

Next Generation Higher National Unit Specification

Television Scriptwriting Non-Factual (SCQF level 8)

Unit code: J5MG 48
SCQF level: 8 (16 SCQF credit points)
Valid from: session 2024 to 2025

This unit specification provides detailed information about the unit to ensure consistent and transparent assessment year on year. It is for lecturers and assessors and contains all the mandatory information you need to deliver and assess the unit.

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Unit purpose

This unit helps learners to develop the skills they need to produce complete scripts and storyboards for non-factual television programmes, working to a brief.

Entry is at your centre's discretion. Learners should have completed a relevant group award at SCQF level 6 or above, or have an equivalent qualification or work experience, before starting the unit.

On completion of the unit, learners may progress to further study or trainee positions in the television industry.

Unit outcomes

Learners who complete this unit can:

- 1 create synopses and treatments to meet the requirements of a specified non-factual programme brief
- 2 create complete production scripts and storyboards for non-factual television programmes

Evidence requirements

Learners must demonstrate their knowledge and skills by:

- ◆ creating synopses and treatments presented in an appropriate format to meet the requirements of a specified brief
- ◆ creating a production script or storyboard to meet the requirements of a specified brief

Although not mandatory, it is a useful experience for learners to take at least one production folio through to product completion.

You assess learners on the script folios they produce in response to a brief. Their folios should contain:

- ◆ a synopsis
- ◆ a treatment
- ◆ a complete production script or storyboard

Grading

This unit contributes to learners' overall final grades.

Knowledge and skills

Knowledge	Skills
<p>Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ briefs◆ synopses◆ treatments◆ production scripts or storyboards◆ the current technical conventions of professional scriptwriting and storyboarding	<p>Learners can create:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ synopses that are effective in describing programme content and purpose, and accurately meet brief requirements◆ treatments that accurately indicate the proposed style of the programmes◆ treatments that accurately indicate programme requirements◆ treatments that are effective within the resource constraints of the given brief◆ production scripts and storyboards that are an effective and accurate realisation of the content and purpose of the programme briefs◆ scripts and storyboards that correctly use the language of professional production techniques◆ scripts and storyboards that are realisable within the constraints of the allocated budgets for given briefs

Meta-skills

You must give learners opportunities to develop their meta-skills throughout this unit. We've suggested how to incorporate the most relevant ones into the unit content, but you may find other opportunities.

Self-management

This includes focusing, integrity, adapting and initiative. The most relevant is:

- ◆ Focusing:
 - paying attention to detail when creating synopses, treatments and scripts to meet the brief

Social intelligence

This includes communicating, feeling, collaborating and leading. The most relevant is:

- ◆ Communicating:
 - selling ideas through storytelling

Innovation

This includes curiosity, creativity, sense-making and critical thinking. The most relevant is:

- ◆ Creativity:
 - problem solving
 - proposing ideas
 - working with the resources available and meeting the brief

Literacies

This unit provides opportunities to develop the following literacies.

Numeracy

Learners create scripts and storyboards that reflect the available budget and resources.

Communication

Learners convey information, ideas and opinions accurately, coherently and succinctly, using appropriate vocabulary.

Digital

Learners use digital tools to research and develop programme ideas.

Learning for Sustainability

Throughout this unit, you should encourage learners to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of sustainability.

This includes:

- ◆ a general understanding of social, economic and environmental sustainability
- ◆ a general understanding of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- ◆ a deeper understanding of subject-specific sustainability
- ◆ the confidence to apply the skills, knowledge, understanding and values they develop in the next stage of their life

Delivery of unit

You can deliver and assess this unit alongside Television Programme Production at SCQF level 7, Television Technical Production at SCQF level 7, and selected optional units in the HNC Television qualification.

Additional guidance

The guidance in this section is not mandatory.

Content and context for this unit

The unit gives learners the opportunity to write a range of non-factual scripts for given programme briefs. They should write the scripts or storyboards to the stage of a production script. They should create a shooting script in the context of production management and director roles.

You might consider (but are not limited to) programme types such as:

- ◆ animation
- ◆ children's entertainment
- ◆ continuous serial
- ◆ drama
- ◆ light entertainment
- ◆ magazine programme
- ◆ music programme
- ◆ music video
- ◆ television advertising

Learners produce scripts to briefs that you supply. You may wish to work to your centre's strengths — for example, if your centre has strong links to music, you could create briefs for music videos. However, you must also introduce learners to scripts that follow standard script conventions for television.

Your role is like that of a script editor. You should ensure learners work to strict deadlines for script and storyboard revisions.

Approaches to assessment

You assess learners on script folios they produce in response to a brief.

You do not assess learners on their artistic ability. Storyboards should, however, provide clear and unambiguous guidance to other production personnel.

Equality and inclusion

This unit is designed to be as fair and as accessible as possible with no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment.

You should consider the needs of individual learners when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Guidance on assessment arrangements for disabled learners and those with additional support needs is available on the [assessment arrangements web page](#).

Information for learners

Television Scriptwriting Non-Factual (SCQF level 8)

This information explains:

- ◆ what the unit is about
- ◆ what you should know or be able to do before you start
- ◆ what you need to do during the unit
- ◆ opportunities for further learning and employment

Unit information

This unit helps you to develop the skills you need to produce complete scripts and storyboards for non-factual television programmes, working to a brief.

Entry is at your centre's discretion. We recommend that you have completed a relevant group award at SCQF level 6 or above, or have an equivalent qualification or work experience, before starting the unit.

You produce a script folio in response to a brief. Your folio should contain:

- ◆ a synopsis
- ◆ a treatment
- ◆ a complete production script or storyboard

Programme types that you might be asked to script or storyboard include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ animation
- ◆ children's entertainment
- ◆ continuous serial
- ◆ drama
- ◆ light entertainment
- ◆ magazine programme
- ◆ music programme
- ◆ music video
- ◆ television advertising

On completion of the unit, you can:

- 1 create synopses and treatments to meet the requirements of a specified non-factual programme brief
- 2 create complete production scripts and storyboards for non-factual television programmes

You are assessed on your script folio.

You may progress to further study or a trainee position in the television industry.

Meta-skills

Throughout this unit, you develop meta-skills for the television sector.

Meta-skills are transferable behaviours and abilities that help you adapt and succeed in life, study and work. There are three categories of meta-skills: self-management, social intelligence and innovation.

Self-management

This meta-skill includes:

- ◆ Focusing:
 - paying attention to detail when creating synopses, treatments and scripts to meet the brief

Social intelligence

This meta-skill includes:

- ◆ Communicating:
 - selling ideas through storytelling

Innovation

This meta-skill includes:

- ◆ Creativity:
 - problem solving
 - proposing ideas
 - working with the resources available and meeting the brief

Grading

This unit contributes to your overall final grade.

Learning for Sustainability

Throughout this unit, you develop skills, knowledge and understanding of sustainability.

You learn about social, economic and environmental sustainability principles and how they relate to the television sector. You also develop an understanding of the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#).

Administrative information

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Superclass: KC

History of changes

Version	Description of change	Date

Note: please check [SQA's website](#) to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of this document.

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