

CAMBRIDGE TECHNICALS LEVEL 3 (2016)

Examiners' report

# PERFORMING ARTS

05850–05853, 05876

**Unit 2 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.

A full copy of the question paper and the mark scheme can be downloaded from OCR.

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## Unit 2 series overview

Responses reflect that this unit continues to be well understood.

A continued decline in the attention to detail has been observed by examiners in comparison to pre-pandemic responses.

The examination question structure remained the same with candidates responding to the brief / advert as a written pitch to the client. They assume a role within an events team, and this can be fictional to present their knowledge and boost the sales element. Candidates who adopted a 'sales approach' to their pitch showed clear understanding of the overarching aim of the assessment as a task that represents real life employment commissions. It was pleasing to find the sales element of the pitch was evident in most responses.

The candidate is aiming to produce a thoroughly considered pitch with a comprehensive appendix which can include all their back up and explanatory materials such as research, the supporting budgets, legalities, planning documentation and any other supportive information. No word count is applied to the appendices and all documentation should illustrate the pitch. Good use of the appendices is being seen by most centres.

The exam paper itself is systematic and leads the candidate through the required stages to produce their response. Candidates following the examination format tended to fare better than centre produced formats.

The examiners team encourage candidates to detail their name, candidate number and title of the chosen commission. Some commission choices may have similar investigations and can be a guessing game for the examiner as to which commission has been chosen in the first part of their responses.

For this series there was a definite lean towards the superhero event commission.

In some centres more depth / detail was required as some candidates edged towards producing Level 2 responses evidencing surface learning and not the required sophistication and connectivity throughout their whole response expected from a Level 3 candidate. There was a notable tendency to apply gifts of a resource meaning this element would not be discussed in the research or budget contexts. This unit works towards real world tasks and unless a resource gift is offered in the commission, no resource should be left out of the research, budget or other considerations to offer a complete response.

It was pleasing to see that candidates incorporated prominent 'issues of the day' by considering the use of space, testing and health requirements for Covid 19. While this is possibly myopic, it does reflect that the candidate is responsive to consider and integrate current affairs and are treating the assessment as a live scenario. However, better responses will ensure that the 'issues of the day' are more national rather than localised.

Candidates that 'sold' their proposal to the reader, as a straightforward idea that was thoroughly backed up throughout the budget, risk assessments and with considerations of the relevant legal, insurance and safety considerations, did well.

*For example, candidates that run events in multiple spaces, reflected the cost of licensing, health and safety / insurances required to facilitate this plan. These included safety measures, use of necessary electrical equipment, and relevant user risk assessments, PRS, PPL, DBS, and public liability insurance. The costs and details of their plans to facilitate the use of these considerations were carried through and detailed in the appendices.*

The rule to apply is if they say it, candidates then need to appropriately carry the responsibility to safely embed and consider that resource throughout all elements of the pitch. For example, licensing is not treated as an add on and should be included in the costs, not gifted. The aim is for candidates to gain the actual knowledge required to run their own project or respond to a live brief in their future career; this is where the learning raises awareness of the actual in the real world.

Set centre styles place some centres at risk of suspicion of plagiarism or have misguided a whole cohort into not being able to gain the coverage of marks individuals may have achieved by interpreting the exam question paper by themselves.

<b>Candidates who did well on this paper generally did the following:</b>	<b>Candidates who did less well on this paper generally did the following:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• used the examination paper format to structure their responses</li> <li>• adopted a sales approach to the pitch to 'sell' their project idea</li> <li>• ensured that all items mentioned in the text were followed up in the risk assessment and budgets</li> <li>• researched and considered the legal and health and safety licences and assessments that would be required, such as PRS, DBS, insurances, equipment safety measures, public liability, etc., and reflected these costs in the budgets</li> <li>• offered less complex projects that were presented as a more focused, fully considered response, with in-depth detail that carried through all elements of the response.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• did not give enough advertising and risk assessment detail and did not carry through considerations to the budget or planning timelines</li> <li>• did not connect the budgets, risk assessments and research consistently with the proposal. For example, if the candidate states they are employing a team of technicians, examiners would expect to see this considered in the budget and risk assessment. The more sophisticated the event, the more detail needs to be represented and carried through to the appendix items and in the proposal text</li> <li>• did not display strong knowledge of the legalities and licensing; this has dropped considerably</li> <li>• spent too much time creating a project that was too complicated to back up with the relevant supporting materials mentioned above to facilitate the event effectively and safely.</li> </ul>

## Commission briefs

### Commission A

#### **Trailblazer Sports Centre Opening**

Trailblazer Sports Centre is a major new development that will be opening its doors to our city next summer. This state-of-the-art venue will put our city and surrounding area on the map by providing some of the best facilities in the UK.

The Centre hopes to attract professional athletes and aspiring youth training programmes as well as providing community health and fitness opportunities, opening the doors for everyone to use the excellent range of facilities.

A private investor and Sport England are funding the event. The management of Trailblazer Sports Centre want to open with an exciting and crowd-pleasing launch event. This event will be open to the public but will also be attended by public figures, the Mayor, VIP funders, and distinguished guests.

We are inviting a high-profile sporting celebrity to open the event followed by an exciting, high quality launch packed full of entertainment.

If your events company has what it takes, please send your proposal to the management at Trailblazer Sports Centre for consideration.

'Let the best proposal win!'

### Commission B

#### **Prevent Homelessness School Project**

County Schools supports wider educational opportunities for students in the area. They are currently commissioning an experienced events management company to facilitate a project that brings awareness to teenagers about the plight of homelessness.

The tour of six local secondary schools will be an engaging project for Key Stage 3 & 4 students to learn more about how to prevent homelessness and support those in need.

This could be in production or workshop form, or as an event that you think will engage the students. It needs to be at their level of engagement to inspire them to participate.

Your team will be responsible for ensuring that all touring resources have been taken into consideration and that the project is flexible enough to work in a school hall environment. The budget is shared by the six schools and the panel will require a detailed proposal to ensure value for money.

The most engaging and practical proposal will be awarded the contract to start touring next year. Please send your ideas and full proposal to the County Schools Development Manager.

## Commission C

### Superhero Extravaganza

Your local Arts Centre is calling all events management companies in the area to send us your proposal and ideas for a superhero inspired extravaganza. We hope to hold this affordable public event over the August bank holiday and encourage new audiences to come to the venue and see the fabulous facilities we have available.

This event is not just for arts and theatre lovers. We want to open our doors to all superhero fans looking for a fun, family experience. Engaging new people in the arts starts with making them feel excited and accepted in an arts environment. We hope that your company can bring us some fantastic 'out of this world' ideas to attract people to buy tickets.

Our management team is keen to receive your fully-budgeted proposal. It should take into consideration that we have multiple spaces available, including a 300-seat theatre, a black box studio theatre and filming space and numerous dance and performing arts studios. There is a café on site and a large foyer and gallery bar area that can also be used.

Whilst we have some fantastic performance spaces, we do not have our own technical team on site. If required, please take account of this and all other relevant considerations in order to be able to realise your proposal.

We look forward to receiving your 'superhero' proposals!

## Question 1

### Scenario

You are the Project Development Officer for a company of performers and creative outreach workers. This is a new ensemble formed after its members graduated from pre-professional training. There are four core members including yourself but you can 'pull in' other co-workers if necessary.

As a company you are multi-skilled but lack direct experience in the contexts described in the commissions; however what you lack in experience you make up for with enthusiasm and an ability to take on new skills and adapt existing ones, based on a thorough research and development process.

Although money is available the commissioning organisations have not given a budget for the work. You must therefore be competitive but remain committed to paying workers the going rate and employing them on professional conditions of service. You will also need to be realistic about the resources and equipment that are needed to successfully carry out the project.

The timescale for the project will arise from your proposal details and approach but could include 'added value' such as a long-term commitment to weekly workshops or a short tour of performances, depending on the commission details.

### 1 Produce a proposal report for ONE of the commissions.

(1500-2000 words, including supporting documentation).

Please state clearly which commission you have chosen.

#### Your report must contain:

- (a) Introduction – that responds to a given scenario.
- (b) Initial summary
  - (i) A brief outline/executive summary of the project you intend to run, including the research undertaken.
  - (ii) Details of who will benefit from this project and how their needs will be addressed (this should include commissioning organisation, participants and the company and company members).
  - (iii) The timelines that will be necessary to deliver the project.
- (c) The Proposal
  - (i) This is an opportunity to 'flesh out' the details of the proposal and convince the commissioning organisation of your ability to deliver the project.
- (d) Budget and Resources
  - (i) Details of costs and resources needed to carry out the work.



**(e) Appendices**

- (i)** Details of adaptations and changes made in response to any pilot workshops/scratch performances and stakeholder research that may have been part of the R&D process.
- (ii)** Planning documentation and budget.
- (iii)** Health and safety and legal constraints.
- (iv)** Details of how you intend to monitor and evaluate the process and the outcomes.

**[50 marks]**

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