



Access 3 Drama

Draft National Course Specification



Valid from August 2013

This edition: October 2011, draft version 1.0

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

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Course outline

Course title: Access 3 Drama

SCQF: level 3 (18 SCQF credit points)

Course code: to be advised

Mandatory Units

Drama Skills (Access 3)

9 SCQF credit points

Drama: Production Skills (Access 3)

9 SCQF credit points

Recommended entry

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by one or more of the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ Access 2 Performance Arts Course or relevant component Units
- ◆ Access 2 Creative Arts Course or relevant component Units

In terms of prior learning and experience, relevant experiences and outcomes may also provide an appropriate basis for doing this Course. Further information on relevant experiences and outcomes will be given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Progression

This Course or its components may provide progression to:

- ◆ other SQA qualifications in Drama or related areas
- ◆ further study, employment and/or training

Further details are provided in the Rationale section.

Equality and inclusion

This Course Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. For further information please refer to the *Course Support Notes*.

Rationale

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

This Course allows learners to develop practical skills by creating and presenting drama. They will also develop production skills by presenting drama.

In this Course, learners are encouraged to exercise imagination and creativity. They will develop important skills, attitudes and attributes of the four capacities, including: creativity and adaptability; enthusiasm and a willingness to learn; and confidence.

This Course encourages learners to be creative and to express themselves in different ways. Learning through drama helps learners to appreciate cultural values, identities and ideas. This Course provides scope for personalisation and choice.

Purpose and aims of the Course

This Course is practical and experiential. It provides opportunities for learners to develop skills in creating and presenting. This Course focuses on the development of drama skills at a basic level and using production skills to present drama.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ generate thoughts and ideas at a basic level when creating drama
- ◆ have an awareness of social and cultural influences on drama
- ◆ present drama at a basic level
- ◆ use basic production techniques to present drama
- ◆ develop problem solving skills by creating and presenting drama
- ◆ reflect on their work and that of other learners

As learners develop practical skills in creating and presenting, they will also develop an awareness of cultural and social influences on drama. Learners will investigate and reflect on how the use of self-expression, language and movement can develop their dramatic ideas. Learners will develop problem-solving skills as they explore and develop a range of basic drama techniques. They will also investigate the use of basic production techniques to enhance drama.

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course is a broad-based qualification. It is suitable for learners with a general interest in the subject, or for those wanting to progress onto higher levels of study. This Course will allow learners to consolidate and further extend their skills developed through the experiences and outcomes for Drama.

Learners will explore, develop and communicate thoughts and ideas in drama through creating, presenting and production techniques. They will explore voice, movement and characterisation skills. Learners will respond to a range of straightforward stimuli and communicate their ideas with others.

Learners will also be encouraged to apply their drama skills to present drama. Using basic production techniques, they will also present drama to communicate meaning to an audience.

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.

On completing the Course, learners will be able to: work collaboratively with some support; communicate thoughts and ideas; create and present drama at a basic level; use basic production techniques when presenting to communicate meaning to an audience; show an awareness of social and cultural influences on drama; and reflect on their own work and that of others.

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

Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

The Course has an integrated approach to learning, with a mix of practical learning and knowledge and understanding. As learners develop their creating skills, they will also learn how to use a range of basic dramatic techniques. They will experiment with presenting, by acting out a character and by using basic production techniques.

Through creating and presenting drama, reflective skills will also be developed as learners reflect on their own progress. Learners will also consider cultural values, identities and ideas which influence drama.

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

The Course has two mandatory Units. Each component Unit of the Course is designed to provide progression to the corresponding Units at National 4.

Drama Skills (Access 3)

In this Unit, learners will explore and develop a range of basic dramatic techniques and ways of communicating thoughts and ideas to an audience. They will learn how to respond to straightforward stimuli. They will also learn how to develop character at a basic level and develop understanding of form and structure when creating short pieces of drama.

They will learn how to present short pieces of drama. Learners will consider the social and cultural influences on drama. They will also learn how to reflect on their own progress and that of other learners.

Drama: Production Skills (Access 3)

In this Unit, learners will gain knowledge of production techniques at a basic level. They will use these techniques to enhance drama when presenting. Learners will use problem-solving skills in order to generate ideas for presenting drama.

Conditions of award

To achieve the Access 3 Drama Course, learners must pass all of the required Units. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section.

Access 3 Courses are not graded.

Skills, knowledge and understanding

Full skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course will be given in the *Course Support Notes*. A broad overview of the subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be covered in the Course includes:

- ◆ responding to straightforward stimuli when creating drama
- ◆ working with others, in order to share and use dramatic ideas
- ◆ showing awareness of social and cultural influences when creating drama
- ◆ exploring drama form and structure
- ◆ gaining knowledge and understanding of basic production techniques
- ◆ using drama and production skills when presenting
- ◆ using reflective skills within the creative process

Skills, knowledge and understanding to be included in the Course will be appropriate to the SCQF level of the Course. The SCQF level descriptors give further information on characteristics and expected performance at each SCQF level (www.sqa.org.uk/scqf).

Assessment

Information about assessment 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 the Unit Specification.

They can be assessed on a Unit-by-Unit basis or by combined assessment.

They will be assessed on a pass/fail basis within centres. SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgments are consistent and meet national standards.

The assessment of the Units in this Course will be as follows:

Drama Skills (Access 3)

In this Unit, learners will be required to provide evidence to demonstrate knowledge of basic drama techniques when they create drama. Learners will use drama skills when they create and present drama. Learners will reflect on their own work and that of other learners.

Drama: Production Skills (Access 3)

In this Unit, learners will be required to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge of basic production techniques. Learners will use production skills when they present drama.

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

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

(Note: The information given below reflects the initial thinking on significant opportunities for development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. These may be subject to change as the development process progresses.)

It is expected that learners will develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Course are based on SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Course where there are appropriate opportunities.

1 Literacy

1.3 Listening and talking

3 Health and wellbeing

3.1 Personal learning

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

4.3 Working with others

5 Thinking skills

5.2 Understanding

5.3 Applying

Amplification of these skills is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills will be appropriate to the level of the Course. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work for the Course is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Administrative information

Published: October 2011 (version 1.0)

Superclass: to be advised

History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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