



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Performing Arts Industry: An Introduction (SCQF level 6)

CODE F5TG 12

SUMMARY

The purpose of this Unit is to provide candidates with an overview of the performing arts industry. This will include a range of organisations, companies and venues which contribute to both the commercial and public sectors. Candidates will have the opportunity to select from a range of organisations, companies and venues, to investigate and research this and present these research findings.

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.

The Unit is suitable for candidates undertaking a programme of study in Drama and for those who have an interest in the performing arts industry.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Describe the sectors of the performing arts industry.
- 2 Describe a range of current organisations, venues and events within the performing arts industry.
- 3 Select and investigate one organisation, venue or event and present your research findings.

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 following Core Skills:

- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Information and Communication Technology

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 SQA.

OUTCOME 1

Describe the sectors of the performing arts industry.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe the commercial performing arts sector.
- (b) Describe the publicly-funded performing arts sector.

OUTCOME 2

Describe a range of current organisations, venues and events within the performing arts industry.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Select and describe two performing arts organisations.
- (b) Select and describe two performing arts venues.
- (c) Select and describe two performing arts events.

OUTCOME 3

Select and investigate one organisation, venue or event and present your research findings.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Research the artistic policy of the selected organisation, venue or event.
- (b) Prepare and present research findings.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

Written and/or oral evidence for all Outcomes is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Outcome 1

Written and/or oral evidence is required. This will be generated in open-book conditions at appropriate points in the delivery of the Unit. Evidence must clearly demonstrate an awareness and overview of the two broad sectors of the performing arts industry.

Each of the two parts of this evidence must have a minimum word count of 500 words.

Outcome 2

Written and/or oral evidence will be gathered in open-book conditions at appropriate points in the delivery of the Unit. This evidence will show appropriate selection and descriptions of two contrasting companies, two contrasting venues and two contrasting events within the performing arts sector. This evidence must include information on the following:

- ◆ Background
- ◆ Location
- ◆ Size
- ◆ Target market
- ◆ General artistic policy

The minimum word count is 1,000 words.

Outcome 3

Written and/or oral evidence will be gathered in open-book conditions at appropriate points in the Unit. This evidence will show clear selection and detailed investigation of the artistic policy of one performing arts company, venue or event. It will include information on history, culture, ethos, structure and working practices.

For Outcome 3, candidates will select one organisation, venue or event from the six which they have identified in Outcome 2.

The minimum word count is 1,200 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 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.

The purpose of this Unit is to provide candidates with an overview of the performing arts industry and the range of organisations which contribute to the commercial and publicly-funded sectors. Important aspects of this Unit are the ability of the candidate, in negotiation with the assessor, to make informed selections, carry out relevant individual research, prepare and organise these research findings and present them.

The delivery of this Unit may be approached through tutor-led sessions in the initial stages and then an increased onus on the candidate to carry out individual research and investigation.

A potential range of aspects for consideration in Outcome 1 are as follows:

(a) Commercial performing arts and entertainment sector in music, dance and drama:

- ◆ cabaret
- ◆ theatre - including West End and touring
- ◆ musicals
- ◆ holiday camp entertainment
- ◆ cruise ships entertainment
- ◆ theme park entertainment
- ◆ live music performance
- ◆ comedy
- ◆ festivals

(b) Publicly-funded performing arts sector in music, dance and drama:

- ◆ arts centres
- ◆ repertoire theatre and or receiving centres
- ◆ opera
- ◆ orchestras
- ◆ theatre
- ◆ ballet
- ◆ festivals

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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A potential range of specific examples for consideration for Outcome 2 is as follows:

(a) Range of performing arts organisations:

- ◆ large, medium and small scale theatre/dance/mime/companies
- ◆ orchestras
- ◆ opera
- ◆ ballet
- ◆ arts development agencies

(b) Range of performing arts venues:

- ◆ theatres
- ◆ live performance venues
- ◆ multi purpose arts venues
- ◆ arts centres

(c) Range of live performance events:

- ◆ festivals
- ◆ performance or participatory arts projects

For Outcome 3, candidates should undertake more detailed investigation into the artistic policy of the chosen company, venue or event showing insight when gathering evidence for this Outcome.

The following list is not exhaustive, but is a guide to what this evidence may include:

- ◆ diversity/joint ventures
- ◆ encouragement of new work
- ◆ outreach/education programme
- ◆ employment opportunities
- ◆ future developments

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Throughout this Unit, it would be useful for candidates to contact and/or visit venues and access appropriate publications issued by professional arts related organisations and government agencies to allow them to supplement their research.

The following is a list of suggested sources for evidence for all Outcomes:

- ◆ Internet research, trade journals/publications, case studies, visits to live performance venues, interviews with practitioners within the industry, talks from relevant professionals.

Use of visual materials eg leaflets, posters, programmes and photographs could be included in evidence for all Outcomes. Outcome 3 could be presented as an oral presentation to be shared with the class group. It would enhance the learning experience if each candidate within the class/group selected a different aspect of the performing arts industry for Outcome 3.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The Unit offers opportunities for the development of the Core Skill *Communication*, both written and oral. The development of *Information and Communication Technology* could be enhanced through internet research, the production of a folio or the preparation of a presentation.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

A suitable instrument of assessment for Outcome 1 could be a written assignment of approx 1000 words in total; 500 words to each of the sectors of the performing arts industry.

A suitable instrument of assessment for Outcome 2 could be a folio or presentation.

A suitable instrument of assessment for Outcome 3 is an assignment. Candidates could use a variety of means to deliver this.

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