

CAMBRIDGE TECHNICALS LEVEL 3 (2016)

Examiners' report

PERFORMING ARTS

05850–05853, 05876

Unit 1 Summer 2022 series

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Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates.

The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

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Unit 1 series overview

This series a pre-released set task was issued, giving an employment opportunity for candidates to respond to.

The level of demand was comparable with all previous series. The employment opportunity enabled responses that could demonstrate understanding of the unit content, in a realistic, applied vocational context.

The employment opportunity acted as a stimulus for candidates to respond to by submitting a written portfolio, a pitch to camera and an audition piece or presentation.

The employment opportunity this series was to contribute to 'Audience 3000' a celebration that aims to entertain 3000 people, as part of The Open Stage's audience development strategy.

The employment opportunity goes on to state the theatre (The Open Stage) has secured investment from the local authority, which fully supports the aim of bringing more people to the area.

The scenario includes other 'hooks' for candidates to consider in their response, such as a freelance arts professional being contracted to organise the celebration and states they are looking to contract people for a wide range of technical, production and performance roles.

The given scenario provided an opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the context of employment in the performing arts industry.

It is hoped the following points and observations relating to successful, and less successful, responses will be helpful to you

Candidates who did well on this paper generally did the following:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally did the following:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used a persuasive, promotional tone that would be likely to engage a potential employer • identified an appropriate and specific role, such as performer or technician • consistently related their skills, experience, and progression routes to the selected role • fully considered the wider context for this type of employment within the performing arts industry • prepared a relevant and technically accomplished audition piece • structured their response in a clear to follow manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated only a basic or limited understanding of promotional intent • did not identify an appropriate or specific or role, and/or swapped roles between tasks and the supporting examples they gave, so their response lacked coherency • misunderstood, or gave incorrect information about some of the employment types or funding types or other contexts relevant to the selected role and/or given employment opportunity • performed an audition piece that either lacked relevance or was not technically of an adequate standard.

Question 1

Audience 3000!

The stage is set!

Our local theatre, The Open Stage, is opening its doors for a special programme of performances. The weekend-long celebration has something for everyone and aims to entertain 3000 people.

Audience 3000 is being put on as part of The Open Stage's audience development initiative. The theatre has secured investment from the local authority, which fully supports the aim of bringing more people to the area.

All performances will take place in the theatre's main performance space and each performance will be able to seat 500 audience members. You could be part of one or more of these exciting performances.

The theatre manager has contracted a freelance arts professional to organise the weekend and they are looking to contract people for a wide range of technical, production and performance roles.

This will be a weekend to remember, so play your part and apply today!

You should prepare a pitch and audition piece for a performance or production role that will be suitable for Audience 3000!

It's time to make your entrance!

*Audience 3000 is a fictitious event.

With reference to one of the roles in the advertisement above, you are required to:

- 1 Prepare to pitch for one of the roles mentioned. Your preparation must include a portfolio of documentation (guide of 1500–2500 words) including:
- introductory comments on your chosen vocational role, including its current employment conditions and promotional methods. These comments should be made with reference to the advertisement and the role applied for.
 - a report on the economic, social and cultural context of the event outlined in the advertisement.
 - the proposed materials for progression into your chosen vocational role including any ideas and adaptations that you have made to meet the specific demands of the advertisement.
 - your overall progression strategy and how this job opportunity fits into these longer-term plans.
 - references to the skills, knowledge and understanding gained as part of your learning programme.

[24 marks]

The written portfolio provides an opportunity for candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of employment opportunities in the performing arts industry. The knowledge should be in line with the areas covered in the unit content. The guide of 1500 to 2500 words is only a guide but on the whole responses fitted within this. Responses that were significantly under or over this word count tended to be self-limiting. The work seen was mostly well organised, clear to follow and written with some consideration of promotional tone. The written portfolio is an opportunity to provide an underpinning context for the pitch to camera. Research should inform and shape the content; information should be taken from valid sources and synthesised, so it has relevance to the given scenario and fully considers the key factors. The work seen covered a research process that ranged from very generic or isolated 'working in the industry' information to more focused and analytical information. Most written portfolios referenced sources appropriately and in more successful responses citation was clear and consistent. The progression route should also be relevant to the role identified and be informed by reliable and valid sources of information. The most successful written portfolios used performing arts terminology accurately and confidently and had a clear to follow logical structure.

Question 2 (a, b, c, d, e)

- 2 Pitch a response to the advertisement to the camera (maximum 10 minutes). Your pitch should include answers to the following questions [6 marks for each]:
- (a) Why have you applied for this project?
 - (b) What role are you interested in and how will this contribute to the project?
 - (c) How will the experience and knowledge that you have gained while on your course be relevant to this project?
 - (d) What is your progression strategy for the next five years?
 - (e) How do you think working on this project will contribute to your progression route?

[30 marks]

The pitch to camera should engage the potential employer and demonstrate clear promotional intent. The pitch should focus on the identified role and be consistently relevant to the given employment opportunity. There is a guide of 10 minutes for the pitch. It is acceptable to use notes however, the pitch should not simply be the written portfolio read to camera. This series we again saw some candidates simply repeat the information in the written task to camera, reading from cards. It is not a memory test, so to use an aide-memoir is perfectly acceptable, but it is important to remember the intention is to pitch to an employer, in the hope of securing the role.

The pitch should be seen as a chance to demonstrate self-promotion skills in keeping with professional practice in the performing arts industry. Again, this series, the work seen was mostly successful in covering all the key points and mostly this was done in a clear and methodical way. The best pitches showed confidence with the style of delivery chosen, and the content was consistently relevant and engaging. The more successful pitches included relevant examples of skills and experience to support the comments being made. The best examples were those that were relevant to the selected role as well as having the feel of a fit for purpose 'application' style pitch to a potential employer. There is no need to repeat content from the written portfolio.

Question 3

- 3 Audition/presentation piece – present an example of your work to the camera, which is relevant to the advertisement and the role applied for (maximum 5 minutes).

[6 marks]

The audition pieces and/or presentations seen this series were mostly relevant for the role, but not always fully appropriate for the employment opportunity. It is an expectation for the audition to be performed directly at the end of the pitch, with a candidate moving from pitch to audition with confidence and fluency, rather than on a separate recording.

Audition pieces were generally well rehearsed and of an appropriate length. Some were too long, and further refinement and selection would have been useful. It should be in line with professional practice for the performing arts discipline being demonstrated.

It is helpful when justification is given for the choice of audition piece, however this should be succinct, so the main reasons for selecting it can be appreciated. Lengthy presentations about the work being performed are not necessary and can take away from the understanding of promotional intent and professional practice.

The more successful audition pieces were fully relevant to the employment opportunity overall and the identified role and fitting to the candidate's skills and abilities.

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