Unit 3 – Group Performance Workshop
V2.0   Frequently Asked Questions

Do we need to provide learners with an assignment brief for this unit?

No, it is an externally assessed unit and learners have to prepare work in response to the externally set task brief available in the externally set task section, published on the website.

Can we retake the external assessment? How many times? When can we retake it?

Each year there is one opportunity to sit the external assessment. Learners wanting or needing to retake the assessment can do so the following year. Please see our website for submission dates. Learners will be required to create new work using the relevant set task brief. There will be a charge for retaking the external assessment.

We have a very large cohort of learners. Do we have to send work for all of them?

Yes, as this is an externally assessed unit (as opposed to a moderated or verified unit) we will need work to be submitted for all learners.

Are the assessment criteria for the externally assessed unit in the specification?

No, but they are published as a mark scheme on the website in the sample assessment materials.

Where can I find the grade boundaries?

New grade boundaries are set each year. Previous years' grade boundaries can be found in lead examiners' reports.

These reports also give information on the previous performance of learners and are intended to support teachers in preparing learners for future external assessment.

What materials/notes are students allowed to take in with them when completing milestones 1-4? Are learners allowed to take the exam paper in with them to refer to the stimulus and what areas they need to write about?

Learners can refer to their own factual information that they have prepared themselves. It can include names of performers, artists, writers and directors, they wish to include in their letter.

The information can contain brief bullet points or mind maps of ideas to be covered but must not include fully-formed sentences or phrases that could be used directly in their letter. It must not exceed two sides of A4.

Learners can take the exam paper in with them.

Should the images be contained within the PDF or copied into each learner's relevant folder?
Learners should provide details of the image file name in the space provided on their milestone log. These can then be saved in the relevant learner's folder.

Do learner's need to submit a bibliography?
Learners do not have to include a bibliography with their digital log entries.

Learner's initial interpretation and practical exploration of the stimulus should include primary and secondary research, this research should be discussed in their Milestone 1 log entry. The research can be referenced within the milestone log entry itself and/or in a bibliography.

A bibliography could be completed separately for some or all of milestone entries and/or one bibliography for all milestone entries however a bibliography is not a requirement for Unit 3.

Do the students need to keep a reflective log together with the 4 entries of the digital process log?
Learners do not need to keep a reflective log they just need to complete the 4 milestone entries of their digital process log. However in order to complete the 4 milestone log entries effectively learners will need to make ongoing reflective notes as they respond to the stimulus and create their group workshop performance.

Does this need to be a detailed log, like other units or can it be a notebook with creative notes and research?
The format in which learners choose to make their notes is up to them and you as a centre. The final group workshop performance needs to be filmed. The devising and rehearsal sessions do not need to be recorded. However if learners would like to include recorded evidence as part of their digital log then sessions will need to be recorded.

Am I only filming the sessions that they write their process log on or am I expected to film other sessions as well?
You can record all practical sessions if you would like but it is up to you as a centre how many and which of the practical sessions you record if you decide not to record them all.

Learners are not completing their digital log entries on specific sessions but on particular aspects of the process - each log entry has a specific focus and specific assessment criteria attached. Milestone 1: Planning and interpretation of stimulus Milestone 2 and 3: Development and realisation of creative ideas (early and mid-stage reviews) Milestone 4 Review and reflection.

My students are struggling to fit everything required into 800 words. Within the image allowance can they include photo images of their mind maps from their initial ideas sessions and then reference this in their write up?

The image allowance can include photo images of the learners mind maps from their initial ideas sessions which learners can then reference in the written content of their log.

Can learners take photos of research (articles, poems etc.), rehearsal schedules and peer feedback forms? Can they then reference the images in their responses?

Photographs can also be taken of research (articles, poems etc.), rehearsal schedules and peer feedback forms if required. It is worth remembering that images should normally be referenced and analysed/evaluated within the written content of the log unless the actual image itself speaks very clearly for itself.

Can learners use some of the video footage to verbally explain ideas rather than writing?

No. Verbal evidence cannot be in place of a written response.

Do the learner's videos/images have to be on a blank USB to take in to each milestone write-up with them or emailed to the teachers to place onto the evidence disk / memory stick prior to exam date (i.e. within the learners assessment folder?)

This is up to you as a centre. Most have a secure space on an internal drive with a file for each learner to which they can then upload their work after each entry has been written.

As each student has to save 4 milestone PDFs, is there an addendum to the saved file name for each milestone?

Yes. In this case learners can save their files as follows:

12345_ F180542_Smith_J_Log1
12345_ F180542_Smith_J_Log2
12345_ F180542_Smith_J_Log3
12345_ F180542_Smith_J_Log4

This will make it clear for examiners when accessing the work to mark.