: Higher Drama**

**SCQF level 6 (24 SCQF credit points)**

## Course outline

### **Mandatory Units**

Drama Skills (Higher)	(9 SCQF credit points)
Drama: Production Skills (Higher)	(9 SCQF credit points)

**Course assessment** (6 SCQF credit points)

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. Further information on the Course assessment is provided in the Assessment section.

## **Course structure and conditions of award**

The Course has an integrated approach to learning, with a mix of practical learning and knowledge and understanding. The Course allows learners to explore, develop and apply a range of skills in performing, directing and production roles to create imaginative drama.

As learners develop their performing skills, they will also learn how to use production techniques to inform and influence their creative thinking and performance.

Reflective skills will also be developed as learners evaluate their own performance and that of others. Learners will also learn how to appreciate a range of drama techniques, and to consider the social and cultural influences on drama.

The Course consists of two mandatory Units. Each of the component Units of the Course is designed to provide progression to the corresponding Units at Advanced Higher.

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

### **Drama Skills (Higher)**

In this Unit, learners will explore and use performing and directing methodologies, and interpret text and dramatic techniques as a means of communicating thoughts, ideas and meaning to an audience. They will explore and appreciate drama forms, structure, style, genre and practice, and apply knowledge in response to text. They will consider social and cultural influences on drama. They will also learn how to interpret complex characters. They will learn how to analyse, reflect on and evaluate their own performance and the performance of others.

### **Drama: Production Skills (Higher)**

Learners will apply their knowledge of production techniques to explore, design, create and present drama. They will apply interpretation skills in order to develop performance concepts within a dramatic context. They will learn how to analyse performance, appreciate styles and methodologies, and consider the social and cultural influences on drama practice.

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all the Units as well as the Course assessment. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

## Assessment

Information about assessment standards for the Course will be included in the *Course Assessment Specification*, which will provide full details including advice on how a learner's overall attainment for the Course will be determined.

### Unit 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 assessment approaches for these Units will be provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.

### Course assessment

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of [added value](#)<sup>1</sup>. At National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, the added value will be assessed in the Course assessment. The added value for the Course must 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 the Higher Drama Course, added value will focus on:

- ◆ challenge
- ◆ application

Learners will draw on, extend and apply the skills they have learned during the Course. This will be assessed through a drama [project](#) and a [question paper](#)<sup>2</sup>. The drama project will involve creating and evaluating a drama. The question paper will require demonstration of a depth of knowledge and understanding from the Course.

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<sup>1</sup> Definitions can be found here: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45528.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45528.html)

<sup>2</sup> See link above for definitions.