



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Technical Theatre: Stage Design

Unit code: F386 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is intended for candidates who wish to work as technical practitioners within the theatre. It is designed to enable candidates to translate the requirements of a script into visual forms, in consultation with a director, to allow them to create a stage design for a theatre production.

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

- 1 Record all visual references within a script.
- 2 Produce a set model to scale.
- 3 Produce working drawings to scale.

Credit points and level: 2 HN credits at SCQF level 7: (16 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: Access to this Unit will be at the discretion of the centre. However, it would be beneficial if candidates had some experience of Technical Theatre. This could be demonstrated by possession of NC Technical Theatre at SCQF level 6 or equivalent.

Core Skills: There may be opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication, Working with Others* and *Problem Solving* to SCQF level 5, and *IT* and *Numeracy* to SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: 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. This Unit was developed within the framework of the HNC Technical Theatre and there may be opportunities to integrate with the HN Unit Technical Theatre: Set Construction and Painting.

Assessment: This Unit will be assessed by practical assignments. Candidate may produce a folio of evidence of knowledge, understanding and practical application of the process undertaken in the research and development of stage design for a theatre production as outlined in the Evidence Requirements.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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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

Record all visual references within a script

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Script annotation
- ◆ Interpretation of Director's 'vision'
- ◆ Production meetings
- ◆ Design sketches
- ◆ Scene breakdown
- ◆ Storyboards
- ◆ Visual research images

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can, with reference to a theatre production:

- ◆ annotate visual references within a script
- ◆ record discussions with the Director in a log book, including their 'vision' of the set design
- ◆ produce production meeting minutes
- ◆ produce design sketches, scene breakdown, storyboard and visual research images

The candidate will produce a folio of work containing a log book detailing records of discussions with the director reflecting the director's requirements, annotation of script, production meeting minutes, design sketches, scene breakdown, storyboard and visual research images.

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed in conjunction with Outcomes 2 and 3. This assessment is the first part of a practical exercise.

Throughout Outcomes 1, 2 and 3, candidates may be asked to meet deadlines and consider the constraints of the materials/equipment available.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Technical Theatre: Stage Design

Outcome 2

Produce a set model to scale

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Scale models
- ◆ Materials
- ◆ Model making
- ◆ Model analysis

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ produce a set design model for a theatre production to scale, textured and coloured as appropriate
- ◆ analyse the effectiveness of the model, reflecting on the visual approach to the production

The candidate will produce a folio including a set model to scale and an analysis on the effectiveness of the model's visual approach to the production.

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed in conjunction with Outcomes 1 and 3. This assessment is the second part of a practical exercise.

Throughout Outcomes 1, 2 and 3, candidates may be asked to meet deadlines and consider the constraints of the materials/equipment available.

Outcome 3

Produce working drawings to scale

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Technical scale drawings
- ◆ Annotation of technical drawings

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can produce comprehensive technical drawings. The drawings should:

- ◆ include a minimum of one of each of the following: ground plan(s), elevation(s) and isometric(s) to scale for a theatre production
- ◆ meet specified timeline, in accordance with the production schedule
- ◆ record information including production, designer, date, venue and scale alongside the technical drawings with a specification key as necessary

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Technical Theatre: Stage Design

The candidate will produce a folio of technical drawings including ground plan(s), elevation(s) and isometric(s) to scale with a specification key as necessary.

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed in conjunction with Outcomes 1 and 2. This assessment could be the final part of a practical exercise.

The candidate may also during the practical exercise, organise and co-ordinate the stage set fit-up, through tech and dress rehearsal to the performance, with clear instruction to the crew and in consultation with the director, lighting designer and stage manager.

Throughout Outcomes 1, 2 and 3, candidates may be asked to meet deadlines and consider the constraints of the materials/equipment available.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F386 34

Unit title: Technical Theatre: Stage Design

Superclass category: LE

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Version	Description of change	Date

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Technical Theatre: Stage Design

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 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is intended to prepare candidates for work within a technical theatre environment. It is designed to equip candidates with skills and knowledge in the process of stage design for a theatre production. The Unit will encourage candidates to interpret a text, undertake research, create a plan and set model. Although the Unit can be delivered on a standalone basis, there are opportunities to work in conjunction with related Units such as Technical Theatre: Set Construction and Painting — enabling candidates to engage in leading a team towards the realisation of a stage design for performance.

Outcome 1 looks at different aspects of stage design including period, location, themes, seasons, atmosphere, texture and space. Candidates should contribute effectively to production meetings with the director and representatives of the production team, noting and acting upon deadlines within the production schedule. Interpretation of the text through script annotation, scene breakdown, storyboard and visual research images will combine with initial meetings to discuss the director's vision.

Outcome 2 looks at set models including scale and the range of materials/ techniques suitable for design effects both in model making and the actual set. Candidates should learn how to create a scale model which reflects the visual approach to the production.

Outcome 3 looks at technical drawings. Drawing to scale and annotation of drawings should be covered.

The candidate may also during the practical exercise, have the opportunity to organise and co-ordinate the stage set fit-up, through tech and dress rehearsal to the performance, with clear instruction to the crew and in consultation with the director, lighting designer and stage manager. Any changes to the design will be made and noted.

Throughout Outcomes 1, 2 and 3, candidates may be asked to meet deadlines and consider the constraints of the materials/equipment available.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is likely to be an optional Unit in the HNC Technical Theatre Group Award. It is intended to provide candidates with the necessary skills to design stage sets within a technical theatre environment.

The Unit is likely to be delivered by lectures covering the history of stage design types of staging and technical drawings, followed by visits to theatres. Candidates could then undertake a practical 'mock' exercise based on a dramatic text of their choice.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Technical Theatre: Stage Design

Outcome 1 could be assessed by a portfolio of evidence based on a dramatic text/theatre production. The evidence should include annotated script, design sketches, scene breakdown, storyboard, and visual research images. Documentation relating to production meetings could also be included in the portfolio.

Outcome 2 is assessed by the production of a set design model to scale.

Outcome 3 is assessed by the annotated technical drawings to scale incorporating a ground plan, elevation and isometrics.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

If candidates contribute at production meetings, attending rehearsals and leading a team during the fit-up of the stage set they will have opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Communication (Written and Oral)* and *Working with Others* at SCQF level 5.

Throughout Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 where solutions are sought to meet deadlines and the constraints of the materials/equipment available, candidates will have the opportunity to develop the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 5.

If the practical exercise is produced by word processing and may include electronically produced images, the candidates may develop the Core Skill of *IT and Numeracy* at SCQF level 6.

Open learning

This Unit could not easily be delivered by open learning due to the observational nature of much of the assessment. Therefore opportunities for distance learning are extremely limited. Centres may, however find it possible to develop solutions, provided all Unit and verification requirements are met in full. Technological advances may make the possibility of such creative solutions more widespread in the future.

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Technical Theatre: Stage Design

This Unit is designed to enable you to understand the processes involved in stage design for a theatre production. You will develop skills in producing a stage model to scale and annotated technical drawings.

In this Unit you will:

- 1 Learn how to record all visual references within a script for a theatre production.
- 2 Create a set model to scale.
- 3 Produce technical drawings to scale.

You will meet with the Director of a theatre production to discuss their vision of the design and attend production meetings.

Assessment for this Unit will be by practical exercises. Evidence will be presented in the form of a portfolio.