

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Drama Skills: Leading a Workshop

Unit code: DG42 35

Unit purpose: The purpose of this unit is to equip candidates with the practical knowledge and understanding of planning, structuring and leading a Drama Workshop. It is primarily intended for candidates on theatre arts courses. The unit, it must be stressed, is not a comprehensive course in teaching and leading workshops; but it will ensure that candidates are aware of the fundamental considerations involved in planning and leading workshops.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

1. Explore the content of a drama workshop.
2. Plan and structure a drama workshop.
3. Lead a drama workshop.
4. Evaluate a drama workshop.

Credit value: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 8: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access will be at the discretion of the centre and the following recommendations are for guidance only.

Where a candidate has achieved the course entry criteria for HNC/D Acting and Performance, they will have shown sufficient knowledge and skills for access to this unit. For this unit, candidates should have some prior experience and knowledge of drama skills.

Core skills: There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards core skills in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of core skills or core skills components.

Context for delivery: This unit is included in the optional framework of HNC/D Acting and Performance. If this Unit is delivered as part of a group award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the group award to which it contributes.

General information for centres (cont)

Assessment: This unit may be assessed by a combination of written and oral evidence and practical demonstration.

For Outcome 1 candidates will be assessed by tutor observational checklist.

For Outcomes 2, 3 and 4 there is linkage in the planning, delivery and evaluation as the workshop planned in Outcome 2 is used in Outcomes 3 and 4. The instrument of assessment for Outcome 2 is a written assignment which is marked against a checklist.

Outcome 3 is a practical demonstration of leadership skills through the delivery of a 45-minute drama workshop assessed by a tutor observational checklist.

Outcome 4 is an evaluation which can be assessed either by a written response of 1000-1200 words or orally, supported by a checklist.

Please note, candidates must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified for each Outcome for the unit as a whole in order to pass the unit.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Drama Skills: Leading a Workshop

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and evidence requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Explore the content of a drama workshop.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Various approaches to a drama workshop
- ◆ Practical exploration of various drama workshop games and strategies
- ◆ Evaluation of practical exploration

Evidence requirements

Candidates will generate evidence by participating in discussion, practical exercises and supporting evaluation.

Candidates must:

- ◆ Contribute positively to discussion
- ◆ Participate fully in various workshop games and strategies
- ◆ Give a considered analysis and evaluation of the various games and strategies through participation in discussion.

Assessment guidelines

Candidates will be assessed by tutor observational checklist.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Drama Skills: Leading a Workshop

Outcome 2

Plan and structure a drama workshop.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Group requirements
- ◆ Appropriate planning
- ◆ Appropriate structure
- ◆ Awareness of teaching environment and resources
- ◆ Planning time management

Evidence requirements

Candidates are required to plan two drama workshops for a selected group. They should produce two 45-minute workshop plans. The workshops should link together in terms of progression. The evidence generated should:

- ◆ Identify the group's requirements
- ◆ State appropriate aims and objectives
- ◆ Clearly identify appropriate warm-up and/or introductory exercises that link with the aims and objectives of the lessons
- ◆ Clearly demonstrate time management planning
- ◆ Clearly identify resources and teaching environment requirements
- ◆ Demonstrate appropriate structure
- ◆ Demonstrate selection of appropriate material for the participant group
- ◆ Demonstrate linkage of the material in terms of progression/development

Assessment guidelines

The written plan will be assessed against a checklist.

This Outcome should be linked with Outcomes 3 and 4, as one of the workshop plans generated in this Outcome is used in Outcomes 3 and 4.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Drama Skills: Leading a Workshop

Outcome 3

Lead a drama workshop.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Role of workshop leader
- ◆ Time management
- ◆ Verbal and non-verbal communication
- ◆ Appropriate use of resources
- ◆ Management of environment
- ◆ Awareness of safety
- ◆ Ending workshop appropriately

Evidence requirements

The candidate will lead a drama workshop using one of the planned lessons from Outcome 2. Candidates will need evidence that demonstrates their competence in the leading of the workshop.

Candidates must:

- ◆ Take control of the group
- ◆ Communicate clearly with the participant group
- ◆ Clearly explain and demonstrate (where appropriate) all activities to the group
- ◆ Lead the workshop in a confident manner
- ◆ Manage the environment and resources appropriately
- ◆ Appropriately time-manage the session
- ◆ React appropriately to any safety issues
- ◆ Be responsive to the demands of the group
- ◆ Round off the workshop in an appropriate manner

This Outcome should be videoed as supporting evidence.

Assessment guidelines

Candidates will be assessed by tutor observational checklist.

This Outcome should be linked with Outcomes 2 and 4.

While the ideal situation would be for candidates to work with the particular group they had planned for this is not always practicable. It is not necessary for candidates to role-play types of client group. If the workshop is planned for a different type of group than the one it is delivered to it will suffice that the group are informed about the planned client group and that they react as themselves. This will avoid any unnecessary awkwardness within the classroom.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Drama Skills: Leading a Workshop

Outcome 4

Evaluate a drama workshop.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Objectivity in evaluation
- ◆ Listening to the reflections of peers and tutor
- ◆ Appropriate evaluation of workshop plan to delivery of workshop with analysis of same
- ◆ Consideration of personal factors – awareness of and sensitivity to group dynamics, clarity of communication ,confidence in delivery, use of resources

Evidence requirements

Candidates are required to produce written/oral evidence of 1000-1200 words that demonstrates their knowledge and skills in this Outcome by evaluating the workshop in terms of:

- ◆ The success of the workshop plan in meeting its aims and objectives
- ◆ Consideration of their communication, confidence and awareness of group dynamics
- ◆ Consideration of the groups reaction to the workshop
- ◆ Objectively reflecting on the feedback given by workshop participants and tutor.

Assessment guidelines

When an oral response is selected, this should be assessed by a tutor observational checklist and supported by video evidence.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DG42 35
Unit title:	Drama Skills: Leading a Workshop
Superclass category:	LC
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Drama Skills: Leading a Workshop

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

The unit is primarily intended to prepare candidates in the planning and delivery of drama workshops. Given the current diversity of possible clients for drama workshops, it is best to concentrate on generic planning and practical skills within delivery of the unit.

It is envisaged that candidates will be introduced to the work of various Drama Practitioners in support of Outcome 1. Drama Practitioners who have written about their work are better than practitioners who are merely written about. This gives the candidate a direct connection to the work rather than an interpretation by another party. Practitioners such as Augusto Boal, Keith Johnstone and Viola Spolin could be considered.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

It is best to deliver the Unit as a series of workshops, initially tutor led. During this period the tutor can give direct examples of good general workshop practice. Candidates can thus learn directly from their experience as well as that of their peers. This period of practice and exploration should allow the candidate to begin to develop the knowledge and skills that allow the planning of more extended workshops. Group discussion and evaluation should be an integral part of these sessions. Overall this leads directly to Outcomes two and three.

Open learning

The Outcomes in this unit rely on developing skills through interaction with a lecturer and/or fellow candidates, and so the opportunities for distance learning are very limited. Centres may, however, find it possible to develop solutions, provided all unit and moderation requirements are met in full. Technological advances may make the possibility of such creative solutions more widespread in the future.

Because of the intensive nature of the training and the rehearsal requirements for this unit when taken as part of a course, part-time provision would be most unusual and difficult to achieve.

For information on normal open learning arrangements, please refer to the SQA guide *Assessment and Quality Assurance and Distance Learning (SQA 2000)*.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Drama Skills: Leading a Workshop

Special needs

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering special alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment Arrangements* (SQA, 2001).

General information for candidates

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1. Explore the content of a drama workshop
2. Plan and structure a drama workshop
3. Lead a drama workshop
4. Evaluate a drama workshop

In exploring the content of a drama workshop, candidates will be required to actively engage in discussion and exploration of a variety of approaches to drama workshops. They will be assessed on their understanding, their participation and their analysis, through discussion, of the approaches under investigation.

In planning and structuring a drama workshop, candidates will plan two workshops for a selected client group. They must consider the group requirements, and plan appropriate workshops within stated resource and time limitations.

In leading their drama workshop, candidates will deliver one of their planned workshops displaying control, confidence, appropriate communication, responsiveness, awareness of safety issues, good time management and a good start and finish.

To evaluate their workshop, candidates will produce a response of 1000-1200 words in which they objectively consider the success of the plan and its implementation in terms of meeting their stated aims and objectives. They must consider the responses of the workshop participants, both during and after the workshop.