

Route map through assessment

Course: Drama

Level: National 4

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 4.

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/PFPDramaNat4_tcm4-741112.doc

Drama National 4 course content

The main SQA drama page is found at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45712.html>, with pages specifically related to National 4 at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47386.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_N4_ExpressiveArts_Drama.pdf.

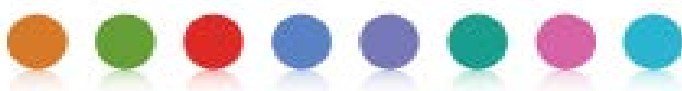
There are three units: Drama Skills, Drama: Production Skills and the Added Value Unit.

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

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N4_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



Unit assessment

Units are mandatory when taken as part of the Drama National 4 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_N4_ExpressiveArts_Drama.pdf

Each unit also has a National 4 unit specification.

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

Drama Skills

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N4_Drama_DramaSkills.pdf

Drama: Production Skills

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N4_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. Assessment evidence can be drawn from a variety of activities and presented in a variety of formats. All of the evidence does not have to be generated from one activity but can be from several tasks and assessments carried out throughout the course. Learners should have access to appropriate resources to complete the assessment tasks and no time restrictions should be imposed. Staff should 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, consider a combined approach that links skills development and knowledge and understanding from two units together. In order to build their portfolio, learners will gather evidence generated from everyday learning through key classroom tasks and activities. Unit assessment support is kept on the [SQA Secure](#) website.

Added Value Assessment

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N4_Drama_AddedValueUnit.pdf

The Added Value Unit is a performance and brings together skills learners have acquired across the other two units within the Drama National 4 course. There is one outcome, which broken down into four assessment standards. The performance will be set, marked and verified by schools. It will be conducted under some supervision and control. The learner will select ideas, taking account of social and cultural influences on drama. They will use their skills, knowledge and understanding to contribute effectively towards a small-scale drama performance. The performance content will be agreed between the learner and staff.

The performance may be devised or scripted. The learner will be required to provide evidence of preparation for their selected role prior to the performance.

The assessment should take place when the learners are ready, to avoid reassessment. Further information on conducting the Added Value Unit assignment is available on the [SQA Secure](#) website. This includes a judging the evidence table. Instructions for learners are also appended and these should be issued to learners. During the first

two years of implementation (2013/2014 and 2014/2015) all schools **must** use the SQA-published Added Value Unit assessments.

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

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

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

Schools must retain the evidence until 31 July of each academic year.

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.

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

The Bitesize websites have also been updated for National 4:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zcfb87h>