

General Certificate of Secondary Education
June 200X



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

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.

What you have to do

Read the brief. Hold an initial production meeting to discuss the most appropriate materials for inclusion in the Showcase that will allow the group to demonstrate their skills. 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 to see how they carried out similar ideas, and adapt suitable ideas. A second production meeting will allow you to present your ideas for your contribution to the Commissioner (the Teacher in role). The group, led by the Commissioner, must then assess the suitability of the ideas or suggestions and the final choices will form the basis of the Showcase.

The group will then need to consider the roles and responsibilities needed for the project management, contingency plans, health and safety issues and an action plan. You must then work appropriately on your chosen skill to ensure that you are ready for the performance of the Showcase. The Showcase will be performed in front of the teacher and an audience. An external moderator may also be present.

A brief evaluation of your contribution to the planning and preparation of the pieces and your 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 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
- the performance of the Showcase which includes the setting up and striking of the performance area
- presentation of the evaluation

The work you present must be of a suitable professional standard that is in-keeping with the accepted practice of the performing arts industry. The teacher will have been observing your working habits and practices and they will be used in the discussions with the external moderator. You will ask three people you have worked with or who have seen your work to provide brief witness statements. These will be in addition to the specified evaluation.

Introduction

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

You must show that you can work as a member of a team and that you know what the various roles and responsibilities are. You should be aware of all the elements that go into a production and how your contribution fits in. You should be looking for ways to improve your techniques, for example, by seeing how other people work and trying their ideas. 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.

The Production Brief

A performance company is required to produce shows suitable for children and families. It is intended to introduce live performances to families in community settings. Your company is invited to produce a Showcase in response to the production brief. It is expected that:

- there will be a range of items included, for example, songs, dance, scripted pieces or different performance styles and genres
- set and costume designs will be provided by the company where appropriate (if there are no design candidates then some indication should be given by the company of what these could be).
- the company needs to consider the technical equipment necessary for touring
- stage management and crew will run the performance

The company will perform the Showcase at a community venue of their choice.

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 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 props and costumes. Performing for children has potential problems and they should be identified and prepared for.
- 2 As a designer you must prepare a set or costumes that will be suitable for touring. The themes of the Showcase should be researched and appropriate responses produced. The set and costume designer should collaborate on an overall approach so that there will be a cohesive response. You must consider health and safety at all times. It is assumed that there will be only one set design for a touring show, but there should be an indication of individual requirements or design solutions for a selection of scenes. Designs for four costumes should be produced. This could be one group or four individual costumes. One must be made or assembled and worn for the performance. Identify the problems for a designer of a touring production.
- 3 As a technician you must be aware of the demands of the Showcase and the range of equipment required to support the performers. Other equipment should be identified when, or if, it is decided to use it. The lighting or sound rigs must be portable and so the equipment must be chosen and prepared carefully to fulfil the necessary health and safety regulations. You can choose one of the areas, unless the demands of the show are manageable with one person. Diagrams to show how to stow and rig the equipment must be produced with the necessary cue sheets. These should be able to be followed by another crew member in case an emergency arises. You should identify potential problems and prepare contingency plans.
- 4 As a stage manager or other backstage crew member, you must be aware of all the elements involved in running the prepared Showcase. You will have the book or other prepared cue sheets or documents relating to your tasks. You will have attended rehearsals and production meetings to find out exactly what is required, collected or made props if appropriate. You will know where and when set changes are needed and carry them out efficiently. You should enforce health and safety regulations, and identify potential problems.

Assessment requirements for GCSE in Applied Performing Arts (Single or Double Award) Unit 2: Showcase Performance

For the external assessment, you should respond to a set brief. You should produce work that shows:

- 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
- the final piece of work, suitably presented
- **three** observations of your working practices by people you have worked with

In preparation for the assessment, you will work on your skills by carrying out the briefs set by the teacher in Unit 1.

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.</p> <p>(0-6 marks)</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.</p> <p>(7-13 marks)</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.</p> <p>(14-20 marks)</p>
<p>Final performance/designs Apply what you have rehearsed or developed accurately, with an acceptable level of skill, to the audience.</p> <p>(0-6 marks)</p>	<p>Demonstrate effective creative control when presenting or carrying out the prepared skill for the audience.</p> <p>(7-13 marks)</p>	<p>Demonstrate an accomplished, imaginative response to the final work and present or perform it with flair and fluency.</p> <p>(14-20 marks)</p>
<p>Evaluation of own work Comment on your contribution to the Showcase. Using appropriate technical terms, identify the skills that were used.</p> <p>(0-3 marks)</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.</p> <p>(4-6 marks)</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.</p> <p>(7-10 marks)</p>