



Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Television Scriptwriting: Non-Factual Programmes

Unit code: F45S 35

Unit purpose: The purpose of this Unit is to provide candidates with the knowledge and/or skills necessary to produce complete scripts/storyboards to given briefs for non-factual television programmes.

On completion of this Unit candidates should be able to:

- 1 Create synopses and treatments to meet the requirements of a specified non-factual programme brief.
- 2 Create complete production scripts and storyboards for non-factual television programmes.

Credit points and level: 2 HN credits at SCQF level 8: (16 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 to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. However, it is recommended that the candidate has some previous experience of the creative industries sector. This may be evidenced by possession of HN Unit: *Creative Project* and HN Unit: *Introduction to Creative Industries*.

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: 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. If it is delivered as part of the Creative Audio Visual Industries: HNC/D Creative Industries: Television there are opportunities for integration with Units DM2E 35 *Television Research*, DM2D 35 *Television Production Management: Non Factual Programmes* and DM2A 35 *Television Directing: Non Factual Programmes*.

General information for centres

Assessment: The Unit is assessed by means of two complete script folios which have been compiled to meet the requirements of given production briefs within the category of non-factual programme making. Each folio must contain:

- ◆ a production brief supplied by the Centre
- ◆ a synopsis based on the production brief
- ◆ a treatment detailing programme title, duration, target audience, aims, structure, and the budget for production
- ◆ a production script or storyboard

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

Create synopses and treatments to meet the requirements of a specified non-factual programme brief

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Create synopses that are effective in describing programme content and purpose and accurately meet brief requirements
- ◆ Create treatments that accurately indicate the proposed style of the programmes
- ◆ Create treatments that accurately indicate programme requirements
- ◆ Create treatments that are effective within the resource constraints of the given brief

Outcome 2

Create complete production scripts and/or storyboards for non-factual programmes

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Create production scripts and storyboards that are an effective and accurate realisation of the content and purpose of the programme briefs
- ◆ Knowledge of current technical conventions of professional scriptwriting/storyboarding
- ◆ Create scripts and/or storyboards that correctly utilise the language of professional production techniques
- ◆ Create scripts and storyboards that are realisable within the constraints of the allocated budgets for given briefs

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ create synopses and treatments presented in an appropriate format to meet the requirements of the specified briefs

Candidates must produce two synopses (maximum of 300 words) and two treatments (maximum of 500 words)

- ◆ Produce a production script to meet the requirements of a specified brief

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Television Scriptwriting: Non-Factual Programmes

Candidates must produce two production scripts developed from the synopses and treatments created for Outcome 1.

One of the folios produced by the candidate may take the form of a storyboard and another. At least one must be in the form of a conventional script.

Assessment Guidelines

Centres should try to provide production briefs which are clear and unambiguous, achievable within centre resources and time constraints, and which provide enough substance for creative development of ideas.

Candidates need to learn about the conventional forms of scripts and storyboards eg studio/AV form, traditional screenplay form. It is recommended that centres should consider utilising commercial software for scriptwriting and storyboarding. Although not mandatory, it would be a very useful experience for candidates to take at least one production folio through to product completion.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	F45S 35
Unit title:	Television Scriptwriting: Non-Factual Programmes
Superclass category:	KC
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History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
01	This Unit F45S 35 replaces DM2G 35 which finishes on 31 July 2009.	28/08/08

Source: SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Television Scriptwriting: Non-Factual Programmes

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

The purpose of this Unit is to provide candidates the opportunity to write a range of non-factual scripts for given programme briefs. The scripts or storyboards should be written to the stage of a production script. The generation of a shooting script should take place within the context of Production Management and Direction.

The programme types that can be considered for this Unit can include: drama, continuous serial, light entertainment, music programme, music video, magazine programme, children's entertainment, animation, television advertising. The preceding list is by no means prescriptive and is provided as guidance only.

It would be helpful to students if they had also undertaken, or were concurrently undertaking, a theory-based Unit which covers narrative, genre, institutional, audience and creative writing elements which could provide a good theoretical backdrop to this practical Unit.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

The emphasis of this Unit is to produce scripts to briefs that will be supplied by the centre. Centres may well wish to work to their strengths so that, for example, a centre with strong links to a music section may wish to produce two storyboards for music videos. However, it is important that centres also include at least one conventional script format for candidates to work with.

The role of the tutor in this Unit is partially analogous to that of a script editor. It is recommended that tutors ensure candidates work to strict deadlines for script/storyboard revisions.

Candidates are not being assessed on their artistic ability when producing storyboards, however the storyboards should provide clear and unambiguous guidance to other production personnel.

Open learning

This Unit may be delivered through Open Learning.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Candidates with 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: Television Scriptwriting: Non-Factual Programmes

This Unit is designed to provide you with the Knowledge and/or Skills necessary to produce complete script folios for non-factual television programmes.

You will be required to produce two complete script folios each of which will contain:

- ◆ a brief (supplied)
- ◆ a synopsis
- ◆ a treatment
- ◆ a complete Production Script

At least one of your folios may conform to a conventional text based script form.

One of your folios may conform to a conventional storyboard form.