

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Theatre Styles

Unit code: DG4M 34

Unit purpose: This unit is designed to enable candidates to recognise the key components of a selected theatre style. The unit will encourage the candidates to research into, reflect upon and explore the conventions of the theatre style. The candidates will examine the acting requirements through practical exercises and rehearse and present text of the period under study. The unit is primarily intended for candidates who expect to enter the professional world of acting and/or theatre after completing a Diploma or Degree at Further or Higher Education level. It would also be relevant to those with appropriate experience of acting and theatre performance who wish to develop their knowledge and understanding of theatre.

On completion of this unit candidates should be able to:

1. Research and examine the theatrical context and conventions of a theatre style.
2. Explore the acting conventions of a style of theatre.
3. Rehearse and perform selected text in the theatre style.

Credit value: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**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: It would be beneficial, although not essential, if candidates had some experience of theatre performance or had participated in an NQ Theatre Arts or equivalent performance related programme. Candidates will find added value if they have completed, or are in the midst of undergoing the HNC Acting Skills Unit.

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 will be assessed by two instruments of assessment which require the candidate to produce evidence of knowledge, understanding and practice of a theatre style. Outcome 1 requires the candidate to undertake a research project and present their findings in a practical presentation and a folio of evidence, of approximately 1,000 words. The candidate will be required to work in a small group and create a practical presentation of the key findings of that group, which will be shared with the rest of the cohort group. The group should consist of four or five candidates and the presentation should last approximately ten minutes. The presentation and the folio will be assessed through observation checklists. Outcomes 2 and 3 will be assessed through observation checklists that indicate that the candidate has developed a practical and intellectual understanding of the theatre style and demonstrated effective application of the skills in practical exercises, rehearsal and performance. The candidate should be able to demonstrate the theatre style with a fair level of insight and awareness.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Theatre Styles

Unit code: DG4M 34

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

Research and examine the theatrical context and conventions of a theatre style.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Exploration of the theatre style in a historical context
- ◆ Exploration of the social and/or political function of the theatre style
- ◆ Exploration of the conventions of the theatre style
- ◆ Exploration of the content, options and constraints of relevant text
- ◆ Examination of the staging of the theatre style
- ◆ Exploration of the practical demands of costume and/or masks
- ◆ Presentation of research

Evidence requirements

Evidence will be provided by a practical presentation of research findings, on ONE topic from the knowledge and/or skills list. The presentation should demonstrate key aspects of the findings through creatively effective means, and should be supported by a folio of research evidence, of approximately 1000 words. The presentation must last around ten minutes in total, with time for questions and discussion after that. Candidates must demonstrate an adequate general understanding of the topic which is under study.

Assessment guidelines

One particular topic from the knowledge and skills list will be assigned by the tutor, and may be assigned to individuals or groups. The fact that findings are presented will give all candidates in the group the chance to develop a general understanding of the full range of knowledge and skills. The practical presentation of the findings and the supporting folio should be assessed through observation checklists. When assessing group work, the tutor should be satisfied that the candidate can demonstrate that they have undertaken work in one particular area.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Theatre Styles

The folio should include a note of reference sources and may contain graphic or other evidence. The findings may be collated into a booklet for the whole group's reference.

Outcome 2

Explore the acting conventions of a style of theatre.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Exploration of acting techniques applicable to the dramatic conventions
- ◆ Exploration of the function(s) of character
- ◆ Exploration of the structure of text and style of language
- ◆ Exploration of setting, time and environment
- ◆ Consideration of the effectiveness of the style of theatre as a means of communicating

Evidence requirements

Evidence for the entire knowledge and skills list for this Outcome will be provided by practical exercises that explore the theatre style. The candidate must demonstrate effective application of the skills listed through practical sessions. The candidate should demonstrate progress in terms of understanding the theatre style, and must therefore remain open to experimentation and be able to identify areas of strength and weakness throughout the process of development.

Assessment guidelines

This Outcome should be assessed through observation checklists that demand a progression of understanding of the theatre style. This should be gauged through on-going discussion and debate as part of the practical activities throughout the Outcome. The checklists should also require that the candidate demonstrates effective application of the skills, where appropriate. The practical assessment for Outcomes 2 and 3 could be integrated and assessed through observation checklists.

Outcome 3

Rehearse and perform selected text in the theatre style.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Intellectual and emotional understanding of text
- ◆ Imaginative and creative interpretation of text
- ◆ Demonstration of character in appropriate action according to the theatre style
- ◆ Demonstration of character in relationships
- ◆ Demonstration of appropriate rehearsal and effective presentation
- ◆ Demonstration of the conventions of the theatre style in relationship to an audience

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Theatre Styles

Evidence requirements

Evidence for the knowledge and/or skills in this Outcome will be demonstrated by the candidate through practical rehearsal and performance of relevant text that explores a theatre style. The candidate must demonstrate effective application of all the skills listed within the practical sessions. The candidate will be required to work within a group and present an extract of text to an audience that may be the remaining cohort group.

Assessment guidelines

Assessors should use observation checklists that require the candidate to demonstrate effective application of the skills in rehearsal and performance, and is able to apply all the knowledge and skills with a fair level of insight and awareness. The practical assessments for Outcomes 2 and 3 could be integrated and assessed through observation checklists.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DG4M 34
Unit title:	Theatre Styles
Superclass category:	LC
Date of publication:	1 July 2004
Version:	01
Source:	SQA

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2004

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. The cost for each Unit specification is £2.50. (A handling charge of £1.95 will apply to all orders for priced items.)

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Theatre Styles

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

This unit would be best served if it is delivered as a series of practical workshops and exercises. Although it is a stand-alone unit there are opportunities here for it to operate in conjunction with a performance unit where the text selected falls into the category of the theatre style under examination. It would be hugely beneficial if the candidate was undergoing, or had completed, an acting skills unit.

It is highly recommended that the candidate receives feedback and guidance on his/her progress throughout the unit and that the tutor offers the candidate recommendations for development work in a practical way together, perhaps, with recommendations for further reading.

Wherever possible theoretical notes relating to the theatre style should be discussed and demonstrated in a practical environment. The individual research findings may be collated into a booklet for the whole group's reference.

Although not compulsory, the tutor might like to consider the following additional topics for exploration in exercises throughout the unit:

- ◆ theatre style in relation to understanding of self and others
- ◆ means of playing intentions in the theatre style
- ◆ intensity of action
- ◆ status in the theatre style
- ◆ vocal rhythms and speech patterns
- ◆ movement of the relevant period of theatre
- ◆ relationship to animate and inanimate objects

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This unit is designed to enable candidates to recognise the key components of a selected theatre style. The unit will encourage the candidates to research into, reflect upon and explore the conventions of the theatre style. The candidates will examine the acting requirements through practical exercises and rehearse and present text of the period under study.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Theatre Styles

This unit is intended to be broad in the knowledge and skills required for each Outcome so that it allows each centre to select any theatre style. It may be necessary to pay much more attention to one or two of the knowledge/skills list as it reflects on the particular areas of a theatre style. Indeed the centre may require to add particular skills according to the theatre style under study. A centre may choose to use this unit to develop a deeper and more in depth study of a particular theatre style that is being explored in HNC and HND Production Units.

Open learning

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

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

Unit title: Theatre Styles

This unit is designed to enable candidates to recognise the key components of a selected theatre style. The unit will encourage the candidates to research into, reflect upon and explore the conventions of the theatre style. The candidates will examine the acting requirements through practical exercises and rehearse and present text of the period under study.

It will:

- ◆ introduce the theatre style
- ◆ enable opportunities to research and examine the theatrical context of the theatre style
- ◆ enable application of research in a practical presentation
- ◆ enable exploration of the theatre style through practical exercises and application
- ◆ enable the exploration of the theatre style through character and action in text
- ◆ enable exploration of the function(s) of character
- ◆ enable exploration of the structure of text and style of language
- ◆ enable demonstration of the theatre style in performance
- ◆ enable demonstration of the conventions of the theatre style in relationship to an audience.

There are two main assessments:

1. Outcome 1 requires the candidate to undertake a piece of research. Findings will be presented practically to the group. A folio of evidence, of around 1000 words, should also be produced.
2. Assessment will be on-going and recorded through a series of checklists for Outcomes 1, 2 and 3.