



Higher  
Course  
Specification



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# Higher Drama Course Specification (C721 76)

**Valid from August 2014**

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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:** Higher Drama

**SCQF:** level 6 (24 SCQF credit points)

**Course code:** C721 76

### Mandatory Units

**H231 76 Drama Skills (Higher) 9 SCQF credit points**

Or

**H6NN 76 Drama Skills with a Scottish Context (Higher) 9 SCQF credit points**

and

**H232 76 Drama: Production Skills (Higher) 9 SCQF credit points**

and

**Course assessment 6 SCQF credit points**

This Course includes six SCQF credit points to allow additional time for preparation for Course assessment. The Course assessment covers the added value of the Course. Further information on the Course assessment 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, knowledge and understanding required by the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ National 5 Drama Course or relevant component Units

### 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**

Higher Drama provides opportunities for learners to develop skills creating and presenting drama. The Course focuses on the development and use of complex drama and production skills.

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 and understanding of the social and cultural influences on drama
- ◆ develop complex skills in presenting and analysing drama
- ◆ develop knowledge and understanding of complex production skills when presenting drama

- ◆ explore form, structure, genre and style

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

The Course provides opportunities for vertical and lateral progression to National Courses and to other SQA qualifications in drama and related fields.

## **Information about typical learners who might do the Course**

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

Learners will use their drama skills and apply their production skills to present drama to communicate meaning to an audience.

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

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, develop ideas to create and present drama apply complex production skills to communicate meaning to an audience, show a knowledge and understanding of social and cultural influences on drama, and evaluate 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 and understanding of drama. As learners develop their creating skills, they will also learn how to apply complex drama skills. They will experiment with presenting through portrayal of character and by applying complex production skills.

Through creating and presenting drama, evaluation skills will also be developed as learners evaluate 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 two mandatory Units and the Course assessment.

Each of the component Units of the Course is designed to provide progression to the corresponding Unit at Advanced Higher.

### Drama Skills (Higher)

In this Unit, learners will apply complex drama skills and develop ways of communicating thoughts and ideas to an audience. They will learn how to respond to stimuli, including text. They will also learn how to portray character in a range of ways and explore form, structure, genre and style when creating and presenting drama.

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

### Drama: Production Skills (Higher)

In this Unit, learners will explore and apply complex production skills. Learners will learn how to respond to stimuli, including text, to communicate ideas for a production. They will develop ideas and production skills within their chosen production roles.

## Conditions of award

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all of the Units as well as the Course assessment. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

## Skills, knowledge and understanding

Further information on the assessment of the skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course is given in the *Course Assessment 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, including text, when creating drama
- ◆ working with others to share and use drama ideas
- ◆ developing knowledge and understanding of social and cultural influences when creating drama
- ◆ exploring drama form, structure, genre and style
- ◆ gaining knowledge and understanding of complex production skills
- ◆ applying complex drama and production skills when presenting
- ◆ applying evaluative 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/scqf)).

## Assessment

Information about assessment for the Course is included in the *Course Assessment Specification*, which will provides full details including advice on how a learner's overall attainment for the Course will be determined.

### Unit assessment

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

They can be assessed on a Unit-by-Unit basis or by combined assessment.

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

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

#### **Drama Skills (Higher)**

In this Unit, learners will apply complex drama skills and develop ways of communicating thoughts and ideas to an audience. They will learn how to respond to stimuli, including text. They will also learn how to portray character in a range of ways and explore form, structure, genre and style when creating and presenting drama.

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

#### **Drama: Production Skills (Higher)**

In this Unit, learners will explore and apply complex production skills. Learners will learn how to respond to stimuli, including text, to communicate ideas for a production. They will develop ideas and production skills within their chosen production roles.

### Course assessment

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of [added value](#).<sup>1</sup> At National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, the added value will be assessed in the Course assessment. The added value for the Course must 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 Higher Drama Course, added value will focus on:

- ◆ challenge
- ◆ application

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<sup>1</sup> Definitions can be found here: [www.sqa.org.uk/jargonbuster](http://www.sqa.org.uk/jargonbuster)



Learners will draw on, extend and apply the skills they have learned during the Course. This will be assessed through a [performance](#)<sup>2</sup> and a [question paper](#).<sup>3</sup> The performance will involve creating and presenting a drama. The question paper will require demonstration of a depth of knowledge and understanding from the Course in the form of one textual analysis and one performance analysis.

The question paper adds value by requiring integration and application of knowledge and skills from across the Units.

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<sup>2</sup> Definitions can be found here: [www.sqa.org.uk/jargonbuster](http://www.sqa.org.uk/jargonbuster)

<sup>3</sup> See link above for definitions.

# 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**

5.3 Applying

5.4 Analysing and evaluating

5.5 Creating

Amplification of these skills 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

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**Published:** September 2014 (version 1.2)

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## History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
	1.1	Page 3 — Purpose and aims of the Course section: 'complex' removed from bullet point two; 'investigate and develop complex drama and production skills' changed to 'explore and develop complex drama and production skills'.  Pages 5–7 — 'Use' and 'using' changed to 'apply' and 'applying' throughout Course structure and conditions of award, Skills, knowledge and understanding, and Assessment sections and descriptions of the Units revised to better explain their requirements.	Qualifications Development Manager	April 2014
	1.2	Scottish Studies Award Unit contributing information added. No other changes made to document content.	Qualifications Manager	September 2014

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Note: You are advised to check SQA's website ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)) to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of the Course Specification.

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