



Scottish Qualifications Authority (trading as SQA)

Qualification Statement of Purpose

SQA Level 2 Certificate in Theatre Support: Costume and Wardrobe (QCF) 60151249

Type of qualification QCF (Qualifications and Credit Framework)

Credit 23

Guided Learning Hours 161-183

Overview of the Qualification

The Level 2 Certificate in Theatre Support: Costume and Wardrobe is a competence based qualification, the primary purpose of which is to confirm that you have developed the knowledge and skills required to enter or progress into a variety of junior roles in theatre support specific to costume and wardrobe.

The qualification is intended for those of you who wish to gain knowledge and acquire the skills for working backstage in technical theatre as it is based on providing support to those in more senior roles on the day-to-day operations of a theatre costume and wardrobe department.

Throughout the qualification, you be expected to apply your knowledge in a considerable range of work activities. You will acquire knowledge and skills to enable you to assist in assembling, making and altering clothes for actors and performers, helping them to dress, assisting cutters with pattern developments, locating and storing costumes and accessories, assisting with cleaning, washing and ironing of costumes, keeping a log and record of accessories and helping to source hired costumes, materials and equipment.

As this is a competence based qualification, it will mainly be achieved on-the-job and can be assessed in a variety of ways such as:

- observations from an assessor who watches you carry out your work and checks you can do the work-based tasks effectively;
- witness testimonies and supporting evidence from your supervisor in the workplace
- professional discussions or question and answer sessions.

Your assessor will work with you to confirm that you have met the requirements set out in this qualification and are

therefore competent in your role.

The minimum total number of credits you will need to achieve to be awarded this qualification is 23.

There are five mandatory units worth 15 credits:

- *Give customers a positive impression of yourself and your organisation* – this unit will allow you to develop sound customer service and communication skills giving a positive impression of yourself and your organisation to customers.
- *Awareness of health and safety in the creative and cultural sector* – this unit will provide you with an awareness of how to comply with all relevant health and safety regulations, safe working practices and procedures within the theatre.
- *Contribute to good working relationships* – this unit will help you to develop the communication skills and techniques necessary to ensure effective working relationships with colleagues. You will be able to resolve any conflicts, clarify and agree working arrangements with colleagues.
- *Cleaning up your own work area* – this unit requires you to understand how to use, then store or destroy a range of cleaning materials safely and appropriately in accordance with your organisation's policies and procedures.
- *Keeping up to date with technical and production developments in the live arts* – this unit enables you to research and gather information on technical and production developments in the live arts, you will analyse this information in order to inform your work in the theatre with regards to costume and wardrobe.

You will then need to achieve a minimum of 8 credits from a wide range of optional units. These units include topics such as: dressing performers; assist the organisation of the wardrobe; sourcing costumes, materials and equipment; carry out maintenance to costumes and equipment; and carry out alterations to costumes.

Who is the qualification for?

The qualification is ideal for those of you who:

- are seeking to gain a general understanding and experience in a theatre environment and to identify the type of costume and wardrobe job role you may be interested in
- already have a high level of academic attainment but now need to develop the skills and knowledge required by the industry to undertake a junior role in this sector
- are already working or volunteering in junior roles within theatre operations but who wish to gain recognition for the skills and knowledge previously achieved

- are well organised, have an eye for detail, possess basic practical skills such as hand or machine sewing, and enjoy the challenge that a career in theatrical costume and wardrobe entails
- wish to transfer from another career

Age range

There are no formal age restrictions for this qualification.

Entry requirements

No prior knowledge, skills or qualifications are required for this qualification.

**Apprenticeships/
Other qualifications**

Although this qualification can form part of a Level 2 Apprenticeship framework in Costume and Wardrobe, many learners will access this qualification outside of an apprenticeship, typically:

- those of you who wish to gain a general understanding of theatre costume and wardrobe and use this qualification as entry to the industry
- those of you who are older and/or existing members of staff, who are using this qualification to gain recognition and certification for existing practice
- as the basis for continuing professional development, either by gaining a more senior position or by progressing onto the Level 3 Certificate in Theatre Operations: Costume and Wardrobe

Other qualifications specific to the Costume and Wardrobe environment are:

- the Level 3 Certificate in Theatre Operations: Costume and Wardrobe which is based on the day to day operations of working backstage/ off stage in a costume and wardrobe department of a theatre, developing the knowledge and skills required to undertake senior roles within this industry

What can the qualification lead to?

This qualification provides you with technical and operational knowledge and skills which can lead to a number of junior job roles within theatre support costume and wardrobe, such as:

- Costume/ Wardrobe Assistant – helping to source, store and maintain the hired and bespoke costumes used in theatre productions, keeping logs of all hired costumes, accessories, materials and equipment, gathering all garments at the end of the show for laundering and dry-cleaning and preparing the wardrobe racks for the next show.
- Dresser – responsible for a list of cast members to dress and change, studying the script and scenes to work out precise routines for transitioning from one look to the next, organising costume racks, liaising with tailors, dressmakers and pattern cutters to identify any alterations or emergency repairs

required.

- Tailor/ Dressmaker – You will create made to measure costumes and clothing, give advice on fabric and pattern combinations, dyeing, tacking, fitting and adjusting costumes on the night making emergency alterations and repairs as required.
- Wigs Assistant – You will assist with wig blocking/ dressing and washing, applying make-up, prepare work stations for performers, assist with wig changes and preparing hair during performances.

Any other relevant information

The qualification is based on the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for theatre support which define what employees must be able to do, how well, and in what circumstances, to show they are competent in their workplace and able to carry out activities in relation to their specific job role. The NOS are developed by the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the Creative and Cultural industries to ensure they are 'fit for purpose' to meet the needs of employers.

The qualification has been designed by the SSC who work with employer representatives in theatres and stage productions as well as educationalists, professional bodies and trade unions to ensure that successful learners meet the industry's specific needs and are "job ready".

This qualification is also recognised and supported by professional bodies within the Theatre Support sector.

The Performing Arts industry is growing rapidly, it has been estimated that 30,000 skilled workers will be required in off stage/back stage roles by 2017 of which there is a forecast shortage of 6,000. Costume and Wardrobe is part of the wider creative and cultural sector which needs to attract new talent into the industry to replace those who leave/ retire in order to keep up with this growing industry.

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