



**Arrangements for:
National Progression Award in
Professional Theatre Preparation
SCQF level 6**

Group Award Code: G9KT 46

Validation date: November 2009

Date of original publication:

Version: 01

Acknowledgement

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of National Qualification Group Awards.

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1 Introduction

This is the Arrangements Document for the new Group Award in Professional Theatre Preparation at SCQF level 6 which was validated in November 2009. This document includes: background information on the development of the Group Award, its aims, guidance on access, details of the Group Award structure, and guidance on delivery.

The National Progression Award (NPA) in Professional Theatre Preparation is part of SQA's national qualification framework in Drama. Specifically, it is one of a new suite of small NPAs which cover a range of aspects of the theatre industry.

The NPA in Professional Theatre Preparation is designed to equip candidates with the knowledge, understanding and skills appropriate to the theatre profession and to develop a foundation for progression to further study in drama.

The National Progression Award (NPA) in Professional Theatre Preparation consists of NQ Units drawn from the framework of the National Certificate in Acting and Theatre Performance at SCQF level 6 (G98A 46) — one mandatory Unit (6 SCQF points) with two further credits (12 SCQF points) required from an optional section.

2 Rationale for the development of the Group Award

Introduction

The rationale for the development of the NPA in Professional Theatre Preparation is based on the detailed sector scoping analysis of SQA provision in this area.

Establishing the need for the qualification

During the development of the new National Certificate (NC) in Acting and Theatre Performance in 2006-2009, it became evident that the main stakeholders — colleges and schools — were interested in the potential for smaller Group Awards which would be appropriate for students seeking alternative qualifications pathways.

When establishing the need for a new NPA in Professional Theatre Preparation, sector consultation used a combination of formal and informal mechanisms. A scoping exercise for the new NPAs was carried out in August 2009 during which sector comment and feedback was sought. Consultation took place with Scotland's colleges and Scotland's schools and with the wider theatre industry.

The overwhelming majority of responses in the scoping exercise highlighted the need for a new and smaller Group Award to fill a gap in provision for school pupils and for those keen to progress to further study at college or drama schools or to prepare for employment in the theatre industry.

The NPA has the potential to improve progression to further study and to provide learners with the relevant experiences and skills to prepare for entry to the theatre profession. It will develop audition skills and allow learners choice to specialise in selected areas of performance.

Cultural need

Research has established that the Arts in education plays a central role in the cultural life of Scotland and the UK. This importance has been recognised by:

Creative and Cultural Skills Scotland

Creativity and culture in schools — the value placed on creativity and culture in schools, the quality of teaching and the curriculum provided all affect the way young people's skills develop, whether they go on to further education and whether they have the skills industry is looking for. ¹

Scottish Government — Culture Delivers

A cultural education can help young people achieve their potential and maximise their creativity. Cultural and creativity activity can help young people to increase their confidence and levels of aspiration, learn key life skills and literacies, improve or create social networks, access routes into further education and work, and develop awareness and understanding of other people's issues ²

In a Scottish Government News Release Michael Russell, Culture Minister, said:

With a creative industries sector that supports 60,000 jobs and contributes five billion pounds to our economy, Scotland has the potential to be one of the world's most creative nations — one that attracts, develops and retains talent, where the arts and the creative industries are valued and supported, and where their full economic potential is realised. ³

Current educational provision across Scotland

Over the last 20 years the education sector in Scotland has responded to the needs of the theatre industry by developing a range of courses at non-advanced and advanced levels.

SQA has been at the forefront of developments with the revision of courses at both non-advanced and advanced levels: nationally devised HNC and HND programmes are well established; (see Qualifications Map Appendix 2); Higher Drama is a popular curricular option in schools and colleges and has an ever-increasing uptake; a new National Qualifications Group Award, the National Certificate in Acting and Theatre Performance (SCQF level 6) has been available since August 2009.

¹ Creative Blueprint, CCSkills Scotland, June 2008

² Scottish Government Publication: Culture Delivers, October 2008

³ Scottish Government: Support for Creative Industries, 18/06/09

Curriculum for Excellence

The NPA in Professional Theatre Preparation responds to and endorses the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence. It encourages and supports successful learners, effective contributors, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

Successful learners through:

- ◆ Effective audition preparation
- ◆ Acquiring practical and theoretical skills, knowledge and understanding
- ◆ Rehearsing and performing audition materials
- ◆ Evaluating the rehearsal and performance processes

Effective contributors through:

- ◆ Working with others in the rehearsal process
- ◆ Observing and listening to others in the rehearsal room

Confident individuals through:

- ◆ Performance of audition materials
- ◆ Performance of vocal work/character work/movement work

Responsible citizens through:

- ◆ Taking responsibility for preparation
- ◆ Being punctual and reliable at all rehearsals and performances/presentations

3 Aims of the Group Award

3.1 Principal aims of the NPA in Professional Theatre Preparation

The principal aims of the NPA in Professional Theatre Preparation are outlined below and enable the learner to:

- ◆ develop a range of appropriate skills in voice, movement and acting
- ◆ develop specific skills for presentation at audition
- ◆ develop self-presentation skills
- ◆ develop self-evaluative skills, enabling professional development
- ◆ work in rehearsal and performance creatively and innovatively
- ◆ develop analytical skills
- ◆ develop the ability to work independently
- ◆ develop the confidence to perform to potential
- ◆ develop professional attitudes

The NPA also aims to allow candidates to:

- ◆ develop communication and interpersonal skills
- ◆ develop candidates' skills as either an actor, dancer or a musician

3.2 General Aims

The general aims of the National Progression Award in Professional Theatre Preparation at SCQF level 6 are to:

- ◆ enable progression within the Scottish Credit and Qualifications framework (SCQF)
- ◆ prepare candidates for progression to further study at National Certificate level
- ◆ prepare candidates for progression into an FE environment
- ◆ provide candidates with the building blocks to achieve the National Certificate in Acting and Theatre Performance at SCQF level 6 (G98A 46)
- ◆ prepare candidates for progression to further study at Higher National and Degree level
- ◆ produce a flexible award that is appropriate for a variety of delivery modes
- ◆ provide an award that supports the development of a range of transferable generic employability and essential skills (including Core Skills)

3.3 Target groups

The NPA in Professional Theatre Preparation is suitable for college students, school pupils and adult learners/returners who have an interest in and/or experience in Drama.

In particular the NPA would meet the needs of:

- ◆ students who have achieved SCQF level 5 (Intermediate 2 Drama or Standard Grade Drama) and who wish to progress further
- ◆ students who have achieved SCQF level 6 (Higher Drama) and who wish to extend their practical skills and knowledge of theatre
- ◆ students who seek an alternative progressive pathway to Advanced Higher Drama
- ◆ adult learners who wish to participate in part-time study and extend their practical performing skills
- ◆ students auditioning for drama schools and further education — the Unit *Preparation for Audition* along with either *Drama: Acting Skills* or *Drama: Movement Skills* or *Drama: Voice Skills* Units will help prepare students who wish to audition for practical Drama/Acting courses.
- ◆ students preparing for professional theatre auditions — the Unit *Preparation for Audition* along with any of the optional Units will help prepare students who are planning to enter the professional theatre and performing arts industry.

3.4 Employment opportunities

Entry to employment in the performing arts as an actor, musician or dancer is through the audition process. The National Progression Award in Professional Theatre Preparation allows the student to prepare for this process. Students who are keen to enter the performing arts profession will be prepared with the skills which will assist them in the audition process.

It is recognised that candidates who achieve the NPA in Acting and Performance could potentially find employment in the following areas:

- ◆ Performing (Drama, Dance, Music, Music Theatre)
- ◆ Arts promotion/management
- ◆ Teaching

4 Access to Group Award

While access to the award is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would benefit from previous experience of a Drama Course or Units: Standard Grade Drama or National Courses in Drama at Intermediate 1 or 2 or Higher would be appropriate. Moreover, it would be expected that candidates would have an interest and some experience of acting and performing or drama. Relevant work experience would also be beneficial.

Others who may have no formal qualifications may have suitable life or work experience which indicates that they will be able to undertake Units at SCQF level 6. The latter may be particularly applicable for adult returners.

5 Group Award structure

The NPA in Professional Theatre Preparation is a 120 hour programme of study in total, which equates to a minimum of 3 credits.

There is one mandatory Unit — *Preparation for Audition*. Two further credits are required from the optional section. As the optional Units are each double-credit (12 SCQF points), one optional Unit will be selected.

5.1 Framework

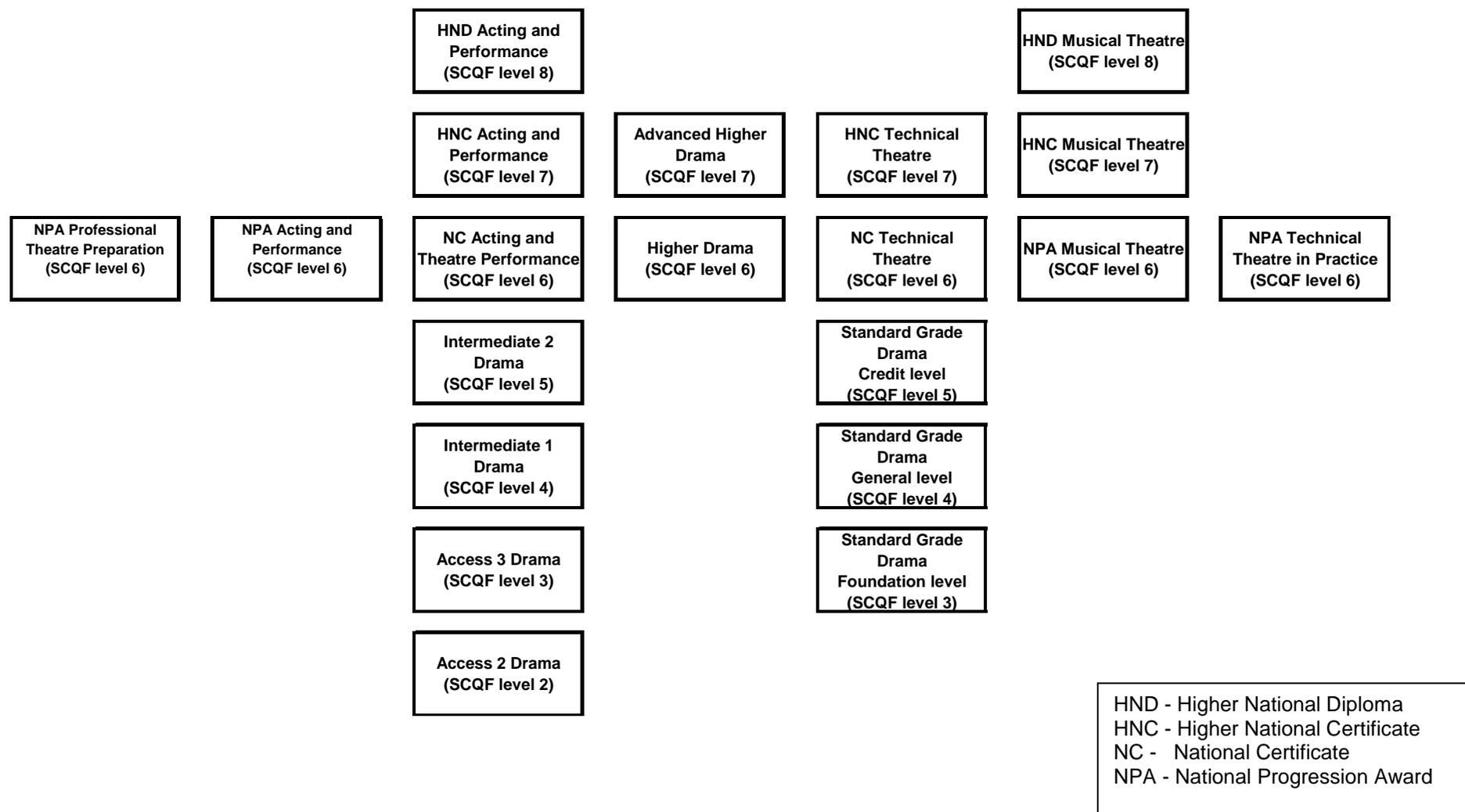
Unit title	Code	SCQF credit points	SCQF level	SQA credit value
Preparation for Audition*	D658 12	6	6	1

Optional Units - select one

Drama: Acting Skills	F5KY 12	12	6	2
Drama: Voice Skills	F5LF 12	12	6	2
Drama: Movement Skills	F5L1 12	12	6	2

*Mandatory Unit

5.2 Mapping Information — Drama and Technical Theatre Qualifications Map



5.3 Articulation, professional recognition and credit transfer

The National Progression Award in Professional Theatre Preparation has been designed to articulate with existing provision at SCQF levels 3–6, HNC/HND courses at Further Education Colleges and Higher Education Degree Courses.

6 Approaches to delivery and assessment

The structure of the qualification allows centres a high degree of flexibility to tailor the award to the needs of candidates and has sufficient scope to allow for a number of different modes of delivery, to suit an identified range of progression pathways.

In the mandatory Unit *Preparation for Audition*, the candidate will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding and a broad overview of the type of work available within the performing arts sector. However, the majority of time in this Unit is devoted to:

- ◆ preparing for an audition
- ◆ rehearsing for and performing an audition
- ◆ the candidate evaluating their own performance at an audition

The Unit *Preparation for Audition* (D658 12) has been designed to be accessed by a wide range of candidates. It is suitable for the actor, musical theatre performer, dancer or musician. This Unit is pivotal to the NPA and candidates can then select from the optional Units to develop specific skills and knowledge which will prepare them for further progression, concentrating on either acting skills, voice skills or movement skills.

The award structure and Unit content is developed to allow for integrative and cross assessment. The use of an integrated and linked delivery in centres will provide candidates with more meaningful learning experiences and promote an increased coherence between the Units.

6.1 Delivery and assessment

The assessment strategy for this NPA aims for a balanced approach in terms of practical and theoretical, as well as complementary and supplementary methods of assessment which reflect the nature of the subject area. The majority of assessment will be practical-based.

Unit specifications detail all mandatory Evidence Requirements, providing centres with valuable information relating to assessment procedures and conditions for each assessment event. Unit Specifications also provide advice and guidance on different approaches to delivery.

Assessment Support Packs (ASPs) are available for the mandatory and optional Units. These reinforce the practical aspect of the Unit specifications.

Learning and teaching approaches may include lectures, individual and group work reinforced by handouts and worksheets which should incorporate problem-solving exercises. Candidates should be encouraged to use and become familiar with a wide range of audition materials and theatre resources, including ICT.

It is recommended that the two Units which make up this NPA (the mandatory *Preparation for Audition* and one other, selected from either *Drama: Acting Skills*, *Drama: Voice Skills* or *Drama: Movement Skills*) will be delivered concurrently as the skills developed in acting, voice or movement are the skills which are also developed in the preparation, rehearsal and performance of an audition.

E-learning/e-assessment

Although the primary focus of the award is in a practical area, centres are encouraged to make use of technology where possible.

Core Skills

Entry and exit levels of Core Skills for the NPA in Professional Theatre Preparation will be set by individual centres. Each Unit of the award provides opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of Core Skills at an appropriate level (see Appendix 2). Individual Unit Specifications provide further details.

7 General information for centres

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

Internal and external verification

All instruments of assessment used within this Group Award should be internally verified, using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in *SQA's Guide to Assessment and Quality Assurance for Colleges of Further Education* (www.sqa.org.uk).

8 General information for candidates

The National Progression Award (NPA) in Professional Theatre Preparation (SCQF level 6) offers you the opportunity to develop your skills in acting or dancing or music/musical theatre.

The NPA will provide the knowledge and skills and resources that may be called upon when preparing for interviews and auditions, for entry to drama courses and/or the theatre or performing arts profession. The NPA is designed to develop an appreciation of all aspects of preparing for a career in professional theatre. It will encourage you to take a detailed, focused and professional approach to preparing for a variety of potential experiences that may lead to professional training and/or employment in the performing arts industry. You will explore and develop performance skills and develop a deeper insight into the type of work available in the performing arts sector.

It will help prepare you to audition for courses at drama schools or colleges. You will choose to develop specific skills in acting or voice or movement. There is one mandatory Unit, *Preparation for Audition*, which will prepare you for the audition process through developing a broad overview of the types of work available within the performing arts sector and preparing for, performing and evaluating your own audition performance. You will then select which specific practical skill you wish to develop, depending upon your own strengths and interests and in discussion with your tutor.

This NPA is highly practical in nature and there will be a balance of types of assessment — with an emphasis on practical assignments.

This NPA will enable you to progress within the SCQF and it could enhance your employment prospects. It could also assist in your progression to Further and Higher Education.

While there are no specific entry requirements for the NPA, it would be beneficial if you had some previous experience of either a drama, dance, music or music theatre Course/ Units.

9 Glossary of terms

SCQF: This stands for the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework, which is a new way of speaking about qualifications and how they inter-relate. We use SCQF terminology throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk

SCQF credit points: One SCQF credit point equates to 10 hours of learning. NQ Units at SCQF levels 2–6 are worth 6 SCQF credit points, NQ Units at level 7 are worth 8 SCQF points.

SCQF levels: The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. National Qualification Group Awards are available at SCQF levels 2-6 and will normally be made up of National Units which are available from SCQF levels 2–7.

Dedicated Unit to cover Core Skills: This is a non-subject Unit that is written to cover one or more particular Core Skills.

Embedded Core Skills: This is where the development of a Core Skill is incorporated into the Unit and where the Unit assessment also covers the requirements of Core Skill assessment at a particular level.

Signposted Core Skills: This refers to the opportunities to develop a particular Core Skill at a specified level that lie outwith automatic certification.

Qualification Design Team: The QDT works in conjunction with a Qualification Manager/Development Manager to steer the development of the National Certificate/National Progression Award from its inception/revision through to validation. The group is made up of key stakeholders representing the interests of centres, employers, universities and other relevant organisations.

Consortium-devised National Certificates/National Progression Awards are those developments or revisions undertaken by a group of centres in partnership with SQA.

10 Appendices

Appendix 1: SCQF Ready Reckoner

Appendix 2: Core Skill Development

Appendix 1: SCQF Ready Reckoner



Appendix 2: Core Skill Development

The Units which make up the award provide opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of the following Core Skills:

Core Skill	Developed through
Communication	Drama: Acting Skills (SCQF level 6) Drama: Voice Skills (SCQF level 6) Drama: Movement Skills (SCQF level 6) Preparation for Audition (SCQF level 6)
Information and Communication Technology	Preparation for Audition (SCQF level 6)
Working with Others	Drama: Acting Skills (SCQF level 6) Drama: Voice Skills (SCQF level 6) Drama: Movement Skills (SCQF level 6)
Information and Communication Technology	Preparation for Audition (SCQF level 6)
Problem Solving	Drama: Acting Skills (SCQF level 6)