



Scottish Qualifications Authority (trading as SQA)

Qualification Statement of Purpose

SQA Level 3 Certificate in Theatre Operations: Costume and Wardrobe (QCF) 60151250

Type of qualification QCF (Qualifications and Credit Framework)

Credit 26

Guided Learning Hours 157-203

Overview of the Qualification The Level 3 Certificate in Theatre Operations: 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 carry out job roles in theatre operations specific to costume and wardrobe.

The qualification is ideal for those of you who may already work or volunteer in backstage operations in the technical theatre industry as it is based on the operational day-to-day demands of working in the costume and wardrobe department of a theatre. Throughout the qualification, you will be expected to apply your knowledge in a considerable range of work activities, performed in a variety of contexts, most of which are complex and non-routine. You are also likely to have a high level of responsibility and autonomy in your role and the supervision or guidance of others is often required.

Throughout the qualification you will acquire the knowledge and skills to enable you to work backstage in a theatre setting and as part of the costume and wardrobe team, you will oversee a production wardrobe from the initial idea, through development, to the final costume production.

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 or 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 26.

There are two mandatory units worth 8 credits which are:

- *Develop effective working relationships with colleagues in a theatre setting:* this Unit will equip you with a variety of techniques and approaches for ensuring that you can develop good working relationships with colleagues and customers within a theatre setting
- *Ensure responsibility for actions to reduce risks to health and safety:* this Unit will help you, within your own level of responsibility, to identify and deal with any risks/hazards that might occur, whilst also being aware of all relevant policies and processes with regards to health and safety

You will then need to achieve a minimum of 18 credits from a range of optional units. These units include topics such as: researching historical references for costume development; planning costume requirements for a production; drafting patterns for costumes; making and finishing costumes; manage the dressing of performers; carry out fittings and alterations to costumes and accessories; manage the maintenance of costumes and equipment; and sourcing a range of costumes, materials and equipment.

Who is the qualification for?

The qualification is ideal for those of you who:

- have completed a level 2 Certificate in Theatre Support: Costume and Wardrobe and now want to progress your career further within the industry
- are already working or volunteering in junior roles within theatre operations but who wish to gain recognition for the skills and knowledge previously achieved
- have experience of providing support backstage in a theatre/ live event/ production stage setting 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

You don't need to have any specific prior learning requirements to take this qualification, but you may find it helpful if you've already completed a level 2 qualification.

Apprenticeships/ Other qualifications

Although this qualification can form part of a Level 3 Apprenticeship framework in Costume and Wardrobe, many learners will access this qualification outside of an apprenticeship, typically:

- 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
- those of you who want to achieve this qualification as the basis for continuing professional development, either by gaining a more senior position or by progressing onto a Level 4 or Level 5 qualification within, for example, Costume Construction, Theatre Arts Costume Design, or onto an Honours Degree such as Entrepreneurship for the Creative and Cultural Industries

Other qualifications specific to the Costume and Wardrobe environment are:

- Level 2 Certificate in Theatre Support: Costume and Wardrobe which is for learners who wish to gain a general grounding in theatre costume and wardrobe or to develop the knowledge and skills required to undertake junior roles within the industry.

What can the qualification lead to?

This qualification provides you with the business, entrepreneurial, technical and specialist knowledge and skills that can lead to a number of job roles in theatre operations costume and wardrobe such as:

- Costume Designer and Maker – You will research the type of clothes & accessories worn for a production, attend meetings with the artistic director, producer, set designer & technical and lighting departments, assist with presentation of design ideas to the production team, brief and monitor the team, support the making and finishing of costumes.
- Costumier/ Wardrobe Deputy – You will create costume ideas to fit the production's design concept and budget, research suitable styles, fabrics and designs, hire costumes, manage the wardrobe budget, manage and oversee the work of the entertainment dressers and wardrobe assistants to ensure the design concept is the same between each performance.
- Cutter – you will act as a link between the design and manufacturing stages in costume production. You will create pattern templates from working drawings produced by a costume designer, and liaise with tailors/ dressmakers to create costumes and samples.

Any other relevant information

The qualification is based on the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for theatre operations 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 from the theatre operations sector 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 operations 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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