

CAMBRIDGE TECHNICALS LEVEL 3 (2016)

Examiners' report

PERFORMING ARTS

05850–05853, 05876

Unit 1 January 2023 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

A new pre released set task was issued for this series, providing a vocationally focused 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 provided 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 the 'Our Arts Festival' with the tag line of 'Everyone is included!'. The festival takes place over a holiday weekend and aims to celebrate diversity in the community. The festival is supported with public sector funding and takes place at a regional arts centre.

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

The following points and observations relating to successful, and less successful, responses will hopefully be useful.

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, and used this consistently to relate their skills, experience, and progression routes to • fully considered the wider context for this type of employment within the performing arts industry • used the knowledge and understanding gained from completing the portfolio to refine their pitch to be effective self-promotion • prepared a relevant and technically accomplished audition piece or presentation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrated only a basic appreciation of promotional intent • did not identify an appropriate or specific role and/or swapped role between tasks and the examples they gave • misunderstood or gave incorrect information about some of the employment types or contexts • read their portfolio as their pitch, rather than selecting and refining information to use as part of their self-promotional pitch opportunity • performed an audition piece that either lacked relevance or was not technically of an adequate standard.

Question 1

Our Arts Festival*

Everyone is included!

Our Arts Festival is taking place over a holiday weekend and aims to celebrate the diverse nature of our community.

Our Arts Festival values the creative contribution of each member of our community, regardless of race, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, ability or disability.

The festival programme will include performance work that represents and reflects the cultures, backgrounds and perspectives found in our community.

Over the weekend, there will be theatre, dance, music and spectacle - all performing arts disciplines will be represented.

The festival will take place at the regional Council-run arts centre and is fully supported through public sector funding.

The arts centre management team is looking to fill a range of performance and production roles.

Be a part of Our Arts Festival: we are looking forward to receiving your application!

*Our Arts Festival is a fictitious group.

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 guidance suggests the portfolio is between 1500 and 2500 words.

Overall, this series we saw written responses that were clear to follow and had an appropriate structure. 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 and should cover key considerations of working in the performing arts industry.

Research should inform the written response and help shape the content, so it demonstrates significance to the scenario given and consideration of the key factors. The work seen this series ranged from evidence of a research process that was superficial and very generic 'working in the industry' information to more focused and analytical information being synthesised from valid sources. Most written portfolios referenced sources appropriately, however in some cases there was no citation process.

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 and were the result of genuine enquiry and research.

Question 2 (a, b, c, d and 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 aim to engage the potential employer and be relevant to the given scenario. There should be a clear and effective understanding of promotional intent demonstrated.

There is a guide of 10 minutes for the pitch. The pitch should focus on the identified role and be consistently relevant to the given employment opportunity.

It is acceptable to use notes during the pitch, however the pitch should not simply be the written portfolio read to camera. This series we saw some candidates simply repeat the information in the written task to camera. Some were reading from cards, rather than using note cards as prompts, and some read from a screen or a copy of their portfolio. Successful pitches had an element of selection and refinement regarding the content, and the style of delivery was engaging and persuasive. The pitch should be seen as a chance to demonstrate self-promotion skills in keeping with professional practice in the performing arts industry.

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. Successful pitches included relevant examples of skills and experience to support the comments being made. The best examples were relevant to the role and the organisation and project outlined in the employment opportunity.

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]

Audition pieces or presentations ranged from very relevant for the context of the given employment opportunity to general pieces that lacked justification in terms of relevance to the given scenario. Auditions and presentations were mostly relevant for the selected role, but not always fully appropriate for the employment opportunity. It is best when the audition is performed as part of the pitch, with a candidate moving from pitch to audition with confidence and fluency.

Most audition pieces were well rehearsed and of an appropriate length. Some were too long, and in some cases they lacked preparation.

It is helpful when justification is given for the choice of audition piece, however this should be brief and to the point. Lengthy presentations about the work being performed are not necessary and can take away from the understanding of promotional intent as required by this task.

The more successful audition pieces were fully relevant to the identified role and suitable for the candidate's skills and were of an appropriate technical ability for the chosen discipline.

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