General Assessment Information

Test Type: The Technical Theater assessment was developed based on standards used in the state of New York and contains a multiple-choice and performance component. This assessment is meant to measure technical skills at the occupational level and includes items which gauge factual and theoretical knowledge.

Revision Team: The assessment content is based on input from secondary, post-secondary, and business/industry representatives from the state of New York.

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), the leading professional organization for career and technical educators, commends all students who participate in career and technical education programs and choose to validate their educational attainment through rigorous technical assessments. In taking this assessment you demonstrate to your school, your parents and guardians, your future employers and yourself that you understand the concepts and knowledge needed to succeed in the workplace. Good Luck!

In the lower division baccalaureate/associate degree category, 3 semester hours in Technical Theater.
Written assessments consist of questions to measure an individual’s factual theoretical knowledge.

**Administration Time:** 3 hours  
**Number of Questions:** 229  
**Number of Sessions:** This assessment may be administered in one, two, or three sessions.

**Areas Covered**

- **Understanding Technical Theater**: 6%
- **Costuming/Make-up and Hair**: 21%
- **Scenic and Prop Construction**: 19%
- **Electrics**: 16%
- **Properties**: 6%
- **Running Crews**: 13%
- **Stage Management**: 8%
- **Sound**: 11%
Specific Standards and Competencies Included in this Assessment

Understanding Technical Theater
- Perform the duties associated with broad content areas in technical theater
- Demonstrate knowledge of the sequence of stage production
- Understand and apply the basic mathematical concepts that apply to technical theater duties
- Understand and observe all safety procedures required in technical theater

Costuming/Make-up and Hair
- Perform basic hand and machine stitching
- Take measurements and perform fittings
- Label costumes, accessories and shoes
- Organize accessory bags and wardrobe racks
- Set-up and organize a quick change booth
- Apply/create a character makeup design for three to five actors for a performance
- Use basic make-up techniques in performance
- Identify and use costume and make-up resources including shops and suppliers
- Create a list of the range of fabric and appropriate applications or use for costume construction
- Perform basic costume maintenance including laundry and repairs
- Prepare a wardrobe plot for each character in a script
- List the basic hair and wig requirements for a show from an examination of the script
- Create and use budgets for costume, make-up, and hair expenditures

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Specific Standards and Competencies (continued)

**Scenic and Prop Construction**
- Identify the common components of scenery construction
- Build standard scenery including platform, bracing, flat, and rails
- Measure and work in scale from a ground plan or working drawing
- Read construction plans (e.g., elevations and ground plans)
- Create technical drawings
- Create a cut list for scenic construction
- Lay out the set placement on stage
- Spike scenic units in the performance space
- Use bearing loads in platform construction
- Scenic painting materials, methods, and processes
- Use basic shop math for measuring
- Follow and enforce all safety procedures required in carpentry work
- Create and use scenic budgets
- Use basic theater rigging techniques and rigging theory

**Electrics**
- Identify the basic types and components of lighting instruments
- Hang and focus lighting equipment
- Change lamps and gels in standard lighting equipment
- Circuit and patch lighting equipment
- Read lighting plots and lighting paperwork
- Use lighting equipment templates to draw lighting symbols on a hang plot
- Demonstrate knowledge of basic color temperature and color theory
- Identify electrics rigging and lighting positions in the theater
- Operate/program/maintain lighting equipment including spotlights, light boards, etc.
- Use math and basic electrical formulas for stage electricians
- Follow and enforce all safety procedures required in electrics work
- Create and use electrics budgets

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Specific Standards and Competencies (continued)

Properties
- Create properties paperwork and running sheets from an existing script
- Lay out and label a prop table
- Construct and repair basic props using a variety of materials and skills
- Identify techniques for constructing props including paper mache, foam, and other materials
- Demonstrate knowledge of prop safety construction and use
- Create and use properties budget

Running Crews
- Follow cues from headset and cue lights
- Read cue sheets and run show accordingly
- Understand and use rigging systems and operations
- Discuss and outline the roles of various crew positions
- Strike organization and recycling
- Outline in discussion or writing the procedures for deck safety
- Walk the stage area to trouble shoot for safety issues

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Specific Standards and Competencies (continued)

Stage Management
- Create a timeline and flow chart to demonstrate the rehearsal and production processes
- Create a prompt book to be used in the production of a theater event
- Create call sheets and scene breakdown paperwork to be used in the production of a theater event
- Direct the various crews in running rehearsals and performances
- Create prop running paperwork in conjunction with the prop crew
- Generate rehearsal and show reports
- Demonstrate knowledge of communication methods for serving as the liaison
- Generate rehearsal schedules in conjunction with the director
- Create and stock a basic stage management kit
- Tape out a rehearsal room by reading drawings and ground plans
- Supervise the deck crew in glow taping stage set and set-up of safety lights
- Organize and run an audition
- Run a dry technical rehearsal
- Create and use production budgets

Sound
- Analyze script to create a cue list for sound
- Identify common sound equipment and components
- Microphone technique and positioning
- Assemble sound system to enhance appropriate sound mix and balance
- Use and edit sound software
- Comply with sound safety issues
- Calculate sound budget
- Perform signal math using sound theory
Sample Questions

Which of the following stage configurations has an audience on three sides?
   A. thrust
   B. proscenium
   C. in the round
   D. amphitheater

Where is the proper place to measure the size of head?
   A. right above the eyebrows
   B. around the head just above the ears
   C. around the head over the ears
   D. from the hairline on the forehead to the nape of the neck

Stairs that run from the stage into the wings are called
   A. escape stairs
   B. fire stairs
   C. grand staircases
   D. blank stairs

Gel colors are usually described as
   A. hot or cold
   B. tint or shade
   C. warm or cool
   D. soft or loud

Stage safety suggests that hard hats are to be worn by the
   A. audio crew
   B. stage managers
   C. rigging crew
   D. running crew
Performance assessments allow individuals to demonstrate their acquired skills by completing actual jobs using the tools, materials, machines, and equipment related to the technical area.

**Assessment format:** Each content area is considered a separate performance assessment and must be ordered individually. Schools can choose to administer one or multiple content areas.

**Costume Performance Assessment**
- Administration Time: 3 hours
- Number of Jobs: 1
- Job Description: Pattern and sew an apron

**Make-Up and Hair Performance Assessment**
- Administration Time: 2 hours
- Number of Jobs: 1
- Job Description: Make-up and air for a period styling

**Construction Performance Assessment**
- Administration Time: 2 hours
- Number of Jobs: 1
- Job Description: Construct a 2’x4’ fabric covered theatrical style flat

**Electrics Performance Assessment**
- Administration Time: 2 hours
- Number of Jobs: 1
- Job Description: Setup, hang, cable and focus three unit light plot

**Sound Performance Assessment**
- Administration Time: 2 hours
- Number of Jobs: 1
- Job Description: Setup sound system

**Stage Management Performance Assessment**
- Number of Jobs: 2
- Job One Description: Tape out a ground plan
  - Administration Time: 1 hour
- Job Two Description: Create a Mini-prompt book with blocking and cue annotation
  - Administration Time: 1 hour, 30 minutes