



Drama (National 4)

Draft National Course Specification



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:** Drama (National 4)
- SCQF:** level 4 (24 SCQF credit points)
- Course code:** to be advised

Mandatory Units

Drama Skills (National 4) **9 SCQF credit points**

Theatre Production (National 4) **9 SCQF credit points**

Added Value Unit

Drama: Practical Activity (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.

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 by equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ Drama (Access 3) 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 will be given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Progression

This Course or its components may provide progression to:

- ◆ other SQA 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* and the *Course Assessment Specification*.

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 and 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

The Course is practical and experiential. Learners will develop skills in performing and creating drama. They will also develop theatre production skills by using theatre arts and technologies. It provides scope for personalisation and choice.

The Course allows learners to broaden and deepen their skills base and to widen their horizons regarding a range of vocations and careers. It provides opportunities to further acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities including creativity, flexibility and adaptability; enthusiasm and a willingness to learn; perseverance, independence and resilience; responsibility and reliability; and confidence and enterprise.

Learners are encouraged to exercise imagination and creativity and to express themselves in different ways. Learning through drama helps learners to develop an appreciation of aesthetic and cultural values, identities and ideas.

Learning in the Course will include active involvement in creative activities and performance and the creative use of drama techniques and technologies. The skills that learners acquire by successfully completing the Course will be valuable for learning, life and work.

Learners will develop important skills, attitudes and attributes. Learning in the Course will include active involvement in creative activities and performance and the creative use of drama techniques and technologies.

Purpose and aims of the Course

The Course provides opportunities for learners to be inspired and challenged by exploring dramatic ideas in creating and appreciating drama. It is practical and focuses on the development of performance skills, using theatre arts, production skills and technologies to create drama.

As learners develop practical skills in performing, they will develop cultural awareness of drama and theatre arts. Learners will investigate and reflect on how the use of self-expression, language and movement can develop their dramatic ideas. Learners will develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills as they explore and develop dramatic techniques. They will also investigate theatre arts, using production skills and technologies to design, create and enhance their performance and the performances of others.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ develop creativity and skills in problem solving, critical thinking and reflective practice
- ◆ communicate thoughts, meaning and ideas when creating drama and using theatre arts, production skills and technologies
- ◆ develop knowledge, understanding and appreciation of drama practice
- ◆ understand social and cultural influences

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

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course is a broad-based qualification, suitable for all learners with an interest in drama. It is suitable for learners with a general interest in the subject, or for those wanting to progress onto higher levels of study. This qualification will allow learners to consolidate and further extend their theatre skills developed through the experiences and outcomes for Drama.

Learners will explore and develop thoughts and ideas in drama through acting, directing and theatre production. They will explore voice, movement and characterisation skills. Learners will interpret a text or stimulus and communicate their ideas to others. Learners will also be encouraged to investigate and be inspired by the possibilities of theatre arts, production and technologies. Using simple production skills they will also design, create and present drama to communicate meaning to an audience.

On completing the Course, learners will be able to work independently and collaboratively with others to create drama; present drama through acting, directing or production skills; appreciate and have cultural and social awareness of drama and theatre arts; and evaluate and reflect on their own work and that of others. They will also be able to communicate thoughts and ideas and use a range of technologies.

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

successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen, effective contributor

and aspirations. The Course is largely learner-centred, with practical and experiential learning opportunities.

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Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

The Course has an integrated approach to learning, with a mix of practical learning and knowledge and understanding. As learners develop their performing skills, they will also learn how theatre practitioners use dramatic techniques and will use this knowledge to inform and influence their creative thinking and performance. They will experiment with straightforward acting, directing and theatre production skills and learn how to apply them in performance.

Reflective skills will also be developed as learners evaluate their own process and performance and that of others. Learners will also learn how to appreciate straightforward drama techniques and consider the social and cultural influences on theatre.

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

Drama Skills (National 4)

This Unit helps learners explore and develop dramatic techniques and ways of communicating ideas to an audience. They will learn how to respond to text, stimulus and context. They will also learn how to interpret role and character.

They will learn how to reflect on their own performance and that of others. They will learn how to develop a basic understanding of structure, form, genre and style by creating a drama, and will consider the social and cultural influences on drama.

Theatre Production (National 4)

This Unit helps learners to investigate theatre arts, production and technologies and learn how to apply problem solving skills in order to create and design basic production concepts. They will create and present drama using simple theatre arts, production skills and technologies to enhance drama. They will learn how to appreciate stage and performance styles, approaches and conventions, and will consider the social and cultural influences on drama.

Added Value Unit: Drama: Practical Activity (National 4)

This Unit adds value by introducing challenge and application.

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

These features help make the Course adaptable, with the flexibility to meet the needs and aspirations of a diverse range of learners.

Conditions of award

To achieve the Drama (National 4) 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 and knowledge

Full skills and knowledge for the Course will be given in the *Course Assessment Specification*. A broad overview of the mandatory subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be covered in the Course includes:

- ◆ responding to straightforward stimuli and text when creating drama
- ◆ working with others, in order to share and apply simple dramatic ideas
- ◆ exploring drama form, genre style, conventions and structure
- ◆ understanding straightforward knowledge and skills in acting, directing and using theatre arts, production skills and technologies
- ◆ understanding straightforward social and cultural influences when creating drama and observing performance
- ◆ using simple evaluation skills within the creative process

Assessment

Information about assessment for the Course will be included in the *Course Assessment Specification*, which will provide 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 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 be required to provide evidence to demonstrate skills and apply knowledge of simple dramatic techniques when creating and presenting drama. Learners will evaluate their own work and that of others.

Theatre Production (National 4)

In this Unit, learners will be required to provide evidence to demonstrate their skills and apply knowledge of simple theatre arts, production skills and technologies when creating and presenting drama. Learners will demonstrate knowledge of the use of theatre arts, production skills technologies, and will evaluate their own work and that of others.

Exemplification of possible assessment approaches for these Units will be provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.

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 and application.

In this Course, the Added Value Unit will focus on challenge and application.

The learner will draw on, extend and apply the skills they have learned during the Course. This will be assessed through a Drama [practical activity](#)². The practical activity will involve creating and presenting a drama. The practical activity will be sufficiently open and flexible to allow for personalisation and choice.

Exemplification of possible approaches for Units will be provided in the *National Assessment Resource*

¹ Definitions can be found here: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45528.html

² See link above for definition.

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

(Note: The information given below reflects the initial thinking on significant opportunities for development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. These may be subject to change as the development process progresses.)

It is expected that learners will also develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that are likely to be appropriate for this 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

5.1 Remembering

5.2 Understanding

5.3 Applying

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

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Superclass: to be advised

History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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