

Next Generation Higher National Unit Specification

Directing (SCQF level 8)

Unit code:	J6DT 48
SCQF level:	8 (16 SCQF credit points)
Valid from:	session 2024 to 2025

This unit specification provides detailed information about the unit to ensure consistent and transparent assessment year on year. It is for lecturers and assessors and contains all the mandatory information you need to deliver and assess the unit.

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This edition: April 2024 (version 1.0)

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Unit purpose

This unit helps learners to develop the knowledge and skills they need to direct television productions and evaluate their performance as a director.

Entry to the unit is at your centre's discretion. We recommend that learners have successfully completed Television Programme Production at SCQF level 7 or have relevant practical experience before they start.

On completion of the unit as part of the Higher National Diploma (HND) Television, learners may have the opportunity to progress to further study, including degree-level courses, or employment.

Unit outcomes

Learners who complete this unit can:

- 1 carry out pre-production tasks to develop a creative idea in the role of director
- 2 carry out production tasks in the process of directing a production
- 3 carry out and supervise post-production tasks
- 4 evaluate their own performance as director in the context of a given brief

Evidence requirements

All outcomes

To successfully achieve these outcomes, learners must:

- ◆ complete a production in an agreed format to acceptable technical and creative standards
- ◆ produce documentation, to include:
 - a synopsis
 - a treatment
 - a final draft pre-production script in an appropriate format
 - a visual outline developed from the script, such as a storyboard
 - notes outlining ideas on production design, technical requirements, shots, sound, and talent performance
 - shooting scripts
 - shot lists
 - casting information
 - log sheets for timecode
 - an edited script, including changes from the pre-production script
 - an edit decision list (EDL)
- ◆ produce an evaluation report of own performance as a director, to include:
 - their role and responsibilities at various stages of the production
 - how they performed as a director
 - their strengths
 - their weaknesses
 - how they can improve as a director

Although not mandatory, it is a useful experience for learners to take at least one production folio through to product completion.

Grading

This unit contributes to learners' overall final grades.

Knowledge and skills

Knowledge	Skills
<p>Outcome 1 Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ briefs ◆ scripts ◆ synopses ◆ treatments ◆ visual ideas ◆ shot lists ◆ casting ◆ design requirements ◆ budgets ◆ crew roles ◆ location scouting or recce 	<p>Outcome 1 Learners can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ interpret a brief ◆ interpret a script ◆ produce a synopsis and treatment ◆ develop visual ideas ◆ create a shooting script ◆ create a shot list ◆ prepare casting or contributor requirements ◆ prepare technical and design requirements ◆ identify and select crew and talent ◆ carry out a recce
<p>Outcome 2 Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ production documentation ◆ scene blocking ◆ rehearsing ◆ how to communicate effectively ◆ crew management ◆ additional footage coverage ◆ time management ◆ evaluation of rushes 	<p>Outcome 2 Learners can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ maintain and update production records ◆ carry out scene blocking for talent and camera ◆ rehearse a crew and talent ◆ communicate creative ideas to crew ◆ communicate creative ideas to talent ◆ manage a crew on a shoot ◆ shoot sufficient footage for coverage ◆ manage time effectively ◆ evaluate rushes effectively
<p>Outcome 3 Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ script revision ◆ EDL and batch capture lists ◆ music and sound effects ◆ post-production supervision 	<p>Outcome 3 Learners can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ amend a script following production ◆ write an EDL or batch capture list ◆ select music and sound effects appropriate to the production ◆ oversee the editing process and approve the final cut

Knowledge	Skills
<p>Outcome 4 Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ production planning ◆ how to communicate overall creative ideas to talent and crew ◆ how to manage a production team ◆ the overall look of the production and the on-screen performances ◆ how to ensure that a sufficient variety of material is captured to enable effective post-production ◆ how to supervise post-production 	<p>Outcome 4 Learners can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ critically reflect on the production ◆ evaluate own strengths and weaknesses ◆ identify opportunities for future learning

Meta-skills

You must give learners opportunities to develop their meta-skills throughout this unit. We've suggested how to incorporate the most relevant ones into the unit content, but you may find other opportunities.

Self-management

This includes focusing, integrity, adapting and initiative. The most relevant are:

- ◆ Focusing:
 - attention to detail
 - record keeping
- ◆ Integrity:
 - work ethic
 - timekeeping
 - reliability
 - discipline
 - trustworthiness
 - compliance
- ◆ Adapting:
 - willingness to learn
 - critical reflection
 - resilience
 - working under pressure
- ◆ Initiative:
 - self-promotion
 - showing enthusiasm and knowledge of the industry

Social intelligence

This includes communicating, feeling, collaborating and leading. The most relevant are:

- ◆ Communicating:
 - communicating clearly and concisely in-person and through digital methods, such as telephone, email and social media
 - skills in listening, storytelling and relaying accurate information
- ◆ Feeling:
 - showing empathy
 - building relationships
 - understanding production etiquette
- ◆ Collaborating:
 - working as part of a team

- ◆ Leading:
 - motivating others

Innovation

This includes curiosity, creativity, sense-making and critical thinking. The most relevant are:

- ◆ Curiosity:
 - asking questions
 - researching
 - looking at things from a different angle
 - critical writing
 - engaging with and understanding industry practice
- ◆ Creativity:
 - generating ideas
 - visualising
 - problem-solving
- ◆ Sense-making:
 - researching
 - analysing data
 - seeing the bigger picture
 - prioritising tasks
- ◆ Critical thinking:
 - logical thinking
 - making judgements based on facts
 - decision-making

Literacies

This unit provides opportunities to develop the following literacies.

Numeracy

Learners can develop their numeracy skills by creating scripts and storyboards that reflect the available budget and resources.

Communication

Learners can develop their communication skills by communicating clearly and concisely in person and through digital methods, such as telephone, email and social media. They can also work on listening, storytelling and relaying accurate information.

Digital

Learners can develop their digital skills by using different software and hardware.

Learning for Sustainability

Throughout this unit, you should encourage learners to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of sustainability.

This includes:

- ◆ a general understanding of social, economic, and environmental sustainability
- ◆ a general understanding of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- ◆ a deeper understanding of subject-specific sustainability
- ◆ the confidence to apply the skills, knowledge, understanding and values they develop in the next stage of their life

Delivery of unit

If you deliver the unit as part of a group award, we recommend that you teach and assess it in the subject area of the group award to which it contributes.

You can deliver and assess the unit alongside Television: Collaborative Production Projects at SCQF level 8, Television: Working in Industry at SCQF level 8, and selected optional units in the Higher National Diploma (HND) Television at SCQF level 8.

Additional guidance

The guidance in this section is not mandatory.

Content and context for this unit

The unit enables learners to direct a television production from a given production brief.

Programme types that you can consider for the unit include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ drama
- ◆ documentary
- ◆ comedy
- ◆ music video
- ◆ commercial
- ◆ news package
- ◆ event capture

The unit allows learners to experience the production process in the role of director. It helps them to gain the knowledge and skills they need as they initiate and develop their productions.

The production phase of the unit should mirror industry practices as closely as possible. Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 encourage learners to express their creative and aesthetic talents and self-manage their time and projects.

Learners can use the documents they generate to evidence stages in their progress towards a completed programme.

In outcome 4, you should emphasise learners identifying their strengths and areas for improvement in their performance in the role of director, rather than producing a straight critique of their finished programme.

Approaches to assessment

You assess learners on their completed productions, along with the relevant documentation and their self-evaluation.

Equality and inclusion

This unit is designed to be as fair and as accessible as possible with no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment.

You should consider the needs of individual learners when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Guidance on assessment arrangements for disabled learners and those with additional support needs is available on the [assessment arrangements web page](#).

Information for learners

Directing (SCQF level 8)

This information explains:

- ◆ what the unit is about
- ◆ what you should know or be able to do before you start
- ◆ what you need to do during the unit
- ◆ opportunities for further learning and employment

Unit information

This unit gives you an insight into the creative visual practices and management involved in the directing of television programmes.

Entry to the unit is at your centre's discretion. We recommend that you have successfully completed Television Programme Production at SCQF level 7 or have relevant practical experience before you start.

On completion of the unit, you can:

- 1 carry out pre-production tasks to develop a creative idea in the role of director
- 2 carry out production tasks in the process of directing a production
- 3 carry out and supervise post-production tasks
- 4 evaluate their own performance as director in the context of a given brief

Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 focus on your practical skills, as you plan and create a programme from a given brief.

In outcome 1, you produce planning documents with other crew members. You must visualise and develop an idea, carrying out pre-production planning to prepare the project for production.

Outcome 2 is the production stage of the process, where you manage and direct a crew and cast or contributors to generate the footage you need for your programme. You naturally generate your assessment evidence as you direct the production and manage the relevant documentation.

In outcome 3, you organise and supervise the post-production phase of the project, and deliver the final programme.

Outcome 4 allows you to evaluate your own performance in the role of director, your strengths and weaknesses, and what you can improve on. The focus is on learning about the practicalities and organisation behind the art of directing.

You are assessed on your completed production, along with the relevant documentation and your self-evaluation.

When you finish the unit as part of the Higher National Diploma (HND) Television, you may have the opportunity to progress to further study, including degree-level courses, or employment.

Meta-skills

Throughout this unit, you develop meta-skills for the television sector.

Meta-skills are transferable behaviours and abilities that help you adapt and succeed in life, study and work. There are three categories of meta-skills: self-management, social intelligence and innovation.

Self-management

This meta-skill includes:

- ◆ Focusing:
 - attention to detail
 - record keeping
- ◆ Integrity:
 - work ethic
 - timekeeping
 - reliability
 - discipline
 - trustworthiness
 - compliance
- ◆ Adapting:
 - willingness to learn
 - critical reflection
 - resilience
 - working under pressure
- ◆ Initiative:
 - self-promotion
 - showing enthusiasm and knowledge of the industry

Social intelligence

This meta-skill includes:

- ◆ Communicating:
 - communicating clearly and concisely in-person and through digital methods, such as telephone, email and social media
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- ◆ Feeling:
 - showing empathy
 - building relationships
 - understanding production etiquette
- ◆ Collaborating:
 - working as part of a team
- ◆ Leading:
 - motivating others

Innovation

This meta-skill includes:

- ◆ Curiosity:
 - asking questions
 - researching
 - looking at things from a different angle
 - critical writing
 - engaging with and understanding industry practice
- ◆ Creativity:
 - generating ideas
 - visualising
 - problem-solving
- ◆ Sense-making:
 - researching
 - analysing data
 - seeing the bigger picture
 - prioritising tasks
- ◆ Critical thinking:
 - logical thinking
 - making judgements based on facts
 - decision-making

Grading

This unit contributes to your overall final grade.

Learning for Sustainability

Throughout this unit, you develop skills, knowledge and understanding of sustainability.

You learn about social, economic and environmental sustainability principles and how they relate to the television sector. You also develop an understanding of the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#).

Administrative information

Published: April 2024 (version 1.0)

Superclass: KJ

History of changes

Version	Description of change	Date

Note: please check [SQA's website](#) to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of this document.

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