

General Certificate of Secondary Education
June 2008



APPLIED PERFORMING ARTS (SINGLE AWARD) 3880/2/PM
Unit 2 Showcase Performance

CANDIDATE GUIDANCE

To be issued to candidates during the second half of the Autumn term

All teacher-assessed marks to be returned to AQA by 31 May 2008

This document contains:

- general guidance
- details of the Production Brief.

Instructions

- Read the paper carefully. Before you start work make sure you understand all the information.
- Read the scenario and then choose **one** brief.
- The work submitted for this examination must be your own unaided work.
- The research and planning period should take approximately 15 hours.
- The rehearsal and preparation period should take approximately 30 hours.

Information

- Your work will be marked out of 50.
- All your work, which includes the work done during the preparatory period, will be marked.

Advice

- You should discuss your ideas with your teacher.

Introduction

Your group will be in role as a production company. You will need a suitable company name.

Your company will produce a Showcase in response to the production brief. The length and content of the performance will be suitable for all members of the group to demonstrate their skills. This includes performers, technical and stage management crew, set and costume designers and other areas of expertise required to carry out your Showcase.

You must show that you can work as a member of a team and that you know and understand the various roles and responsibilities required.

You should be aware of all the performance, technical, design and stage management elements that go into a production and how your contribution fits in.

You should be looking for ways to improve your skills and techniques, for example, by seeing how professionals and others work in performing arts.

You should take account of the constraints identified in the brief and you must ensure that all work produced is suitable for inclusion in the final performance.

What you have to do

Hold a production meeting to read the Showcase brief and to discuss the most appropriate approaches to the task.

Carry out individual research into sources of material for your own contribution, paying particular attention to the constraints and considerations of the Showcase. You could research other performers, artistes, designers or technicians and adapt suitable ideas.

Further production meetings will allow you to present to the commissioner (the teacher in role) the ideas for your contribution. Your production company, led by the commissioner, must then assess the suitability of the ideas or suggestions. The final choices will form the basis of the Showcase.

Your company will need to consider the roles and responsibilities needed for the project. You must work appropriately on your chosen skill to ensure you are ready for the performance of the Showcase which will be performed in front of the teacher and external moderator, and the target audience if appropriate.

A brief evaluation of your contribution to the planning, preparation and skills development will be presented on one side of A2, **or** two sides of A3, **or** four sides of A4 paper.

During the preparation period, you will *work appropriately on developing your skills* and on carrying out the relevant tasks in preparation for the Showcase. You should be aware at all times of the *standard of your work and what you can do to improve it*: for example, research and experiment with an appropriate range of techniques, media or materials to help improve or develop your abilities.

You will *keep records* of your working practices and progress, and these will form the basis of the final display. It is expected that *regular meetings* will be held to ensure that all deadlines are being adhered to and rehearsals are being carried out effectively.

There are **three** phases in the development of the Showcase that must be linked together to produce the final performance. They are:

- **planning** and **research**, including looking at other people's work and your own preparation and developmental work to meet the brief
- **performance** of the Showcase which includes the setting up and striking of the performance area
- **presentation** of the evaluation.

The work that you present must be of a suitable professional standard in keeping with the accepted practice of the performing arts industry.

The teacher will observe your working habits and practices and will give a mark out of 20 for skills development and professional conduct.

You will ask **three** people with whom you have worked or who have seen your work to provide brief witness statements. These will be in addition to the specified evaluation of own work which you will produce.

Turn over ►

The Production Brief

Community Relations Event

Your production company is invited to perform to members of the community on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th May.

The theme for the event is 'The Four Seasons'.

The content should reflect the various activities, festivals and celebrations carried out in the community during the year.

Performances will be held in a community venue of your choice. You will be responsible for providing your own technical and design materials where required: for example, lighting, sound, set and costumes.

We look forward to your contribution.

It is expected that:

- you will research possible performance sites in your area and choose **one** in which to perform your Showcase
- you will include a range of items: for example, songs, dance or different performance styles and genres, suitable for the target audience
- you will use lighting, sound, set and costume where appropriate
- stage management and crew will run the performance.

Your company will consider the technical equipment necessary for performing in community venues.

The size of the performance area, stage or platform will depend on the venue chosen.

You must consider health and safety at all times.

Individual Briefs

- 1 As a performer**, you will research and select the most appropriate material or performance pieces for inclusion in the Showcase. You will choose suitable methods of rehearsal to improve your techniques and to allow your skills to be shown at their best.

You will be aware of the reasons for the choice of materials or the running order. You will take responsibility for your personal equipment, props and costumes.

Performing for the general public has potential problems so these should be identified and prepared for.

- 2 As a designer**, you must prepare for the chosen venue the set, **or** props, **or** costumes, **or** other items necessary for the Showcase performance.

The theme of the Showcase should be researched and appropriate responses produced. If there is more than one designer, there should be collaboration on an overall approach.

Four designs should be produced, **one** of which must be made or assembled and used for the performance.

The designer must take into account the needs of the whole performance and any constraints presented by the chosen venue.

- 3 As a technician**, you must be aware of the demands of the Showcase and the range of equipment required to support the performers.

When lighting or sound rigs are portable, the equipment must be chosen and prepared carefully to fulfil the necessary health and safety regulations. You can choose to be responsible for **either** lighting **or** sound.

Diagrams to show how to stow and rig the equipment must be produced as well as the necessary cue sheets. Another crew member should be able to follow these in case an emergency arises. You should identify potential problems and prepare contingency plans.

- 4 As a stage manager**, you must be aware of all the elements involved in running the Showcase.

You must prepare the book, cue sheets or other documents relating to your tasks.

You must attend rehearsals and production meetings to find out exactly what is required.

You must collect or make props if appropriate.

You must know where and when set changes are needed and carry them out efficiently.

You must enforce health and safety regulations, and identify potential problems.

Assessment requirements GCSE Applied Performing Arts (Single Award) Unit 2: Showcase Performance

You should produce work that shows:

- research and development work to meet the brief
- the final piece of work, suitably presented
- three brief witness statements of your working practices by people with whom you have worked
- a brief evaluation of your contribution to planning, preparation and skills development, presented on one side of A2, **or** two sides of A3, **or** four sides of A4.

Level 1:	Level 2:	Level 3:
<p>Skills development and professional conduct Show an awareness of professional conduct. Be appropriately prepared to participate in all sessions, respond to direction, be on time, carry out all tasks, including clearing up/striking. <i>(0–6 marks)</i></p>	<p>Demonstrate a professional attitude towards your work. Be thoroughly prepared, reflect on your contribution, and work to improve your skills. Take responsibility for tasks during the performance and in clearing up/striking. <i>(7–13 marks)</i></p>	<p>Demonstrate self-direction in your approach to developing your skills and working towards professional standards. Take initiative in working with others in all aspects of the performance and in clearing up/striking. <i>(14–20 marks)</i></p>
<p>Final performance/designs Apply what you have rehearsed or developed accurately, with an acceptable level of skill, to the audience. <i>(0–6 marks)</i></p>	<p>Demonstrate effective creative control when presenting or carrying out the prepared skill for the audience. <i>(7–13 marks)</i></p>	<p>Demonstrate an accomplished, imaginative response to the final work and present or perform it with flair and fluency. <i>(14–20 marks)</i></p>
<p>Evaluation of own work Comment on your contribution to the Showcase. Using appropriate technical terms, identify the skills that were used. <i>(0–3 marks)</i></p>	<p>Explain your contribution to the Showcase. Clearly identify the skills you used, using appropriate technical language, and show how you have improved them. <i>(4–6 marks)</i></p>	<p>Clearly explain and evaluate your skills and how they contributed to the Showcase. Explain the improvements you have made, using correct technical language. <i>(7–10 marks)</i></p>

END OF CANDIDATE GUIDANCE

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