



**National Qualifications 2012
Internal Assessment Report
Drama and Theatre Arts**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject.

National Qualifications (NQ) Units

Titles/levels of NQ Units verified:

D193 10 Drama Skills
D193 11 Drama Skills
D196 12 Investigative Drama
D199 13 Devised Drama
F5KY 12 Drama: Acting Skills

General comments

In almost all cases, both at the central verification event and during visiting verification for Drama: Acting Skills Unit, assessment evidence was clearly presented. At the central event, almost all centres demonstrated a sound understanding of national standards. During visiting verification, all centres had a clear understanding of national standards and the quality of evidence provided was commendable.

Centres had pitched their assessments and assessment judgements at the appropriate levels.

At the central event, in a small number of cases, marking schemes which are included in the NABs were not being applied clearly or accurately.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Teaching staff were using the correct documentation and most centres appeared familiar with Unit Specifications, NAB materials and Assessment Support packs.

At the central verification event it was evident that in the majority of centres, assessors were very familiar with the above materials, while during visiting verification all centres visited had a very clear understanding of these materials.

In the centres selected for visiting verification, marking instructions and guidelines in the Assessment Support pack for the Acting Skills Unit were consistently being applied accurately.

Evidence Requirements

There was clear evidence of observational checklists, both on-going and summative, journals and logs of on-going evaluation being used effectively.

Almost all centres demonstrated a clear understanding of the Evidence Requirements for the Units as detailed in the Unit specifications.

Administration of assessments

The majority of centres were pitching their assessments and judgements at appropriate levels.

All centres used the marking schemes and assessment advice contained in either the NABs or ASPs.

Some centres had devised their own detailed observation checklists for practical activities.

The majority of centres had clearly laid out internal verification procedures, which in small departments often involved cross-marking as well as sampling.

Areas of good practice

In the majority of centres, good practice was observed and this included informative written feedback to candidates on their written work and evaluations in particular. Centres had devised and applied detailed marking schemes, and gave clear advice to candidates in their logs and acting journals.

In some centres, a detailed evaluation pro-forma was used by each candidate. This clearly outlined the required content for each section and helped candidates structure their responses.

In most centres, the marks allocated for each of the separate sections of their evaluations were also included and clearly indicated on the scripts. In a few cases, good quality student hand outs were in use; these explained the purpose and assessment procedures of the Unit, with the Unit Outcomes clearly detailed.

In some cases, at Intermediate 1 and 2 levels, ground plans and dramatic commentaries were very thoroughly completed with the folio providing a good structure and comprehensive record of the coursework for Drama Skills.

In Investigative Drama Units there were some very fine examples of written evaluations which were well-structured, thorough and detailed offering an insight into the drama process. Individual assessment sheets were attached to each extended response and these outlined very clearly the task requirements for each area, the available marks, marks awarded and a detailed comment justifying the assessment decision.

In the Drama: Acting Skills Unit, where live candidate performances were seen, the standard of acting was high.

Specific areas for improvement

Centres should indicate clearly how marking schemes have been applied.

Marks should be indicated on candidates' responses.

In the Drama: Acting Skills Unit, it is recommended that the final performance is recorded.