



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Theatre Performance (SCQF level 6)

CODE F5LA 12

SUMMARY

This Unit is designed to allow candidates to apply theatre skills to a performance and gives a wide range of options in the choice of types of production, in terms of size and nature. Candidates will carry out research on a selected production and demonstrate a professional approach to the rehearsal process and performance. This Unit provides candidates with opportunities to evaluate their own performance and identify strategies for future development.

This performance based Unit has been designed for candidates with an interest in acting, musical theatre and dance; previous experience in one or more of these areas would be beneficial.

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 Carry out research relevant to a selected production.
- 2 Demonstrate a professional approach to the rehearsal process.
- 3 Demonstrate effective performance skills in the final production.
- 4 Evaluate the rehearsal process to final performance.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

Administrative Information

Superclass: LC

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National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

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CREDIT VALUE

2 credits at SCQF level 6 (12 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.*

CORE SKILLS

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

This Unit provides opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of the following Core Skills:

- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Working with Others

These opportunities are 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

Carry out research relevant to a selected production.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Research the cultural and historical context of the production.
- (b) Research the social context of the production.

OUTCOME 2

Demonstrate a professional approach to the rehearsal process.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Demonstrate adherence to rehearsal practice, rehearsal etiquette and company discipline throughout the rehearsal process.
- (b) Develop characterisation in accordance with the agreed interpretation.
- (c) Co-operate with other members of the production team throughout the rehearsal process.

OUTCOME 3

Demonstrate performance skills in the final production.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Demonstrate intellectual, emotional, vocal and physical characteristics for the agreed interpretation of the character/role.
- (b) Effectively portray and sustain the character/role in performance.

OUTCOME 4

Evaluate the rehearsal process to final performance.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify own strengths and areas for development in rehearsal.
- (b) Identify own strengths and areas for development in performance.
- (c) Identify own 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 all Outcomes and Performance Criteria have been achieved.

Outcome 1

Written and/or oral evidence and performance evidence, supplemented by an Assessor Observation Checklist is required.

Candidates must produce written and/or oral evidence detailing the research undertaken for the chosen production. The minimum word count is 500 words and this evidence will be generated in open-book conditions.

Evidence must be gathered near the beginning of the delivery of the Unit.

Outcome 2

Performance evidence supplemented by an Assessor Observation Checklist is required.

Candidates must demonstrate a professional approach to the rehearsal process throughout. This will include attendance and punctuality, participation in vocal and physical warm-up, taking director's notes and recording moves, learning lines and moves/movement/songs/choreography by the required deadline and responding positively to direction and feedback.

Evidence will be gathered on an on-going basis at appropriate points during the delivery of the Unit.

Outcome 3

Performance evidence supplemented by an Assessor Observation Checklist is required.

Evidence will be gathered on one assessment occasion during a live performance of the production, which must last at least 30 minutes. Each candidate's performance time must be sufficient to demonstrate development of character/role and must be a minimum of 10 minutes in duration. There must be interaction between characters, so a monologue is not sufficient in itself.

Outcome 4

Written and/or oral evidence is required to demonstrate the candidate's ability to demonstrate an awareness of their own strengths and weaknesses and suggest strategies for future development.

Evidence will be generated in controlled conditions on one occasion after the final performance. The minimum word count is 500 words.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Theatre Performance (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 80 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 may also be taken as a free standing Unit. This Unit can be delivered in conjunction with *Drama: Theatre Skills in Performance (SCQF level 6)* and is designed to allow candidates further exploration of their performance skills. It also gives centres a wide range of options in choosing their performance style in terms of size and nature. Types of production may include: text based, street theatre, dance, musical theatre, cabaret, devised, physical theatre, touring, community theatre and site specific.

Outcomes 1 and 2

The main emphasis of these Outcomes is to encourage candidates to approach the rehearsal process in a professional manner. The development of research materials throughout the rehearsal period allows candidates to merge the director's interpretation with their own findings and build a clearer understanding of their character. The evidence should include materials which are not merely lifted from the internet or publications, but should reflect the candidate's own thought processes and growth.

Research may include improvisation to explore a theme or highlight character motivation.

Outcome 3

The purpose of this Outcome is to allow candidates the opportunity to apply the skills gained in Outcome 2. Candidates should demonstrate effective application of vocal, physical, intellectual, creative, imaginative, communication and collaborative skills.

Vocally: this should include, where appropriate: projection, accent work, vocal characterisation, articulation, diction, pace, pitch, tempo, breathing, tone, intonation, modulation, rhythm.

Physically: this should include, where appropriate: spatial awareness, awareness of and relationship with other performers, awareness of and relationship with environment, expression, gesture, action, co-ordination, dynamics, use of props/costumes.

Emotionally: this should include, where appropriate: focus, concentration, energy, adaptability, control, action and reaction, commitment, emotional understanding, emotional range, coherence and consistency of role.

The performance should take place in the presence of an appropriate audience, at the discretion of the centre.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcome 4

This Outcome allows candidates to review their own experience of participation in a theatre production. Candidates should review and evaluate the rehearsal and performance process in order to identify future strategies for development.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

The use of drama games, improvisation, discussion and positive feedback should be used from an early stage to encourage confidence and awareness within the candidates.

Candidates should be encouraged to undertake practical research such as observation and interviews as well as internet and publications research. Research into the social, cultural and/or historical context of the role and/or performance material (where relevant) should be evident. This research should be used to build a better understanding of their characters purpose. Subsequently, Outcomes 1 and 2 may be delivered concurrently, which could allow a clear connection between character building and the need for effective research.

Candidates should be allowed to research in their own time, but these findings could be shared with the group at regular intervals throughout the rehearsal period.

Rehearsal discipline from the outset is vital in maintaining company development. Candidates may be encouraged to rehearse privately and should be encouraged to offer suggestions and ideas where appropriate. Encouragement, discussion and positive feedback amongst the candidates is an important aspect of building company trust.

Candidates should be encouraged to use their observation skills in their approach, which is a vital aspect of character development.

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 SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Candidates will be producing written and/or oral evidence in the form of production research for Outcome 1 and an evaluation for Outcome 4, which offers ideal opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill *Communication*.

Candidates will also have the opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skill *Working with Others*, as they will be working closely with fellow performers and the Director during the rehearsal process and performance during the delivery of Outcomes 2 and 3.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

A suitable instrument of assessment for Outcome 1 is a written and/or oral assignment.

A suitable instrument of assessment for Outcomes 2 and 3 is a practical exercise.

A suitable instrument of assessment for Outcome 4 is a written and/or oral report with a minimum of 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