

14 April 2009

To: SQA Co-ordinators
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges

cc: HMIE
LEA Contacts
SQA Business Development Managers

Action by Recipient	
	Response required
✓	Note and pass on
	None - update/information only

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Dear Colleague

New National Qualifications Group Awards and Units in Drama

Please pass this letter to the member of staff responsible for Drama in your school or college.

This letter is an update on new National Qualifications Units in Drama and contains important information for session 2009/2010 and subsequent years.

Since September 2006, SQA has been working on the development of new Group Awards in Acting and Theatre Performance and Technical Theatre and these Group Awards will be available from August 2009 onwards. Two new National Certificates will be available: –

National Certificate in Acting and Theatre Performance (SCQF level 6) and National Certificate in Technical Theatre (SCQF level 6)

These Group Awards are made up of National Qualifications Units and each award has a mandatory and an optional section which is made up of a wide variety of Drama /Technical Theatre and other related Units to provide choice, flexibility and opportunities for specialism.

To gain the Group Award qualification 12 Unit credits are required. While it is anticipated that Further Education Colleges will be the main deliverers of the Group Awards, the many new Units will be available for schools to use on a free-standing basis and this may, in turn, offer new articulated pathways in Drama/Acting/Theatre Performance/Technical Theatre to school students. Please remember that if a candidate is entered for a full Course award, eg Higher Drama they must also be entered for the component Units of that Course – see the table of page 2 of this letter for details of these. These new Units will be available as additional and/or alternative provision.

Drama Units: A Guide for 2009/2010

1. There is no change at all to any existing National Qualifications Courses in Drama, eg Higher Drama.

All candidates entered for a Drama Course award, eg Higher Drama, must be entered for and pass the **three** Units which are known as the **Component Units** of the Course:

Unit D196 12 Investigative Drama
Unit D197 12 Study of a Text in its Theatrical Context
Unit D198 12 Contemporary Scottish Theatre

Any or some of the above Units may also be used as free-standing Units, ie they can be done on a stand-alone basis without the need to sit the full Course.

It is very important to note that the new Units, which form part of the new Group Awards, are available as additional/alternative provision but not as alternative Units **within** an existing Course eg Higher Drama. Only the Units in the table above can contribute to the overall Course award of Higher Drama.

2. The National Qualifications Catalogue contains many Drama/Technical Theatre related Units which are available to all schools and colleges. To access the NQ Catalogue go to www.sqa.org.uk and click on the orange NQ logo and then 'Related Links' on the right-hand side of the page and access 'Catalogue of National Qualifications'. You will find Unit titles listed alphabetically.

3. To find out what a National Unit is about, centres need to access what is known as the Unit Specification for a particular Unit. This document details the Outcomes, Performance Criteria and the Evidence Requirements which must be met. Unit Specifications also provide useful information on content and context, learning and teaching and assessment. To access any Unit Specification go to www.sqa.org.uk and click on the orange NQ logo and then 'In this section' select NQ Unit Search. This allows you to search for a Unit by title or code.

4. A single credit National Qualifications Unit represents a notional 40 hours of delivery time: learning and teaching and assessment. Any NQ Unit must have a completion date and this is set by each individual centre at the point of entering candidates for any Unit.

5. Centres are responsible for the delivery and assessment of any National Qualifications Unit. There is no external assessment by SQA, but centres' internal assessment decisions can be subject to verification by SQA. Centres carry out their internal assessment according to the Evidence Requirements set out in the Unit Specification. After the assessment decision has been made centres retain the evidence generated by each candidate.

6. Component Units of Courses, as detailed in 1 above, are supported by National Assessment Bank materials (NABs), which contain the instruments of assessment, marking information and the conditions under which assessment is carried out. A number of the new Units which comprise the new Group Awards (see pages 4-7 for lists of these) are supported by Assessment Support

Packs (ASPs). These are very similar to NABs. Currently the mandatory Units of both the Acting and Theatre Performance and Technical Theatre Group Awards are supported by ASPs and it is anticipated that Assessment Support Packs for more Units may be available in the future.

Please pass a copy of this letter to your Drama teaching staff. If you would like to discuss any of this with us, please contact Joanna Morris (contact details above) or myself on 0131 561 6811 or e-mail mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary McDonald', written in a cursive style.

Mary McDonald
Qualifications Manager
National Qualifications
Humanities and Social Sciences

The Acting and Theatre Performance Group Award structure

The National Certificate in Acting and Theatre Performance comprises:

- ◆ An 8 credit mandatory section
- ◆ A minimum of 4 credits from the optional section

To achieve the final award, the candidate must achieve a total of 12 credits.

Framework

Mandatory Units

Code	Mandatory Units (8 credits)	SCQF Level	Credit Value	SCQF Points
F5KY 12	Drama: Acting Skills	6	2	12
F5LF 12	Drama: Voice Skills	6	2	12
F5L1 12	Drama: Movement Skills	6	2	12
F5LB 12	Drama: Theatre Skills in Performance	6	2	12

Optional Units

And any 4 credits from the following list of Optional Units. Those Units marked with * are shared with the National Certificate in Technical Theatre (SCQF Level 6).

Code	Optional Units (4 credits)	SCQF Level	Credit Value	SCQF Points
F5LA 12	Theatre Performance	6	2	12
F5L9 12	Theatre Performers: Solo Singing Skills	6	1	6
F5L8 12	Theatre Performers: Group Singing Skills	6	1	6
F5L0 12	Acting Through Song	6	1	6
F5L4 12	Professional Theatre in Context *	6	1	6
F691 12	Theatre History: An Introduction to Theory and Practice	6	1	6
F692 12	Acting Styles and Practitioners: An Introduction	6	1	6

F5LG 12	Writing Dramatic Text: An Introduction	6	1	6
F5TG 12	Performing Arts Industry: An Introduction *	6	1	6
D658 12	Preparation for Audition	6	1	6
F5L5 12	Technical Theatre in Context *	6	1	6
F5LD 12	Theatrical Makeup *	6	1	6
F58F 12	Creative Project	6	1	6
D196 12	Investigative Drama	6	1	6
D197 12	Study of a Text in its Theatrical Context	6	1	6
D198 12	Contemporary Scottish Theatre	6	1	6
X037 12	Higher Drama External Assessment	6	1	6
D646 12	Dance: Choreography	6	1	6
D661 12	Professional Practice	6	1	6
D650 12	Group Dance Performance	6	1	6
EZLN 11	Movement and Dance	5	2	12
D72N 12	Dance: Alternative	6	0.5	3
D72R 12	Dance: Contemporary	6	0.5	3
D72T 12	Dance: Jazz	6	0.5	3
D72P 12	Dance: Classical	6	0.5	3
D72V 12	Dance: Scottish	6	0.5	3
D72S 12	Dance: Ethnic	6	0.5	3
X03D 12	Higher Dance Practical Assignment	6	1	6
F3GB 12	Communication	6	1	6
F3GE 12	Working with Others	6	1	6
F3GC 12	Information and Communication Technology	6	1	6
F3GD 12	Problem Solving	6	1	6
D36H 12	Work Experience	6	1	6
F3F4 12	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice	6	1	6
F3F4 11	Performing Music on One Instrument or Voice	5	1	6

The Technical Theatre Group Award structure

The National Certificate in Technical Theatre comprises:

- ◆ An 8 credit mandatory section
- ◆ A minimum of 4 credits from the optional section

To achieve the final award, the candidate must achieve a total of 12 credits.

Framework

Mandatory Units

Code	Mandatory Units (8 credits)	SCQF Level	Credit Value	SCQF Points
F5L5 12	Technical Theatre in Context	6	1	6
F693 12	Theatre Stage Lighting Operations	6	1	6
F694 12	Theatre Stage Sound Operations	6	1	6
F5L6 12	Technical Theatre Production Operations	6	1	6
F5LC 12	Theatre Stage Management Operations	6	2	12
F5L7 12	Technical Theatre Workshop Skills	6	2	12

Optional Units

And any 4 credits from the following list of Optional Units. Those Units marked with * are shared with the National Certificate in Acting and Theatre Performance (SCQF Level 6).

Code	Optional Units (4 credits)	SCQF Level	Credit Value	SCQF Points
F695 12	Theatre Stage Management in Practice	6	1	6
F696 12	Multimedia Production for Theatre	6	1	6
F5L2 12	Drama: Providing Theatre Wardrobe Services	6	1	6
F5LD 12	Theatrical Makeup *	6	1	6
F5LE 12	Theatrical Prop Making	6	1	6
F697 12	Theatrical Design	6	1	6

F58F 12	Creative Project	6	1	6
F698 12	Theatre Stage Set Construction	6	1	6
F699 12	Theatre Stage Model Set Construction	6	1	6
F5TG 12	Performing Arts Industry: An Introduction *	6	1	6
F5L4 12	Professional Theatre in Context *	6	1	6
F1JW 10	Digital Media: Video Acquisition	4	1	6
F1KV 11	Digital Media: Video Editing	5	1	6
F3GB 12	Communication	6	1	6
F3GE 12	Working with Others	6	1	6
F3GC 12	Information and Communication Technology	6	1	6
F3GF 12	Problem Solving	6	1	6
D193 12	Numeracy	6	1	6
D19M 12	First Aid	6	1	6
D36H 12	Work Experience	6	1	6