



Higher National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Advanced Radio Presentation (SCQF level 8)

Unit code: H9DV 35

Superclass: KA

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Unit purpose

The purpose of this Unit is to provide the learner 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.

Outcomes

On successful completion of the Unit the learner will be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate practical abilities of vocal mechanics.
- 2 Analyse the factors that influence presentation styles.
- 3 Present and evaluate vocal abilities from a range of platforms

Credit points and level

1 Higher National Unit credit at SCQF level 8: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8)

Recommended entry to the Unit

Access is at the discretion of the centre; however learners 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).

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

Higher National Unit specification: General information (cont)

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

Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the Support Notes for this Unit specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

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.

Equality and inclusion

This Unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards

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Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

Outcome 1

Demonstrate practical abilities of vocal mechanics.

Knowledge and/or Skills

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

Outcome 2

Analyse the factors that influence presentation styles.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Format
- ◆ Target audience
- ◆ Language
- ◆ Station style
- ◆ Programme brief

Outcome 3

Present and evaluate vocal abilities from a range of platforms.

Knowledge and/or Skills

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

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills across all Outcomes by showing that they can:

Outcome 1

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

Outcome 2

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

Outcome 3

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



Higher National Unit Support Notes

Unit title: Advanced Radio Presentation (SCQF level 8)

Unit Support Notes are offered as guidance and 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 learners with the Knowledge and/or Skills to perform radio presentations to broadcast standard.

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

Learners should demonstrate the ability to handle the stresses and demands of radio presentation while operating equipment. Although learners 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 learners 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 approaches to delivery of this Unit

This Unit is a mandatory Unit in the *HND Radio* and involves developing the basic technical skills and knowledge required of broadcasters in a modern multi-skilled radio industry. It is recommended that the Unit should be taught and assessed within the context of that particular award.

The Unit may also be delivered on a stand-alone basis, or as part of a limited package of HN Units from the award, to learners interested in, for example, community or hospital radio. The Unit also gives learners 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.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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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, learners and tutors should maintain the audio recordings on an accessible broadcast standard format (wav/mp3).

Course tutors should record achievement of Outcome 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 Radio*, there is no set sequence of delivery of Units within the award however if learners 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.

If the Unit is delivered as part of the *HND Radio* it may be possible to integrate delivery and assessment of this Unit with other Units. For example if the learner 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.

Guidance on approaches to assessment of this Unit

Evidence can be generated using different types of assessment. The following are suggestions only. There may be other methods that would be more suitable to learners.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of centre-devised assessments would help to ensure that the national standard is being met. Where learners experience a range of assessment methods, this helps them to develop different skills that should be transferable to work or further and higher education.

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.

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 broaden the range of styles analysed. A minimum of three different outlets should be analysed.

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 learners own performance and constructive feedback on others' performance. This could take the form of a short report (either written or oral).

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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Opportunities for 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 social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment.

Opportunities for developing Core and other essential 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.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for learners

Unit title: Advanced Radio Presentation (SCQF level 8)

This section will help you decide whether this is the Unit for you by explaining what the Unit is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the Unit and opportunities for further learning and employment.

This Unit is designed to allow you 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 achieve the Unit. Your tutor will keep records of your work as assessment evidence.