

ATCL Performing (Musical Theatre)

Aims

This qualification encourages candidates to be multi-skilled, reflective performers in musical theatre, showing professional potential. Their performance standards will be comparable in the UK to other qualifications available at Level 4 in the Qualifications and Credit Framework or the first year of degree-level study.

Prerequisites

There are no formal entrance requirements for this qualification but candidates are advised to have studied for an advanced level qualification in an aspect of performance (eg Grade 8 in Musical Theatre) or have had extended experience in performing in the field of musical theatre.

Learning outcomes

For successful completion of this qualification candidates will be able to:

- demonstrate a sound knowledge of the fundamental concepts of musical theatre
- use different approaches to solve problems
- communicate accurately with clear intent
- appreciate the main principles of the discipline, and the limits of their current capabilities and knowledge in relation to them
- undertake small-scale investigative or development activities, using appropriate methods and techniques
- operate in moderately critical situations where success depends on choosing appropriate responses.

Content

Candidates' work will involve the following:

- preparation of an integrated programme of contrasting musical theatre performances
- evaluation and interpretation of published and/or original musical theatre works
- integration of the skills of acting, singing and choreographed movement/dance in dramatic communication
- rehearsal methodologies
- discussion of works, principles and practice of musical theatre.

Structure and marking scheme

This qualification comprises a single unit:

Unit 1 — Performance (practical exam and viva voce) 100%

To achieve a pass overall, candidates must gain 50% of the marks available. To be awarded a Distinction, candidates must achieve an overall mark of 75% or above.

Assessment criteria

The unit has defined assessment objectives and these are measured using the following criteria:

- techniques — use a wide range of physical and vocal skills, using physical space creatively
- communication — communicate dramatic ideas through the media of singing, speaking and moving
- planning and awareness — respond imaginatively to the form, content and context of material, and reflect upon personal performance
- integration of skills, knowledge and awareness.

Unit 1 — Performance (this is a single unit qualification)

Assessment objectives

The candidate should:

- show a creative response to the performance environment and audience, using creative skills as required for realisation of practice-based work
- apply stagecraft as appropriate to content and context and deliver a focused physical and vocal performance
- have knowledge of the key components of performance, and the techniques by which it is created and realised.

1.1 — Performance (70 marks) 25 minutes

Candidates will demonstrate professional potential in two of the three major musical theatre disciplines (acting, singing and choreographed movement/dance) and a good level of competency in the third.

Candidates are required to perform from memory a programme of six contrasting performances thematically linked. The presentation must include two contrasting spoken items from plays or musicals and four songs from published musical theatre works, one of which must be a dance-based item and the three others representative of different song types such as:

- duet
- light romantic ballad
- torch song
- patter song
- comic song
- rock or pop song
- character song.

The programme must include material written both before and after 1965, and a substantial amount of progressive dramatic communication through integrated use of acting, singing and, where appropriate, choreographed movement/dance. There must be appropriate spoken introductions and links to the items.

One item only may be performed with another actor, who may be one of the following:

- a performer who is not an examinee
- a performer who is an examinee and wants to repeat this duologue or duet for their own exam
- a performer who is an examinee but is not offering this piece for assessment.

The performed programme should last no more than 25 minutes, including any setting up, clearing away and breaks between items.

1.2 — Viva voce (30 marks) 20 minutes

Candidates will be required to:

- deliver the words of a song as a dramatic monologue. The song will be given to the candidate 15 minutes before the exam starts
- work with the examiner on a previously unseen piece of dramatic text, discussing its interpretation, their approach and possible rehearsal techniques
- discuss with the examiner some or all of the items performed, with reference to their original contexts, interpretation and performance
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of appropriate technical skills including matters pertaining to Health and Safety in performance.