



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Technical Theatre: Set Construction and Painting

Unit code: F38D 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 become familiar with techniques utilised in constructing and painting sets for technical theatre. This Unit will develop their knowledge in materials, techniques, construction methods and use of tools. It will allow candidates to work in a real time environment and create an end product to a given deadline. Team work, health and safety and professional practice are prominent within this Unit.

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

- 1 Describe construction elements of set materials.
- 2 Design and utilise methods and skills associated with set construction and painting.
- 3 Construct and paint a theatrical set.
- 4 Evaluate the set construction process.

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 is at the discretion of the centre. However, it would be beneficial if candidates had completed a relevant National Qualification in Technical Theatre, preferably including set design and carpentry skills.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Problem Solving, Information Technology, Communication, Working with Others* and *Numeracy* at SCQF level 5 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.

Assessment: The focus of this Unit is on acquiring professional skills and applying creative techniques and solutions to professionally set projects. It is suitable for holistic assessment and may be assessed using a portfolio approach. Meeting specific and definitive timescales are an essential requirement of this Unit.

General information for centres (cont)

This Unit may be assessed by five instruments of assessment.

It is recommended that Outcome 1 is assessed by a bill of materials and viva voce discussion with the tutor.

Outcomes 2 and 3 are practical assessments and evidence may be recorded with the use of checklists and photographs.

Outcome 4 should be a log that contains details of the set building process (approximately 1,500 words or equivalent) and a short viva voce interview of what the candidate has learnt through the construction period.

Please note that candidates must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified for each Outcome, in order to achieve the Unit.

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

Describe construction elements of set materials

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Timber properties and uses
- ◆ Sheet MDF properties and uses
- ◆ Sheet Ply properties and uses
- ◆ Hardboard properties and uses
- ◆ Gauze properties and uses
- ◆ Canvas/Sheeting properties and uses
- ◆ Metal properties and uses
- ◆ Paint properties and uses
- ◆ Wire properties and uses
- ◆ Rope properties and uses
- ◆ Plastics properties and uses
- ◆ Papier Mache properties and uses
- ◆ Fabric properties and uses

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can, with reference to set construction design, describe the:

- ◆ suitability
- ◆ strength
- ◆ weight
- ◆ fireproofing
- ◆ purpose
- ◆ estimated cost

of **nine** of the Knowledge and/or Skills item above.

Evidence should be generated through open-book assessment under controlled conditions.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Technical Theatre: Set Construction and Painting

Assessment Guidelines

The candidate could submit a bill of materials for a completed set and discuss the materials with their tutor who should record the discussion via an assessment checklist.

Outcome 2

Design and utilise methods and skills associated with set construction and painting

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Joining methods
- ◆ Frame construction
- ◆ Creation of timber joints
- ◆ Nails
- ◆ Screws
- ◆ Bolts
- ◆ Glues
- ◆ Paint
- ◆ Health and Safety

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can, with reference to a given brief, complete a set frame safely.

A candidate's response can be judged to be satisfactory where the evidence is sufficient to meet the requirements of observation checklists that indicate the candidate is able to:

- ◆ design and construct a set frame, showing construction methods, timber joints and other appropriate materials
- ◆ utilise nails, screws, bolts and glues within a frame construction
- ◆ apply paint appropriately to a frame construction
- ◆ adhere to professional health and safety practice

Assessment Guidelines

It is recommended that candidates demonstrate a working knowledge of procedures, tools and equipment via a practical assessment which demonstrates their ability to make a set frame.

This Outcome may be assessed with Outcome 3.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Technical Theatre: Set Construction and Painting

Outcome 3

Construct and paint a theatrical set

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Scale drawings
- ◆ Set construction materials
- ◆ Time scales
- ◆ Production meetings
- ◆ Health and Safety
- ◆ Manual handling
- ◆ Stability of set

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can, with reference to a given set design/construction:

- ◆ Select and negotiate the correct materials for the given set design/construction
- ◆ Work effectively in a production team to solve problems and complete the set construction
- ◆ Take part in weekly production meetings and effectively communicate ideas/problems
- ◆ Adhere to workshop health and safety regulations
- ◆ Utilise correct manual handling procedures whilst building a set
- ◆ Apply safely correct methods of stabilising a set
- ◆ Build and paint a finished set from scale drawings to a full scale set of professional standard

Photographic evidence of the completed set should be recorded.

Assessment Guidelines

It is recommended that a production brief is given to the candidate prior to construction of the set. The brief should state what the candidate is expected to achieve and understand throughout the set construction project.

Practical evidence may be recorded on an observation checklist.

This Outcome may be assessed with Outcome 2.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Technical Theatre: Set Construction and Painting

Outcome 4

Evaluate the set construction process

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Time scales
- ◆ Set building process
- ◆ Expenditure

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by undertaking a viva voce interview on completion of the set building process.

A candidate's response can be judged to be satisfactory where the evidence shows that the candidate has:

- ◆ evaluated time scales of the set build
- ◆ analysed difficulties incurred during the set build
- ◆ evaluated solutions applied during the set build
- ◆ analysed the effectiveness of the construction
- ◆ analysed the final budget of a set build

Assessment Guidelines

It is recommended that the candidate is asked to complete a log that contains details of the set building process (approximately 1,500 words or equivalent) and a short viva voce interview of what the candidate has learnt through the construction period.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F38D 34

Unit title: Technical Theatre: Set Construction and Painting

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: Set Construction and Painting

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 employment within a technical theatre environment. It will enable candidates to become familiar with the techniques utilised in constructing and painting sets for technical theatre.

Outcome 1 looks at the different materials utilised within set construction and painting.

Outcome 2 teaches the candidate to design and utilise some techniques of set construction and painting before moving onto a full scale set.

Outcome 3 requires the candidate to complete a set construction and paint the finished set and can be taught in conjunction with Outcome 2.

Outcome 4 evaluates the candidate's experience of the set construction.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is a mandatory Unit in the HNC Technical Theatre Group Award. It is intended to provide candidates with the necessary skills to carry out set construction and painting tasks within a technical theatre environment.

Outcome 1 could be assessed by the completion of a bill of materials detailing what materials (and why) candidates intend to use on building a set.

Outcome 2 could be assessed by a practical assessment.

Outcome 3 could be assessed by a practical assessment. Candidates could be given a brief for a set construction. It may be possible to assess this along with various Outcomes from the Stage Management Unit.

Outcome 4 is assessed by an evaluation of the set construction process.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Opportunities for developing Core Skills

All elements of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 5 namely *Planning and Organising*, *Critical Thinking*, and *Reviewing and Evaluating* could be developed and enhanced as the practical work for the Unit is undertaken. Candidates need to critically analyse the issues inherent in assuring that each project is consistent with a specific brief. They should identify and consider variables, including resources available, and analyse the significance of each before exploring an appropriate strategic approach. Creative interpretation of briefs and selection of appropriate materials will provide opportunities to develop problem solving skills to a sophisticated level. Critical evaluation of all stages of the proposed design solutions and their potential and actual impact will be on-going and formatively assessed.

Although *Communication* skills are not formally assessed, candidates' could be expected to produce and present written work to a professional standard, and to communicate essential ideas and concepts effectively in the viva voce interview. Terminology and spelling used in annotation should be technically accurate. As such, opportunities exist to develop *Communication* at SCQF level 5. The availability of suitable software to support an effective professional presentation could further assist in the development of *Information Technology* at SCQF level 5.

Candidates are expected to develop the Core Skill of *Working with Others* at SCQF level 6 as they undertake group work, interact with those they make presentations to, and carry out a series of solutions to the set projects. Candidates should be made aware of techniques to put subjects at ease, or to create appropriate environments, using reflective listening and non-verbal communication, including making eye contact and relaxed body language. They should know how to initiate actions confidently and in a way that progresses communication and they should continually modify and adapt their approach to produce desired effects.

Numeracy is likely to be developed at SCQF level 5 as a working tool as candidates undertake and apply the range of calculations involved in budgets, costings and interpretation of scale drawings to meet desired effects in a cohesive style.

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 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: Set Construction and Painting

This Unit is designed to enable you to understand and demonstrate techniques utilised in set construction and painting. You will learn about materials, principles, tools and professional methods to complete a given brief. The Unit has been designed for continual assessment and to test your skills in a real time/life environment.

This Unit has four Outcomes:

- 1 Describe construction elements of set materials.
- 2 Design and utilise methods and skills associated with set construction and painting.
- 3 Construct and paint a theatrical set.
- 4 Evaluate the set construction process.

In Outcome 1 you will look at materials and principles used in set construction and painting. You could be assessed by the completion of a bill of materials detailing what materials (and why) you intend to use on building a set.

In Outcome 2 you will utilise these techniques and skills to complete a set frame. In this Outcome you could be assessed by a practical assessment.

In Outcome 3 you will undertake the role of a set builder and work in a team to construct and paint a theatrical set. You could be assessed by a practical assessment, where you could be given a brief for a set construction.

In Outcome 4 you will analyse and evaluate the process of set construction and painting. This may be assessed by an interview.

You may have opportunities for developing the Core Skills of *Problem Solving*, *Information Technology*, *Communication*, *Working with Others*, and *Numeracy* in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.