



## National Unit Specification: general information

**UNIT** Media: Radio Journalism (SCQF level 5)

**CODE** F582 11

### SUMMARY

The purpose of this Unit is to introduce candidates to both the theory and practice of radio journalism. Candidates will be introduced to a variety of news sources and will be able to investigate the format, structure, style and tone of news bulletins. This is a practical Unit in which candidates will have the opportunity to plan, script and record a bulletin of their own.

This Unit is suitable for candidates with no prior knowledge or experience of radio journalism.

### OUTCOMES

- 1 Investigate radio news programmes and bulletins.
- 2 Plan a short news bulletin.
- 3 Produce a short news bulletin.

### RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

### CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at Intermediate 2 (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5\*).

*\*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.*

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### Administrative Information

**Superclass:** KD

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## **National Unit Specification: general information (cont)**

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### **CORE SKILLS**

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

There are opportunities for Core Skill development; these are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit Specification.

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards**

### **UNIT        Media: Radio Journalism (SCQF level 5)**

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**

Investigate radio news programmes and bulletins.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify a variety of news sources.
- (b) Describe the structure of radio news programmes and bulletins.
- (c) Describe the effect of target audiences on the style of radio news.
- (d) Investigate the language, sentence structure and tone of radio news bulletins.

#### **OUTCOME 2**

Plan a short news bulletin.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Source and gather newsworthy material.
- (b) Select and edit material for a given target audience.
- (c) Organise and order items according to accepted news structures and importance.

#### **OUTCOME 3**

Produce a short news bulletin.

- (a) Script a short news bulletin for a given audience.
- (b) Record a bulletin that accurately reflects the script.
- (c) Effectively perform post production editing tasks.

### **EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT**

#### **Outcome 1 — Written and/or Oral Evidence**

##### **Candidates are required to:**

- ◆ identify a minimum of three different news sources.
- ◆ describe the structure of radio news programmes and bulletins. This must include:
  - scheduling
  - length of item
  - presenter
  - outside reporters

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)**

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- ◆ describe the effect of target audiences on the style of radio news.
- ◆ investigate the language, sentence structure and tone used in news bulletins:
  - of different lengths
  - from different radio stations
  - with different target audiences
  - with different broadcasting styles
  - with different amounts of reporters

Candidates must investigate a minimum of two different radio news bulletins in total (which cover all of the bullet points above).

This evidence should be gathered at appropriate points in the Unit.

#### **Outcome 2 — Product Evidence**

Candidates are required to produce product evidence in the form of a folio of evidence, which contains:

- ◆ a list of research sources used to gather newsworthy material
- ◆ a record of the candidate's news selection and editing process in the form of a diary or log of actions taken and tasks carried out in preparing the news bulletin
- ◆ a draft version of a short news bulletin which features a minimum of four items which are organised and ordered according to accepted news structures and importance

This evidence should be gathered at appropriate points in the Unit.

#### **Outcome 3 — Product and Performance Evidence**

Candidates are required to produce product evidence in the form of:

- ◆ a finalised short news bulletin script which is correctly formatted and lasts a minimum of three minutes. This must include wording of the news item, timings, links eg to reporters and intros/outros.
- ◆ a recording of the finalised news bulletin made by the candidate without technical assistance from a lecturer/teacher.

Performance evidence is required to show that candidates can effectively perform post production editing tasks on the recording of the final news bulletin. This must include editing:

- ◆ verbal errors
- ◆ link errors

This evidence should be gathered at appropriate points in the Unit.

## National Unit Specification: support notes

### UNIT      Media: Radio Journalism (SCQF level 5)

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 is an optional Unit within the National Certificate Group Award in Media (SCQF level 6), but may also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit is designed to provide candidates with the basic knowledge and skills required to carry out radio journalism activities. Outcome 1 provides the underpinning knowledge of radio news programmes which will enable the candidate to plan and produce a short news bulletin, as required in Outcomes 2 and 3.

It is recommended that candidates are exposed to a wide range of news broadcasts; from different broadcasters, of different lengths and levels of complexity, and aimed at different target audiences. This should be used to develop an understanding of how news programme are written, structured and presented. The concept of target audiences should be explored as well as the fundamental concepts of radio journalism, including: simple sentence structures, familiar language, actuality, and the accepted hierarchy of items within news broadcasting from hard news, through soft news to entertainment, sport and weather.

This Unit is suitable for candidates who have little previous experience of studying media or the creative industries. It could be taught alongside D6V4 11 *Media Studies: Radio* (Intermediate 2) and D6V3 11 *Media Studies: Television* (Intermediate 2). It is aimed at candidates who are wishing to progress through NC to further study or candidates wishing to develop skills in Radio Journalism at this level. The Unit could articulate with F581 12 *Media: Radio Feature Production* and D6V4 12 *Media Studies: Radio* (Higher).

#### **GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT**

It is recommended that the Outcomes are taught sequentially. Candidates should undertake a series of formative tasks in preparation for summative assessment, including listening to several news broadcasts and reading professional or exemplar radio news scripts to gain an understanding of format and style. Class discussion and case studies could be used to develop understanding in the theoretical areas of Outcome 1 such as target listeners and structures of radio bulletins.

Practical activities should form the basis for Outcomes 2 and 3. Where possible, candidates should also be given practical activities which familiarise them with any recording or technical equipment required to record the programme for Outcome 3. Outcomes 2 and 3 could be undertaken on an individual or group basis. In addition, observation of professional practice for Outcomes 2 and 3 would be helpful.

## National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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### OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Candidates will be producing written and/or oral communication as part of the assessment. This offers ideal opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Communication*.

Should candidates choose to work in groups during Outcomes 2 and 3, there will be opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Working with Others*.

### GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

The following instruments of assessment are suggested:

- ◆ Outcome 1 — restricted response questions based on at least two radio news bulletins of different lengths, provided by teacher. These questions should cover the accepted structures and format of news bulletins from headlines to items such as sport and weather as well as vocabulary, register and tone, and sentence structure.
- ◆ Outcome 2 and 3 — practical project where the candidate carries out the production of a news bulletin.

For Outcome 2 and Outcome 3, candidates should compile a short news bulletin for an agreed target audience. This could, for example, be ‘college news’ for a real or hypothetical college radio station, or could be for another radio station agreed between tutor and candidates. Having produced material to satisfy all the Performance Criteria for Outcome 2, candidates could carry out Outcome 3 in small groups, with each group member taking on clearly defined roles; for example, anchor, producer, correspondent/contributor etc, provided that each candidate individually meets the Performance Criteria.

Time should be allowed for any necessary re-assessment.

### 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 communications 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)*.

### 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk)).