

CAMBRIDGE TECHNICALS LEVEL 3 (2016)

Examiners' report

PERFORMING ARTS



05850–05853, 05876

Unit 1 Summer 2019 series

Version 1

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Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates. The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report. A full copy of the question paper can be downloaded from OCR.

Note to Centres

There were a number of centres who had selected an invalid combination of units or had claimed the wrong units for a candidate that prevented overall qualifications results being issued. Please note that it is the responsibility of the centre to check that correct units have been entered for certification claims. OCR cannot guarantee that the issuing of results in these circumstances will meet deadlines for UCAS confirmation.

Sector Update

Two key changes have occurred in relation to the Level 3 Technicals qualifications, both in relation to the examined units; firstly, an additional re-sit has been allowed, so candidates can have 2 further attempts at an examined unit if they wish to improve their result from the first attempt made. And secondly, a 'near pass' R grade has been introduced, which enables candidates who do not pass but achieve sufficient marks to gain some points for their examined unit outcome, which may mean that it is not necessary to re-sit the exam.

Paper Unit 1 series overview

This unit asks for responses that focus on working in the performing arts sector. The given employment opportunity outlines a fictional organisation and performance project. This series it was the 'Book the Hall Company' and their 'Say Again!' show. The show aims to perform adaptations of children's books.

The response is made up of a written portfolio, a pitch to camera and an audition piece. The response can have a performer or technician focus. For performers, all disciplines are appropriate.

For the written portfolio, a guide for the word count of between 1500 and 2500 is given and it is expected that responses will follow this guidance. The pitch to camera should be a maximum of 10 minutes. The audition or technical presentation should not exceed 5 minutes.

The employment opportunity includes several 'hooks' and where responses were most fit for purpose it was because they covered all the key aspects of the advertisement.

Overall we saw responses that were informed with some general appreciation of the wider context of working in the sector. Where there was a greater understanding of specific working practices, for example in this case one example could be relating to touring, the response was less generic and more in line with how an applicant may want to show they understand the company they are applying to work for.

This unit is asking for something different from Unit 2c, so it is not necessary to suggest performance ideas, but to apply for the job as outlined in the advertisement.

Pitches to camera and audition pieces that showed relevance, and had been part of a critical selection process, were again in line with how an applicant would communicate their knowledge and skills to a potential employer.

Overall the way the responses were presented was in line with the demands and requirements of the assessment, and as a synoptic unit, it is important to bring the wider understanding, from other units on the course, to the response.

Question 1

Book the Hall Company*

'Book the Hall Company' is back with another great production for schools and wants to hear from talented performers and technicians.

Why not join us for our latest show, 'Say Again!', covering adaptations of best-selling children's books.

We welcome applications from both experienced performers and technicians, and from newcomers to the industry.

The tour is sponsored by a well-known online book retailer who has high expectations of the impact the show will make.

'Say Again!' will tour to schools across the region with the aim of engaging children with the pleasure of reading through our interactive performance project.

If you've got the energy, resilience and talent to play your part in 'Say Again!', then we want to hear from you.

The hall is booked, the children are waiting, there is excitement in the air.....

Get in touch and let us know why you are the one we are looking for!

* **Book the Hall Company** is a fictitious company.

With reference to one of the roles mentioned above, you are required to:

- 1 Prepare to pitch for one of the roles mentioned in the advertisement above. Your preparation must include a portfolio (guide of 1500-2500 words) of documentation including:
 - introductory comments on your chosen vocational role including its current employment conditions and promotional methods. These comments should be made with reference to the advertisement and the role applied for
 - a report on the economic, social and cultural context of the event outlined in the advertisement
 - the proposed materials for progression into your chosen vocational role including any ideas and adaptations that you have made to meet the specific demands of the advertisement
 - your overall progression strategy and how this job opportunity fits into these longer-term plans
 - references to the skills, knowledge and understanding gained as part of your learning programme.

[24 marks]

The written responses mostly fell within the suggested word count and followed the bullet points given to make sure they covered relevant points and had a clear to follow structure.

In some cases, the research that had been undertaken drifted from the focus of employment in the performing arts sector, and towards the value of reading in terms of a child's development. While a response should be informed by research, and the validity of sources should be considered, it is also key to remain focused on the super objective of this task, which is to demonstrate an understanding of working in the performing arts sector, and in particular in relation to this given employment opportunity.

The requirement for relevance continues throughout the response, and includes when referring to skills and techniques, as a performer or technician too.

As a quick check, have you demonstrated you understand the company and the job on offer, and demonstrated your knowledge of the wider context of working in the performing arts sector?

Question 2 (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e)

- 2 Pitch a response to the advertisement to the camera (maximum 10 minutes). Your pitch should include answers to the following questions [6 marks for each]:
- (a) Why have you applied for this project?
 - (b) What role are you interested in and how will this contribute to the project?
 - (c) How will the experience and knowledge that you have gained while on your course be relevant to this project?
 - (d) What is your progression strategy for the next five years?
 - (e) How do you think working on this project will contribute to your progression route?

[30 marks]

Here it is key to be reminded that this is a pitch. While more traditional presentation techniques can be valid, there should be an energy and enthusiasm for the role.

We saw a lot of detailed and thorough responses, which covered all the key factors, however there should be full consideration given to how this is best communicated in order to show promotional intent to the potential employer. Again, we are looking for a selection of what is the more relevant knowledge and understanding to demonstrate and which skills and techniques are best used to support the application for the role.

This is your moment to shine, show you know who you want to work for, why you are suited to the role and how this job will fit into your longer term progression strategy.

Question 3

- 3 Audition/presentation piece - present an example of your work to the camera, which is relevant to the advertisement and the role for which you have applied (maximum 5 minutes).

[6 marks]

The audition should flow directly on from the pitch to camera and be relevant as an audition for the advertised role. A brief verbal introduction to the audition, outlining the reasons for choosing to perform or demonstrate the chosen skills is useful. This is an opportunity to really show why you are the one for the job!

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