



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Acting through Song (SCQF level 6)

CODE F5L0 12

SUMMARY

In this Unit, candidates will develop and apply the skills and knowledge required to act through the medium of song, synthesising acting and singing skills in performance. Candidates will explore and develop a character from the text of contrasting songs both in rehearsal and performance. Candidates will have the opportunity to evaluate their progress and identify strategies for future development.

This Unit has been designed for candidates with an interest and/or experience in acting, musical theatre and dance.

This Unit is an optional Unit of the National Certificate in Acting and Theatre Performance (SCQF level 6). The Unit may also be offered as a free standing Unit, which may be studied as part of a general education, for vocational reasons or as a leisure interest.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Research and interpret the text of contrasting songs.
- 2 Create and portray a character in the rehearsal process and performance of contrasting songs.
- 3 Evaluate character development and final performance

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at SCQF level 6 (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6*).

**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.*

Administrative Information

Superclass: LC

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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.

This Unit provides opportunities for candidate to develop aspects of the Core Skill:

- ◆ Communication

This is highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit Specification.

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

Research and interpret the text of contrasting songs.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Research a character from the text of contrasting songs.
- (b) Interpret and realise the lyricist's and composer's intentions.

OUTCOME 2

Create and portray a character in the rehearsal process and performance of contrasting songs.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Develop a character emotionally, physically and vocally during rehearsal.
- (b) Portray the character effectively during each performance, in terms of mood and atmosphere.
- (c) Sustain the character throughout the performance of each song.

OUTCOME 3

Evaluate character development and final performance.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify strengths and weaknesses in relation to character development.
- (b) Identify strengths and weaknesses in relation to the integration of acting and singing skills in the final performance.
- (c) Identify strategies for future development.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Outcome 1

Written and/or oral evidence is required to demonstrate the candidate's ability to interpret and realise both the composer's and lyricist's intentions for two contrasting songs suitable for theatre performance. This will be evidenced by detailed character studies for each song. This will either be the same character performing two contrasting songs, or two different characters performing two contrasting songs.

Evidence is required to show that the candidate can place the character and chosen songs in context, carry out relevant social and historical research and provide background information in the character study.

The minimum word count is 500 words for each song generated in open-book conditions.

Outcome 2

Performance evidence supplemented by an Assessor Observation Checklist is required. Evidence will be gathered during the live performance(s) of two solo contrasting songs. These songs will be chosen by the candidate, in negotiation with the assessor. The performance(s) may take place in the presence of the assessor only, or in the presence of an audience, at the discretion of the centre.

The total performance time of both songs will be a minimum of 4 minutes and a maximum of 8 minutes. Candidates must portray effectively the interpretation of the chosen material as evidenced in the character studies from Outcome 1.

Candidates may be assessed as they are ready during the delivery of the Unit. Alternatively, the performance of the entire programme may be assessed in a single event towards the end of the Unit.

Outcome 3

Written and/or oral evidence is required to reflect the candidates learning experience throughout Outcomes 1 and 2. Evidence will reflect the candidate's ability to identify strengths and weaknesses in relation to character development, the synthesis of acting and singing skills. Candidates will also identify possible strategies for future development.

The minimum word count is 500 words and this evidence will be gathered in open-book conditions.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Acting through Song (SCQF level 6)

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 in Acting and Theatre Performance (SCQF level 6), but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

The main emphasis of the Unit is the development and application of appropriate acting skills in the rehearsal and performance of song; these skills should include gesture, facial expression, tone, emphasis, intonation and inflection. Movement skills should be incorporated where appropriate. Candidates should use material suitable for theatre performance with the guidance and supervision of the assessor.

This Unit can be delivered in conjunction with the following optional Units in the National Certificate Acting and Theatre Performance (SCQF level 6): *Theatre Performers: Group Singing Skills (SCQF Level 6)* and *Theatre Performers: Solo Singing Skills (SCQF level 6)*, thus facilitating the potential integration of both learning and teaching and assessment strategies.

Candidates will interpret the text of the chosen songs through the interpretation and realisation of the composer and lyricist's intentions and relevant character research. They will develop a character through the rehearsal and performance of contrasting theatre songs. Finally, candidates will identify strengths and weaknesses in character development and in the synthesis of acting and singing skills and suggest strategies for future development.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

It is recommended that this Unit is delivered in small group tutorials, or on an individual basis. Opportunities should be created to enable candidates to perform to members of their class on an ongoing basis, in order to prepare for the final performance.

Opportunities should be created for independent learning and study in terms of time spent in the research, rehearsal, performance and evaluation stages of the Unit.

Where possible, the integration of the song(s) into a theatrical production would enhance the candidate's learning experience.

The emphasis of this Unit is performing and as a potentially valuable learning and teaching tool, audio/video DVD recording could be used for the candidate to reflect on individual rehearsal and performing approaches and for formative assessment strategies.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Candidates will be producing written and/or oral evidence for Outcome 1 and 3 as part of the assessment. This offers ideal opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill *Communication*.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

A suitable method of assessment for Outcome 1 is an extended response of at least 500 words for each song.

The evidence for Outcome 2 should be gathered from the performance of two contrasting songs. The total performance time should be between 4 and 8 minutes, although candidates can opt to perform the songs on two separate occasions. It is suggested that at least one of the songs is recorded.

A suitable method of assessment for Outcome 3 is an extended response of at least 500 words.

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)*.

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