



## Higher National Unit specification: general information

**Unit title:** Advanced Radio Presentation

**Unit code:** FT67 35

**Superclass:** KA

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### Unit purpose

The purpose of this Unit is to provide the candidate with the advanced knowledge and skills necessary to present radio programmes, and to deliver items of speech broadcasting either distinct from or incorporated within a music programme.

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

- 1 Demonstrate an awareness of vocal mechanics.
- 2 Analyse the factors that influence presentation styles.
- 3 Present and evaluate radio broadcasts.

### Recommended prior knowledge and skills

Access is at the discretion of the centre; however candidates would be expected to have good communication skills. These may be demonstrated by the achievement of Core Skill *Communication* at Higher level or by possession of a suitable *NQ English* or *Communication* Unit (SCQF level 6).

Candidates who do not possess these qualifications may be considered on the basis of other relevant experience.

Previous study of *DM1A 34: Radio Presentation* would be advantageous in providing the necessary background to the Unit.

### Credit points and level

1 Higher National Unit 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.*

## **General information (cont)**

### **Core Skills**

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Communication* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components.

### **Context for delivery**

This Unit is delivered as part of the *HND Creative Industries: Radio* Group Award. However, it may also be delivered on a stand-alone basis, or as part of a limited package of HN Units from the award, to candidates interested in, for example, community or hospital radio. The Unit also gives candidates the opportunity to acquire the necessary technical studio skills required of a radio presenter and recognise the needs of a given target audience with respect to presentation style, content and delivery.

### **Assessment**

Outcome 1 can be assessed through a visual checklist or oral presentation.

Outcome 2 can be assessed through a written/verbal response.

Outcome 3 can be assessed through a variety of recorded radio performances and a written/verbal self and peer assessment.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards**

**Unit title:** Advanced Radio Presentation

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### **Outcome 1**

Demonstrate an awareness of vocal mechanics.

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Vocal exercises
- ◆ Breathing techniques
- ◆ Posture
- ◆ Vocal warm up
- ◆ Voice maintenance

#### **Evidence Requirements**

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

- ◆ perform basic vocal warm up exercises
- ◆ display adequate use of breathing techniques
- ◆ demonstrate appropriate posture for vocal performance
- ◆ explain basic requirements for voice maintenance.

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

Outcome 1 can be assessed through an observational checklist and can be integrated with Outcomes 2 and 3 where students can demonstrate suitable preparation for vocal performances.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Advanced Radio Presentation

### **Outcome 2**

Analyse the factors that influence presentation styles.

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Format
- ◆ Target audience
- ◆ Geographic location
- ◆ Language
- ◆ Station style
- ◆ Programme brief
- ◆ Time of day

#### **Evidence Requirements**

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

- ◆ evaluate characteristics of radio performances across a minimum of three different outlets or styles
- ◆ analyse the factors that influence radio presentation styles.

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

Outcome 2 could be assessed through a short written or verbal response. A variety of radio outlets should be considered, including national and local broadcasts, to maximise the range of styles analysed.

## Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

**Unit title:** Advanced Radio Presentation

### Outcome 3

Present and evaluate radio broadcasts.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Presentation style
- ◆ Pacing, pitch, pausing and phrasing
- ◆ Microphone technique
- ◆ Accent
- ◆ Reading from scripts
- ◆ Adlib
- ◆ Signposting
- ◆ Avoiding rhythms and patterns

#### Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ perform a series of short vocal performances to broadcast standard
- ◆ read a variety of scripts
- ◆ demonstrate variety of tone, pace and vocal control
- ◆ display appropriate microphone technique
- ◆ critique own vocal performance
- ◆ provide constructive feedback on others vocal performance.

#### Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 3 can be assessed through vocal performances. These can be recorded on a portable recorder or in a radio studio environment.

Performances should cover a range of styles to suit an agreed programme format and target audience.

The practical evidence generated for this Outcome should be supported by an evaluation of the candidates own performance and constructive feedback on others performance. This could take the form of a short report (either written or oral).

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes

### Unit title:     Advanced Radio Presentation

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 is primarily concerned with equipping candidates with the Knowledge and/or Skills to perform radio presentations to broadcast standard.

Candidates should demonstrate an understanding of the effects of vocal preparation and maintenance on performances. Through the analysis of a range of vocal performances, candidates should be able to identify the characteristics of the voice as appropriate to context and format.

Candidates should demonstrate the ability to handle the stresses and demands of radio presentation while operating equipment. Although candidates at this level are not bound by the true constraints of a live radio broadcast — the amount of time for adequate preparation, for example, can be much more flexible than in professional radio practice — conditions should be as realistic as possible.

While technical help may be available, the candidates should record their performances largely without technical assistance.

Peer assessment plays an important role in this Unit to reflect the work place realities of working as part of a production team.

### Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is designed to be practical in nature and, as such, the keeping of an accurate production file containing all relevant paperwork (scripts, written assessments) will be an important part of assessment evidence.

Where Outcomes are assessed through verbal performance, candidates and tutors should maintain the audio recordings on an accessible broadcast standard format (wav/mp3).

Course tutors will also need to record achievement of element briefs on an appropriate assessor's checklist.

Peer assessment should be employed for Outcome 3 to reflect industry standard air checks. These peer assessments can then be evaluated by the Unit tutor.

This Unit is likely to be delivered as part of the *HND in Creative Industries: Radio*, there is no set sequence of delivery of Units within the award however if candidates plan to present in other Units of the award they would clearly benefit for the knowledge and skills developed in this Unit so centres should be cognisant of this when scheduling delivery.

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Advanced Radio Presentation

If the Unit is delivered as part of the HND in Creative Industries: Radio it may be possible to integrate delivery and assessment of this Unit with other Units. For example if the candidate presents radio programmes or features as part of other Units (for example *Radio Magazine Production* or *Radio Feature Production*) this could provide evidence towards Outcome 3 of this Unit.

### Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by distance learning. However, it would require planning by the centre to ensure sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence. Arrangements would have to be made to ensure that the assessments for the Outcomes were undertaken using suitable recording equipment or in suitable (professional radio studio) conditions.

### Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

### Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Communication* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components.

### Disabled candidates and/or those 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 whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)

## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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## **General information for candidates**

### **Unit title:**     Advanced Radio Presentation

This Unit is designed to develop your own radio presentation skills and your ability to direct others in radio presentation roles. Radio's intimate relationship with its listeners is largely because it communicates through the human voice. In this Unit you will learn about how to look after the voice, the different ways voice is used on radio and how to apply that knowledge in your own presentation roles.

The Unit has three main areas, each of which has a separate Outcome. In the first Outcome you will learn how to support and care for your voice so you can get the most out of it. In the second Outcome you explore the way radio presentation styles shift in response to factors including programme type (news, music, magazine), target audience and time of day. You will then demonstrate some of those different styles yourself. In addition you will evaluate your own performance and that of others.

You will be observed by your tutor demonstrating and explaining your learning. You will also be required to submit audio recordings and/or written work to show that you have the necessary skills and understanding to pass the Unit. Your tutor will keep records of your work as assessment evidence.