



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Theatre Performers: Solo Singing Skills (SCQF level 6)

CODE F5L9 12

SUMMARY

In this Unit, candidates will develop and apply singing skills to the rehearsal and performance of contrasting solo theatre songs. This Unit has been designed for candidates with an interest in acting, musical theatre and dance. Throughout, this Unit promotes the development of singing techniques appropriate to theatre performance. Creative interpretation of the material for performance is an important aspect of this Unit, both during the rehearsal process and performance events and this will develop the candidate's ability to place the chosen songs in a theatrical setting. This Unit provides candidates with opportunities to evaluate their own performance and identify strategies for future development.

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.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Demonstrate singing techniques for solo theatre performance.
- 2 Rehearse and perform solo songs suitable for theatre performance.
- 3 Evaluate the rehearsal and performance process.

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: LH

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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 opportunity 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 the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

OUTCOME 1

Demonstrate singing techniques for solo theatre performance.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Use warm-up routines appropriate to singing in the context of theatre performance
- (b) Use a series of vocal exercises to develop singing skills.

OUTCOME 2

Rehearse and perform solo songs suitable for theatre performance.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Use a variety of singing techniques in the rehearsal of contrasting solo songs.
- (b) Interpret and realise the composer and lyricist's intentions in the rehearsal of contrasting songs.
- (c) Use a variety of singing techniques in the performance of contrasting solo songs.
- (d) Perform the songs with appropriate interpretation of the chosen material.

OUTCOME 3

Evaluate the rehearsal and performance process.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify own strengths and weaknesses in rehearsal
- (b) Identify own strengths and weaknesses in performance
- (c) Identify own strategies for future development of singing skills

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

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

Outcome 1

Performance evidence, supplemented by an Assessor's Observation Checklist, will be used to assess a series of practical exercises (vocal and physical) which allow candidates to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of warm up and singing techniques. Exercises will include: breathing; intonation; articulation and projection.

Outcome 2

Performance evidence, supplemented by an Assessor's Observation Checklist, will be used to assess the performance of two contrasting solo songs lasting a minimum of 4 minutes and a maximum of 8 minutes in total. Candidates must demonstrate appropriate application of singing technique and interpretation of the chosen material.

Assessment will take place in a live performance of the prepared songs. The performance may take place in the presence of the assessor only or in the presence of an audience, at the discretion of the centre.

Candidates may be assessed as they are ready during the delivery of the Unit. Alternatively, their 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 candidate's ability to: identify strengths and weaknesses in the application of singing technique; the development of character throughout the rehearsal and performance process; the identification of strategies for future development. This evidence will be generated after the final performance in open-book, supervised conditions with a minimum word count of 500 words.

National Unit Specification: support notes

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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 an optional Unit in 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.

The main emphasis of the Unit should be on the candidate's development and application of appropriate singing skills to the rehearsal and performance process and on the candidate's ability to place the chosen songs in a theatrical setting. Candidates should therefore be directed to use material suitable for theatre performance. This could include: character songs, musical theatre, cabaret, popular or contemporary. Folk, blues, rock and country etc could also be used but within some form of theatrical setting.

The songs should be chosen in consultation with the tutor.

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

Outcome 1

This Outcome is designed to allow candidates to explore and demonstrate the requirements for safe and effective singing technique, including warm-up.

Outcome 2

This Outcome is designed to allow candidates to rehearse and perform contrasting theatre songs, demonstrating singing techniques and creative interpretation of the chosen material.

Outcome 3

This Outcome is designed to allow candidates to identify strengths and weaknesses in the development of singing skills throughout the rehearsal and performance process and to identify strategies for future development.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

This Unit is designed for theatre performers and as such should address specific singing techniques appropriate for this medium; integration of the song(s) into a theatrical production would enhance the learning experience.

Since the emphasis of Unit is performing, opportunities should be created to enable candidates to perform to members of their class on an ongoing basis. As a potentially valuable learning and teaching tool, audio/video recording could be used for the candidate to reflect on individual rehearsal and performing approaches and for formative assessment strategies.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILLS

Candidates will be producing written and/or oral evidence for Outcome 3 as part of the assessment, which requires them to evaluate their own performance in the rehearsal and performance process. This offers ideal opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill *Communication*.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

An awareness of assessment requirements and arrangements at an early stage in the delivery of the Unit will lend purpose to candidates' learning.

Centres will know from their ongoing preparation of candidates, and from formative assessment of work in progress, when candidates are confident and ready for formal Unit assessment of Outcomes 2 and 3; appropriate timing will help to maintain candidate confidence.

Assessment of performance, while involving some sense of occasion and communication with an audience (perhaps only the assessor), should be conducted in a candidate-friendly and encouraging atmosphere.

A suitable instrument of assessment for Outcome 1 is a practical exercise.

A suitable instrument of assessment for Outcome 2 is a practical exercise.

A suitable instrument of assessment for Outcome 3 could be a written and/or oral report with suggested minimum word count of 500 words.

Time should be allowed for any necessary re-assessment.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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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