

# Level 1/2 Technical Award in Performing Arts

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## Purpose statement

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### Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is for learners aged 14–16 who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in the performing arts. It is designed with both practical and theoretical elements, which will prepare students for further qualifications in performing arts, drama, dance, music, media studies, film studies and art and design.

### What will the learner study as part of this qualification?

Learners will complete three mandatory units (one externally assessed and two internally assessed) spread across 120 guided learning hours.

#### Unit 1: Unlocking creativity (internally assessed)

Learners will be asked to come up with a performance idea based on guidance from a range of video recordings by practitioners in the performing arts. Learners will understand, plan and deliver the activities required to put on a successful performance including business planning and pitching. Learners will produce a portfolio of research, planning and ideas to enable them to put on a performance. They will then go on to pitch this idea as a group to camera. A short extract from the performance idea will also be presented.

#### Unit 2: The production/performance (internally assessed)

Learners will work towards producing a performance to an audience based on a brief. Learners will choose a minimum of two disciplines from either a performance list including acting, dancing, singing, dancing, instrumental musician, musical theatre, variety performance, pantomime, physical theatre and circus skills, or a production list including costume, set design, properties, make-up, lighting, sound, stage, original writing, directing, choreography, PR and film production.

#### Unit 3: The Performing Arts experience (externally assessed)

Learners will draw on knowledge and understanding from units 1 and 2 and also from:

- roles and responsibilities within the performing arts industry.
- the role of performing arts in society
- approaches to rehearsal
- working as a deviser/performer/director
- marketing and public relations
- health and safety
- design and technical elements
- reviewing performances.

The synoptic nature of this unit allows learners to respond to a range of questions designed to assess their knowledge across the performing arts.

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## **What knowledge and skills will the learner develop as part of this qualification and how might these be of use and value in further studies?**

The work of practitioners in unit 1 provides an opportunity for learners to understand the work of different performing arts sectors covered by the qualification. Learners will consider the importance of effective communication and partnership working within performing arts along with demonstrating competency in communication and pitching. Learners will be given an opportunity to perform/produce in their own production.

Learners will research different performing arts disciplines and unlock their creativity when developing ideas for a performance and develop the practical skills associated with performing arts. The latter requires self-discipline, motivation and commitment - key elements that are all needed for further study.

Learners will develop a broad knowledge of creative business practices, including functions and roles, marketing and event management, develop knowledge putting on a production and allowing them to perform effectively/present technical work in their chosen area, analyse and evaluate skills through both independent, team and collaborative work and develop an awareness of industrial practices and employment opportunities.

The course will develop a variety of transferable skills including self-appraisal, evaluation, teamwork, leadership, research, presentation, communication and problem-solving. These are skills that will stand any learner in good stead for the future, irrespective of the career path chosen. Literacy and numeracy skills will be developed in addition to an increased awareness of the positive effects of performing and production.

## **Which subjects will complement this course?**

The Technical Award in Performing Arts is complemented by a wide range of creative GCSEs including Drama, Dance, Music, English, Media Studies, Film Studies and Art and Design. This new qualification can also be delivered alongside other Technical Awards such as Fashion and Textiles and Materials Technology. This course will offer a progressive route through to Tech Certificates, Tech Levels, BTEC Level 3, AS and A Levels.

This Performing Arts Technical Award allows learners to develop their skills in both a performance and production role, chosen from a wide range of disciplines. This mix of disciplines is a good preparation for the world of artistic performance. This qualification would complement a GCSE in Drama, Music or Dance which focus on these three individual disciplines in more depth.

The Performing Arts Technical Award allows more scope for learners to develop the practical skills required to put on a performance and to develop their creative skills by taking the performance from idea to delivery. In contrast, in the related GCSE subjects performances tend to be based on set texts and the knowledge acquired is more focussed on the processes and conventions of performance. A GCSE in Music, Drama or Dance could provide learners with a valuable academic understanding of the nature of performance while the Technical Award would help learners to put this into practice in a practical, commercial context.

## **Further information**

[www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/performing-arts](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/performing-arts)