

# Route map through assessment

**Course: Drama**

**Level: National 5**

This document is intended to assist teachers in planning and delivering the overall vision for Curriculum for Excellence.

The vision for the new national qualifications is to create assessment opportunities that follow and support learning and teaching. This follows the principles laid out in *Building the Curriculum 5* and makes assessment a natural part of learning and teaching.

This route map aims to signpost all of the relevant material that is available to support your subject. Your professional judgement is vital and the documents listed below are intended to support you in deciding the most appropriate ways to generate evidence and assess candidates.

Education Scotland has produced a professional focus paper for drama, and this is a good starting point as it provides support to help develop learning and teaching approaches that take forward the purposes and principles of Curriculum for Excellence through Drama National 5.

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/PFPDramaNat5\\_tcm4-741157.doc](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/PFPDramaNat5_tcm4-741157.doc)

## Drama National 5 course content

The main SQA drama page is found at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45712.html>, with pages specifically related to National 5 at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47390.html>. Staff should also regularly check the updates and announcements section of this page.

The course specification can be found at

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/CfE\\_CourseSpec\\_N5\\_ExpressiveArts\\_Drama.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseSpec_N5_ExpressiveArts_Drama.pdf).

There are two units: Drama Skills and Drama: Production Skills.

More detail on course coverage can be found in the course support notes.

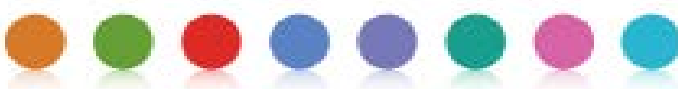
[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/CfE\\_CourseUnitSupportNotes\\_N5\\_ExpressiveArts\\_Drama.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N5_ExpressiveArts_Drama.pdf)

Further mandatory information on course coverage is found on page 8 of the course assessment specification. This breaks each unit down into sections and topics.

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/CfE\\_CourseAssessSpec\\_N5\\_ExpressiveArts\\_Drama.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseAssessSpec_N5_ExpressiveArts_Drama.pdf)

A course comparison from National 3 to National 5 is also available.

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/Drama\\_Course\\_comparison.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Drama_Course_comparison.pdf)



## Course assessment

For Drama National 5 added value is assessed through a course assessment, which consists of a performance and a question paper. The course will be graded A–D.

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/CfE\\_CourseAssessSpec\\_N5\\_ExpressiveArts\\_Drama.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseAssessSpec_N5_ExpressiveArts_Drama.pdf)

### Question paper

There will be question paper of 1 hour and 30 minutes for Drama National 5 worth 40 marks, which will be carried out under exam conditions and externally marked by SQA. It will test depth of knowledge, understanding and skills developed throughout the course. There will be two sections: an evaluation (10 marks) and a response to a stimulus (30 marks).

Specimen question paper and marking scheme: [http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/DramaSQPN5.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/DramaSQPN5.pdf).

### Performance

The performance at Drama National 5 is worth an overall 60 marks. The assessment is split into two sections: the performance, which can be in either an acting or production role (50 marks), and the preparation for performance (10 marks). The performance will assess the learner's preparation and performance of a textual extract.

Assessment through acting will see each performance lasting a minimum of 15 minutes to a maximum of 45 minutes, depending on the number of learners performing. Further advice can be found in the Drama National 5 performance general assessment information document.

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/GAInfoNational5Drama.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/GAInfoNational5Drama.pdf)

## Unit assessment

Units are mandatory when taken as part of the Drama National 5 course but they can be taken independently. Unit support notes follow on from the course support notes.

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/CfE\\_CourseUnitSupportNotes\\_N5\\_ExpressiveArts\\_Drama.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N5_ExpressiveArts_Drama.pdf)

Each unit also has a National 5 unit specification.

Each unit specification gives details of the outcomes and assessment standards. There are **two** outcomes per unit, encompassing skills development and knowledge, understanding and application.

### Drama Skills

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/CfE\\_Unit\\_N5\\_Drama\\_DramaSkills.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_Drama_DramaSkills.pdf)

### Drama: Production Skills

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/CfE\\_Unit\\_N5\\_Drama\\_ProductionSkills.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_Drama_ProductionSkills.pdf)

Learners must meet all the outcomes and assessment standards, and staff should read the documentation carefully. Evidence should be generated through learning and teaching. This can be a combination of written, oral, recorded and practical evidence, with staff using their professional judgement to determine the most appropriate ways in which to generate evidence and the conditions and contexts in which they are used. Staff should also use their professional judgment when looking at the assessment evidence and ensure that minimum competency is met. They should undertake quality assurance regularly.

Different ways of gathering evidence have been suggested by SQA. The most traditional approach is unit by unit. Staff may, however, use a combined approach that links skills development, knowledge and understanding from two units together. In order to build their portfolio, learners will gather evidence generated naturally from everyday learning through key classroom tasks and activities. Unit assessment support is kept on the [SQA Secure](#) website.

### Verification

The verification process is meant to be supportive and not onerous.

Internal verification is the process of ensuring standards are applied uniformly and consistently within a school in line with national standards. External verification is the process of ensuring that national standards are maintained consistently across all schools.

Drama: Quality Assurance – external verification: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/66877.html>.

Quality assurance: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58448.html>.

### Prior verification

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/Prior%20Verification%20Centre%20Guidance%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Prior%20Verification%20Centre%20Guidance%20FINAL.pdf)

Staff who devise their own assessments can send them to SQA for prior verification, free of charge. This is only necessary where significant changes have been made to the unit assessment provided. It gives departments confidence that their proposed assessment is fit for purpose and meets national standards.

### Internal verification

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/InternalVerificationGuideforSQAcentres.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/InternalVerificationGuideforSQAcentres.pdf)

As a matter of course staff should be quality assuring their assessments by carrying out activities that they have always done, for example double marking and blind marking. A sample of learners' work should be marked by more than one staff member in a department, and in single-person departments an arrangement should be made with another local authority school.

### External verification

In drama schools will submit a sample of learners' evidence for scrutiny by subject-specialist qualification verifiers. SQA intend that every school will be verified over the first few years. Verification will take place in November, February and May. Twelve samples will be asked for.

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/Evidence\\_required\\_for\\_verificationevents.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Evidence_required_for_verificationevents.pdf)

Schools must retain the evidence until 31 July.

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/SQA\\_Evidence\\_retention\\_requirements\\_A3\\_table.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/SQA_Evidence_retention_requirements_A3_table.pdf)

Key messages from verification will be put up on the SQA website.

### Recognising positive achievement

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/Recognising\\_Positive\\_Achievement\\_N4N5.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Recognising_Positive_Achievement_N4N5.pdf)

This is only applicable to National 5, **not** Higher. A learner who achieves 'No Award' in a National 5 course assessment will be able to gain a National 4 course award as long as he/she has passed all the internally assessed units of the National 5 course **and** has passed the National 4 Added Value Unit.

## Results Services

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/FA6669\\_SQA\\_Results\\_Services\\_A5\\_8pp\\_brochure\\_web.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/FA6669_SQA_Results_Services_A5_8pp_brochure_web.pdf)

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/65427.html>

There are no longer any appeals. SQA offers two services: (1) Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service (within ten days of sitting external assessment) and (2) Post Results Service. The latter consists of either a clerical check or a marking review. It is likely that these will be carried out in conjunction with the school SQA co-ordinator.

## Education Scotland support materials

Advice and support for new national qualifications (Glow password required):

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nqcoursematerials/subjects/drama/coursematerials.asp>

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nqcoursematerials/subjects/drama/learningandteaching.asp>

## Other useful websites

A quick guide to finding vital information about Curriculum for Excellence:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/keycfesupport/index.asp>

This appears under three headings:

- the latest guidance, updates and plans for embedding Curriculum for Excellence
- information on assessment
- information on the new qualifications.

The BBC has pulled together all its learning content in a new Knowledge and Learning Beta site that includes Class Clips:

[www.bbc.co.uk/education](http://www.bbc.co.uk/education)

The Bitesize websites have also been updated for National 5:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zrs3kqt>