



National 4
Course
Specification



National 4 Drama Course Specification (C721 74)

Valid from August 2013

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Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Course Specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

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Course outline

Course title: National 4 Drama
SCQF: level 4 (24 SCQF credit points)
Course code: C721 74

Mandatory Units

H231 74 Drama Skills (National 4) 9 SCQF credit points

Or

H6NN 74 Drama Skills with a Scottish Context (National 4)* 9 SCQF credit points

and

H232 74 Drama: Production Skills (National 4) 9 SCQF credit points

and

Added Value Unit

H233 74 Drama: Performance (National 4) 6 SCQF credit points

This Course includes six SCQF credit points for the assessment of added value in the Added Value Unit. Further information on this Unit is provided in the Assessment section.

*Scottish Studies Award contributing Unit: This Course Specification should be read in conjunction with the relevant Scottish Studies Unit Specification on the [Scottish Studies Award web page](#).

Recommended entry

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills and knowledge required by the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ National 3 Drama Course or relevant component Units

In terms of prior learning and experience, relevant experiences and outcomes may also provide an appropriate basis for doing this Course. Further information on relevant experiences and outcomes is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Progression

This Course or its Units may provide progression to:

- ◆ other qualifications in Drama or related areas
- ◆ further study, employment and/or training

Further details are provided in the Rationale section.

Equality and inclusion

This Course Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. For further information, please refer to the *Course Support Notes*.

Rationale

All new and revised National Courses reflect Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles. They offer flexibility, provide more time for learning, more focus on skills and applying learning, and scope for personalisation and choice.

In this Course, and its component Units, there will be an emphasis on skills development and the application of those skills. Assessment approaches will be proportionate, fit for purpose and will promote best practice, enabling learners to achieve the highest standards they can.

This Course provides learners with opportunities to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities, as well as skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

All Courses provide opportunities for learners to develop breadth, challenge and application, but the focus and balance of the assessment will be appropriate for the subject area.

Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles

This Course allows learners to develop practical skills creating and presenting drama. Learners will also develop drama production skills.

In this Course, learners are encouraged to exercise imagination and creativity. They will develop important skills, attitudes and attributes of the four capacities, including creativity and adaptability, enthusiasm, a willingness to learn and confidence.

This Course encourages learners to be creative and to express themselves in different ways. Learning through drama helps learners to appreciate cultural values, identities and ideas.

This Course also provides scope for personalisation and choice.

Purpose and aims of the Course

National 4 Drama provides opportunities for learners to develop skills creating and presenting drama. This Course focuses on the development and use of drama skills and production skills to present drama.

This Course is practical and experiential.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ generate and communicate thoughts and ideas when creating drama
- ◆ develop a knowledge of social and cultural influences on drama
- ◆ develop skills in presenting drama
- ◆ develop production skills in presenting drama
- ◆ use drama skills in a drama performance

- ◆ explore form, structure, genre and style

As learners develop practical skills creating and presenting drama, they will also develop an understanding of cultural and social influences on drama. Learners will explore and reflect on how the use of self-expression, language and movement can develop their ideas for drama. Learners will develop thinking skills as they explore, develop and use drama skills.

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course is a broad-based qualification. It is suitable for learners with a general interest in the subject or for those wishing to progress to further levels of study.

Learners will explore, develop and communicate thoughts and ideas in drama through creating, presenting and using production skills. They will explore voice, movement and characterisation skills. Learners will respond to stimuli and communicate their ideas with others.

Learners will also be encouraged to use their drama skills and production skills to present drama to communicate meaning to an audience.

The learning experiences in the Course are flexible and adaptable, with opportunities for personalisation and choice. This makes the qualification highly accessible as it can be contextualised to suit a diverse range of learners' needs and aspirations. The Course is largely learner-centred with practical and experiential learning opportunities.

On completing the Course, learners will be able to work collaboratively, communicate thoughts and ideas, create and present drama, use production skills when presenting to communicate meaning to an audience, show knowledge of social and cultural influences on drama, and reflect on their own work and that of others.

Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

The Course uses an integrated approach to learning which develops practical skills as well as knowledge of drama. As learners develop their creating skills, they will also learn how to use drama skills. They will experiment with presenting through portrayal of character and by using production skills.

Through creating and presenting drama, reflection skills will also be developed as learners reflect on their own skills and progress, and that of other learners. Learners will also consider the cultural values, identities and ideas which influence drama.

Units are statements of standards for assessment and not programmes of learning and teaching. They can be delivered in a number of ways.

The Course consists of three mandatory Units, including the Added Value Unit.

Each of the component Units of the Course is designed to provide progression to the corresponding Units at National 5.

Drama Skills (National 4)

In this Unit, learners will explore and develop drama skills and ways of communicating thoughts and ideas to an audience. They will learn how to respond to stimuli. They will also learn how to develop portrayal of character and will develop knowledge of form, structure, genre and style when creating and presenting drama.

Learners will develop knowledge of social and cultural influences on drama. They will also learn how to reflect on their own progress and that of other learners.

Drama: Production Skills (National 4)

In this Unit, learners will explore and develop production skills. They will use these skills to enhance drama when presenting. Learners will use problem-solving skills in order to generate ideas for presenting drama.

Added Value Unit: Drama: Performance (National 4)

This Unit adds value by introducing challenge and application.

Learners will draw on and extend their knowledge and apply their production skills in a drama performance. The Unit will focus on the process and product of learning. The performance will be sufficiently open and flexible to allow for personalisation and choice.

Conditions of award

To achieve the National 4 Drama Course, learners must pass all of the required Units, including the Added Value Unit. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section.

National 4 Courses are not graded.

Skills, knowledge and understanding

Full skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course are given in the *Added Value Unit Specification*. A broad overview of the mandatory subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be assessed in the Course is given in this section. This covers:

- ◆ responding to stimuli when creating drama
- ◆ working with others to share and use drama ideas
- ◆ developing knowledge of social and cultural influences when creating drama
- ◆ exploring drama form, structure, genre and style
- ◆ gaining knowledge of production skills
- ◆ using drama and production skills when presenting
- ◆ using reflective skills within the creative process

Skills, knowledge and understanding to be included in the Course will be appropriate to the SCQF level of the Course. The SCQF level descriptors give further information on characteristics and expected performance at each SCQF level (www.sqa.org.uk/scqf).

Assessment

Further information about assessment for the Course is included in the *Course Support Notes* and the *Added Value Unit Specification*.

Unit assessment

All Units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in the *Unit Specification*.

They can be assessed on an individual Unit basis or by using other approaches which combine the assessment for more than one Unit.

They will be assessed on a pass/fail basis within centres. SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

The assessment of the Units in this Course will be as follows:

Drama Skills (National 4)

In this Unit, learners will provide evidence to demonstrate knowledge of drama skills when they create drama. Learners will use drama skills when they create and present drama. Learners will reflect on their own work and that of other learners.

Drama: Production Skills (National 4)

In this Unit, learners will provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and use production skills. They will use these production skills to enhance drama when presenting. Learners will reflect on their own work and that of other learners.

Added Value Unit

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of [added value](#).¹ At National 4, added value will be assessed in an Added Value Unit. The Added Value Unit will address the key purposes and aims of the Course as defined in the Course Rationale. It will do this by addressing one or more of breadth, challenge or application.

In the National 4 Drama Course, the Added Value Unit will focus on:

- ◆ challenge
- ◆ application

The learner will draw on, extend and apply the skills they have learned during the Course. This will be assessed through a drama performance. The performance will involve creating and presenting a drama. The performance will be sufficiently open and flexible to allow for personalisation and choice.

¹ Definitions can be found here: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58409.html>

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

It is expected that learners will also develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Course are based on SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Course where there are appropriate opportunities.

1 Literacy

1.3 Listening and talking

3 Health and wellbeing

3.1 Personal learning

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

4.3 Working with others

5 Thinking skills

5.2 Understanding

5.5 Creating

Amplification of these is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills will be appropriate to the level of the Course. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work for the Course is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Administrative information

Published: September 2014 (version 1.2)

History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
	1.1	Wording aligned with National 3 and National 5.	Qualifications Development Manager	June 2013
	1.2	Scottish Studies Award Unit contributing information added. No other changes made to document content.	Qualifications Manager	September 2014

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