

Examiners' report

CAMBRIDGE TECHNICALS LEVEL 3 (2016)

PERFORMING ARTS

**OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical
in Performing Arts**

Certificate: 05850

Extended Certificate: 05851

Foundation Diploma: 05852

Diploma: 05853

Extended Diploma: 05876

Unit 2 Summer 2025 series

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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 and the mark scheme can be downloaded from [Teach Cambridge](#).

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Unit 2 series overview

There was an equal spread of responses for each of the three commissions presented.

The quality of candidates' responses suggests that this unit continues to be well understood, although there were nevertheless some common mistakes that have been identified in previous series' reports. Some centres continue to repeat centre styles, whereas the examination paper functions as a submission template. The use of centre templates does not fully demonstrate the individual response required and may leave candidates open to suspicion of collusion.

The structure of the examination question remained the same with candidates responding to the brief/advert as a written pitch to the client. They assume a role within an events team, to present their knowledge and boost the sales element. Candidates who adopted a 'sales approach' to their pitch showed clear understanding of the overarching aim of the assessment as a task that represents real life employment commissions. It was evident that some centres had embraced this approach excellently, thus promoting 'real world' learning with their candidates.

The candidate is required to produce a thoroughly considered pitch with a comprehensive appendix, which was often done to good effect. This appendix can include all back up and explanatory materials such as research, the supporting budgets, legalities, planning documentation and any other relevant information. No word count is applied to the appendices, but all documentation should illustrate the pitch.

Use of centre styles or templates

Centres' styles or templates should not be used for candidates' submissions. Centres are advised to guide their candidates to follow the flow/format of the exam paper to maximise the impact of their work.

The exam paper itself is systematic and leads the candidate through the required stages to produce their response. Candidates following the examination format tended to fare better than centre produced formats, which did not always differentiate candidates very well. The use of house style can also lead to the same error being made across all submissions in a centre, which is less likely when findings are achieved through independent research.

In their work, candidates are reminded to detail their name, candidate number and title of the chosen commission. This was much improved this series, although there were nevertheless submissions where it took a while for the examiner to establish which commission has been chosen in the first part of their responses.

Assessment for learning



Centres are advised to explore the mark scheme in detail. Prepare candidates to thoroughly plan and consider their response and not overcomplicate the proposal. The more complex the proposal, the more valuable time and word count are spent ensuring that all elements of assessment have been carried throughout the submission.

The response should take a practical approach. For example, if the proposal involves the use of pyrotechnics or water the relevant considerations of the risks and insurances should be evident in the risk assessment and budgets.

Candidates do not gain extra marks for adding details of unnecessary funding options or over complicating the task in hand. The use of Arts Council funding is commonly leant on without further explanation, especially in this series. The reality of Arts Council funding is that it is very hard to decipher

the various funding alternatives available and evidence of the application process identifies a candidate's sophisticated response to that of an 'assumption'.

Candidates should demonstrate that they fully comprehend the brief and question paper. Any unnecessary materials detract from this. Adding useful ideas to enrich their response is encouraged but care needs to be taken to make sure that the commission brief is met fully and that the proposal does not go off on a tangent.

Candidates scored highly when they 'sold' their proposal to the reader, as a straightforward idea that was thoroughly backed up throughout the budget, risk assessments and with considerations of the relevant legal, insurance and safety considerations. For example, candidates showed sophisticated responses when they were able to reflect the cost of licensing and health and safety/insurances required in line with the hazards and challenges of each individual scenario. They also included relevant safety measures appropriate to the environment, use of necessary electrical equipment, and relevant user risk assessments, PRS, PPL, DBS, and public liability insurance. The costs and details of their plans to facilitate the use of these considerations were carried through and detailed in the elements of the appendices, budget, risk assessment, planning, etc.

The rule to apply is, if they say it, candidates then need to appropriately embed and consider that resource throughout all elements of the pitch.

Misconception



Candidates need to make sure they have read the commission brief, understand and use the funding mechanism being offered for each commission.

There is a notable tendency to apply gifts or assumptions of a resource, meaning this element would not be discussed in the research or budget contexts. For example, licensing is not treated as an add-on and should be included in the costs, not gifted. This unit works towards 'real world' tasks and unless a resource or gift is offered in the commission, no resource should be left out of the research, budget or other considerations to offer a complete response. For example, if the candidate is offering funding through the Arts Council... which fund, why and how they will need to apply, would be counted as a sophisticated response. This also demonstrates the candidate's real world knowledge that an Arts Council grant is not a 'given'.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally:
- used the examination paper format to structure their responses - adopted a sales approach to the pitch to 'sell' their project idea - made sure that all items mentioned in the text were followed up in the risk assessment and budgets - researched and considered the legal and health and safety licences and assessments that would need to be made, such as, PRS, DBS, Insurances, equipment safety measures, public liability etc and reflected these costs in the budgets	- did not carry through the advertising, risk assessment detail and considerations to the budget or planning timelines - used a Centre styles approach, which left them at risk of suspicion of plagiarism; sometimes an entire cohort were unable to gain the number of marks that individuals may have achieved through interpreting the exam question paper by themselves - the connection of the budgets, risk assessments and research was inconsistent consistent with the proposal. For example, if the candidate states a team of technicians will be employed, examiners expect to see this considered in the budget and risk assessment. The more sophisticated the

Candidates who did well on this paper generally:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally:
- offered less complexed projects that were presented as a more focused, fully considered response, with in-depth detail that carried through all elements of the response - did not make unsupported assumptions but offered background research that was fully cited.	event, the more detail needs to be represented and carried through to the appendix's items and in the proposal text some candidates spent a great deal of time creating a project that was too complicated to back up with the relevant supporting materials mentioned above.

Commission briefs

Commission A

Summer Festival

The Mayor of a local town is looking for an events team for this year's Summer Festival. The festival has taken place as a community celebration for many years, however, recently the festival has been poorly attended.

The Mayor has the support of a committee made up of local community champions and wants to move away from the old style festival and bring in the new by offering something that attracts all sectors of the local community. The aim is to boost the numbers attending and bring people together.

The committee believe in the power of the arts as a way of uniting people. Proposals are sought that have a community arts focus and that offer new and innovative ways of bringing people together.

The town has a large open space in an accessible location that will be used to host the festival this year. The festival will be a one-day event and has been scheduled for a bank holiday. The Mayor and the committee managing the festival are hoping for good weather in order to attract large numbers of people to attend this fabulous local event.

Please submit your proposal to the Mayor's office. Your proposal should include planning requirements to ensure this exciting event is set up effectively.

Commission B

Reach Out!

The local charity commission is seeking proposals from an events team who would like the opportunity to contribute to an upcoming event that aims to celebrate the work of local charities. The event will be a community outreach day and must be suitable for everyone in the community to attend.

The wider context for the event is to highlight the excellent work of charities in the local area. The charity commission has identified this outreach event as being one that will focus on performing arts based activities and entertainment so it is a fun day for all. They would like to include performances and workshops as part of the event.

A venue is available that has a stage, breakout rooms and a large ballroom area that can be used free of charge. Refreshments will be made available in nearby locations.

Please submit your proposals to the charity commission and help us make this a spectacularly fun day for everyone.

Commission C

History Revived!

The Earl of Coast Walk has recently invested in the refurbishment of Coast Walk Manor, an impressive country house and gardens. Built in the 1600s, this wonderfully restored historic site will soon be opening to the public.

To celebrate, the Earl is looking for an events team to make the opening a memorable event that will attract people to visit the country house and gardens from near and far.

As well as the public tours of the house that will be on offer during the event, the Earl is keen to include live performances in several locations including the large courtyard, the conservatory and the beautifully restored gardens.

The Earl is particularly interested to take the public 'back in time' and discover the history of this magnificent site. The Earl is open minded regarding the program of entertainment, but it must be suitable for all ages.

Please send your exciting ideas to make the opening something to remember to the Earl of Coast Walk administration office.

*All companies and place names/venues used are fictitious.

Question 1

Scenario

You have formed your own Events Management company composed of members who have recently graduated from pre-professional training. There are four core members including yourself, but you can 'pull in' other co-workers if necessary.

As a company, you are multi-skilled but lack direct experience in the contexts described in the commissions; however, what you lack in experience you make up for with enthusiasm and an ability to take on new skills and adapt existing ones, based on a thorough research and development process.

Although money is available, the commissioning organisations have not given a budget for the work and so you must be competitive but remain committed to paying workers the going rate and employing them on professional conditions of service. You will also need to be realistic about the resources and equipment that is needed to carry out the project successfully.

The timescale for the project will emerge from your proposal details and approach but could include 'added value' such as a long-term commitment to weekly workshops or a short tour of performances, depending on the commission details.

1 Produce a proposal report for ONE of the commissions.

(1500-2000 words, including supporting documentation).

Please state clearly which commission you have chosen.

Your report must contain:

- (a) Introduction – that responds to a given scenario
- (b) Initial summary
 - (i) A brief outline/executive summary of the project you intend to run, including the research undertaken
 - (ii) Details of who will benefit from this project and how their needs will be addressed (this should include commissioning organisation, participants and the company and company members)
 - (iii) The timelines that will be necessary to deliver the project
- (c) The Proposal

This is an opportunity to 'flesh out' the details of the proposal and convince the commissioning organisation of your ability to deliver the project
- (d) Budget and Resources

Details of costs and resources needed to carry out the work

(e) Appendices

- (i)** Details of adaptations and changes made in response to any pilot workshops/scratch performances and stakeholder research that may have been part of the R&D process
- (ii)** Planning documentation and budget
- (iii)** Health and safety and legal constraints
- (iv)** Details of how you intend to monitor and evaluate the process and the outcomes

[50 marks]

Candidates are advised to follow the systematic flow of the exam paper to make sure they do not miss vital assessment points from their submission. The exam paper leads the candidates on a journey to present the necessary considerations of a real world response to a commission brief.

Timelines, risk assessments, research, references, planning notes and budgets can be explained in the text and give reference to any tables produced in the appendices.

Assumptions for the gifting of resources or funding need to be given context, explanation and rationale. The brief will clearly explain any gifting such as use of venue, on site staff or funding arrangements.

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