Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Education

RTB | RWANDA TVET BOARD

WOODWIND FUNDAMENTALS AND TECHNIQUE

MPAWT301

Apply Woodwind Fundamentals and Technique

Competence

RQF Level: 3

Learning Hours 120

Credits: 12

Sector: Art and Craft

Trade: Music and Performing Arts

Module Type: Elective

Curriculum: ARCMPA3001- TVET Certificate 3 in Music and Performing Arts

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<table>
<tr><td>Purpose statement</td><td colspan="6">This module equips students with essential Woodwind performance skills for both individual and ensemble settings. Through focused instruction, students will develop the ability to produce a consistent and resonant tone, master proper hand positioning and standard fingerings, and execute fundamental articulation techniques to enhance musical phrasing and stylistic interpretation. At the end of this module students will be able to integrate theoretical knowledge with practical application to advance foundational musicianship.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="6">Delivery modality</td><td colspan="2">Training delivery</td><td>100%</td><td colspan="2">Assessment</td><td>Total 100%</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Theoretical content</td><td>30%</td><td rowspan="4">Formative assessment</td><td>30%</td><td rowspan="4">50%</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Practical work:</td><td rowspan="3">70%</td><td rowspan="3">70%</td></tr>
<tr><td>• Group project and presentation</td><td>20%</td></tr>
<tr><td>• Individual project /Work</td><td>50%</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="3">Summative Assessment</td><td>50%</td></tr>
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Elements of Competency and Performance Criteria

Elements of competency	Performance criteria
1. Apply basic Instrument maintenance and care	1.1 Cleaning procedures are correctly demonstrated, ensuring proper maintenance and longevity of the instrument
	1.2 Assembling and disassembling the instrument is performed correctly, following proper techniques to ensure safety, efficiency, and protection of the instrument.
	1.3 Minor issues, such as stuck keys or leaks, are promptly identified and addressed, demonstrating awareness of instrument condition
2. **Produce fundamental sound**	1.4 Social and historical context of brass instruments are well introduced according to Woodwind history
	1.5 Anatomy of Woodwind instruments is well identified according to their function
	1.3 Correct posture, instrument handling, and breath control are properly introduced adhering to physical alignment techniques.
	1.4 Stable embouchure is correctly demonstrated adhering to anatomical structure
	1.5 Clear tone on sustained notes is properly produced according to the embouchure stability
3. Demonstrate basic hand position and fingerings	2.1 Relaxed and body alignment are consistently maintained, ensuring comfort, and prevention of tension or strain
	2.2 Proper hand positions are effectively applied adhering to the precise coordination
	2.3 Basic fingerings within the beginner range are accurately identified and applied, ensuring proper coordination, technique, and sound accuracy.
	2.4 Smooth transition between adjacent notes are correctly demonstrated emphasizing seamless embouchure adjustments
4. Apply articulation techniques and artistry	**3.1** Staccato, legato, and slurred notes are accurately performed, ensuring correct phrasing for each articulation style.
	3.2 Tonguing for consistent attacks is applied appropriately, achieving clarity and precision
	3.3 Smooth transitions during slurs are effectively maintained, ensuring seamless connection between notes.
	3.4 Rhythmic alignment is consistently maintained, ensuring precise timing and synchronization with accompanying parts or ensemble

Learning outcomes	At the end of the module the learner will be able to: 1. Apply basic instruments maintenance and care 2. Produce fundamental sound 3. Demonstrate basic fingering and hand position 4. Apply articulation techniques and artistry
Learning outcome 1: Apply basic instruments fundamentals and care	**Learning hours: 5**

Indicative content

- **Instrument maintenance**
  - √ Overview of woodwind families
  - √ Importance of maintenance and its impacts on performance
  - √ Understanding the materials and construction of woodwind instruments
- **Cleaning Procedure**
  - √ Proper cleaning of the mouthpiece, reeds and ligatures
  - √ Removing moisture and maintaining pads
  - √ Use of swabs, pull-throughs and bore oil
- **Assembling and Disassembling Techniques**
  - √ Proper alignment of joints
    - Grease application
  - √ Techniques for avoiding misalignment and damage during assembly
  - √ Identifying pad leak and applying temporary fixes
- **Preventive care and long-term maintenance**
  - √ Storage and transportation best practices
  - √ Seasonal considerations for wood instruments
  - √ Establishing a regular maintenance routine

Resources required for the cleaning outcome

Equipment, Tools and Material	• Woodwind instruments • Reeds • Embouchure mirrors • Articulation exercises books

	• Tuning devices • Cleaning kits (Specific to woodwind instruments) • Lubricants, Cork grease and cleaning cloths
Facilitation techniques	• Lab session • Create a step-by-step guide for cleaning and assembly procedures • Assemble and disassemble assigned instruments under timed condition • Present a maintenance plan for an assigned instrument
Formative assessment methods	• Performance evidence • Written evidence

Learning outcomes	**At the end of the module the learner will be able to:** 1. Apply basic maintenance and instrument care 2. Produce fundamental sound 3. Demonstrate basic fingering and hand position 4. Apply articulation techniques and artistry
Learning outcome 2: Produce fundamental sound	**Learning hours: 45**
Indicative content	
• **Introduction to Woodwind Instruments** √ Overviewing common brass instruments such as; Saxophone Flute	

        - Clarinet
        - Double reed instrument
- √ Anatomy of Woodwind instruments, including;
        - Mouthpiece
        - Tone holes
        - Head-joints
- √ The role of Woodwind instruments in various musical contexts
        - Orchestras
        - Bands
        - Solo performances

- **Posture and Instrument handling**
- √ Demonstration of proper sitting and standing postures to ensure ease of play and prevent fatigue
- √ Techniques for holding the instrument securely and comfortably
- √ Common pitfalls in posture and handling and how to correct them

- **Embouchure development**
    - √ Introduction to embouchure basics;
        - Forming the lips
        - Jaw placement
        - Mouthpiece/ Embouchure hole positioning
    - √ Exercises to build embouchure strength and flexibility
        - Free buzzing without the instrument
        - Mouthpiece buzzing exercises for ton consistency
        - Identifying and avoiding common embouchure issues
            - Excessive tension
            - Incorrect lip placement
    - √ Breathing Techniques
        - Explanation of the mechanics of diaphragmatic breathing
        - Breathing exercises to enhance lung capacity and airflow control
            - Long inhalation and controlled exhalation drills
            - “Breathing gym” exercises tailored for woodwind players
        - Coordination of breathing with embouchure to achieve seamless sound production

- **Sound Production basics**
    - √ Introduction to producing the first sound on the instrument
        - Guided steps to combine embouchure and airflow
        - Focus on achieving a clear and centered tone
    - √ Long tone exercises to develop tone consistency
            - Sustaining notes at varying dynamic levels
            - Emphasis on smooth attack and release of notes

- **Exploring the basic range**
  - √ Familiarization with the standard beginner range for the chosen brass
  - √ Exercises for ascending and descending within the range while maintaining tonal quality
  - √ Techniques to develop control over register transitions

- **Evaluating and Improving tone quality**
  - √ Introduction to active listening;
    - Identifying tonal clarity
    - Resonance
    - Consistency
  - √ Self-assessment techniques for monitoring progress
  - √ Peer and instruction feedback to refine sound production

Resources required for the learning outcome	
Equipment, Tools and Material	• Woodwind Instruments • Instrument stands • Tuners • Etude books • Instrument care kits • Mouthpieces • Reeds • Method books • Fingering charts • Practice logs • Repertoire sheets • Music theory workbooks
*** Facilitation techniques**	• Embouchure development sessions • Breathing techniques and airflow control • Mouthpiece/ embouchure hole buzzing exercises • Fingering drills • Articulation practice • Demonstration and modeling • Sectional and ensemble practice

	● Rhythm and timing exercises ● Posture and ergonomics coaching ● Aural skills development ●
Formative assessment methods	● Performance evidence ● Written evidence

Learning outcomes	At the end of the module the learner will be able to: 1. Apply instrument maintenance and care 2. Produce fundamental sound 3. Demonstrate basic fingering and hand position 4. Apply articulation techniques and artistry
Learning outcome 3: Demonstrate basic fingering and hand position	**Learning hours: 40**

Indicative content

- **Introduction to fingering and hand position**
  - √ Overview of finger mechanics for woodwind instruments
  - √ Proper hand placement for holding the instrument securely and comfortably
  - √ Avoiding tension in wrists and fingers during play
- **Instrument specific techniques**
  - √ Saxophones
    - Explanation of keys positions and their relationship
    - Exercises for transitioning between keys combinations
  - √ Clarinets
    - Hand placement on the tone holes for tone control and stability
    - Techniques for accurate tone holes combinations in higher registers
  - √ Flute
    - Multiphonics and corresponded key clicks adjustments
    - Exercises for smooth and precise slide movements
- **Fingering Charts and Notation**
  - √ Introduction to fingering charts to each instrument
  - √ Mapping finger positions to notes on the staff
  - √ Interactive activities to reinforce learning
    - Identifying fingerings for given notes
- **Coordination of fingering and sequential practice strategies.**
  - √ Simple note patterns and reinforce basic finger position:
    - Ascending and descending scales within the mid-range
    - Repetitive exercises focusing on accuracy and smooth transitions
  - √ Incorporating dynamics and articulation into fingering exercises
  - √ Integration of finger movement with breathing and embouchure control
  - √ Exercises to synchronize finger change with airflow for seamless sound
- **Application to simple repertoire**
  - √ Practice on basic standard level melodies and etudes
  - √ Emphasis on maintaining proper hand position and accurate fingering throughout
  - √ Playing short pieces from different genres to apply technical skills in a musical context.

Resources required for the learning outcome

Equipment, Tools and Materials	● Woodwind Instruments ● Instrument stands ● Reeds ● Tuners ● Etude books ● Instrument care kits ● Mouthpieces ● Method books ● Fingering charts ● Practice logs ● Repertoire sheets ● Music theory workbooks
Facilitation techniques	● Embouchure development sessions ● Breathing techniques and airflow control ● Mouthpiece buzzing exercises ● Fingering drills ● Articulation practice ● Demonstration and modeling ● Sectional and ensemble practice ● Rhythm and timing exercises ● Posture and ergonomics coaching ● Aural skills development
Formative assessment methods	● Performance evidence ● Written evidence

Learning outcomes	**At the end of the module the learner will be able to:** 1. Apply instrument maintenance and care

	2. Produce fundamental sound 3. Demonstrate basic fingering and hand position 4. Apply articulation technique
Learning outcome 4: Apply articulation techniques	**Learning hours: 30**

Indicative content

- **Introduction to articulation**
  - √ Defining the importance of articulation in musical performance
  - √ Overviewing common articulation techniques for woodwind instruments
  - √ Explaining articulation markings in sheet music
- **Tonguing basics**
  - √ Proper tongue placement
  - √ Developing tonguing coordination and speed
    - Repeat single-note articulations at varying tempos
    - Alternating between articulated and unarticulated notes
  - √ Common pitfalls
- **Slurring techniques**
  - √ Mechanics of smooth note transitions using slurring
  - √ Exercises to practice slurring across different intervals:
    - Slurring between adjacent harmonic notes
    - Gradual expansion to wide intervals while maintaining tone quality
  - √ Emphasizing on maintaining consistent airflow and embouchure stability during slurs
- **Exploring articulation types:**
  - √ Staccato
    - Techniques for producing short, detached notes with clarity
    - Exercises focusing on quick tongue movements and controlled releases.
  - √ Legato
    - Techniques for creating smooth, connected phrases
    - Exercises combining legato tonguing and slurring
  - √ Accents and Dynamics
    - Emphasizing specific notes within a phrase
    - Combining articulations with dynamic variations for expressive playing.

Resources required for the learning outcome

Equipment, Tools and Materials	• Woodwind Instruments • Instrument stands • Reeds

	● Tuners ● Etude books ● Instrument care kits ● Mouthpieces ● Method books ● Fingering charts ● Practice logs ● Repertoire sheets ● Music theory workbooks
Facilitation techniques	● Embouchure development sessions ● Breathing techniques and airflow control ● Mouthpiece buzzing exercises ● Fingering drills ● Articulation practice ● Demonstration and modeling ● Sectional and ensemble practice ● Rhythm and timing exercises ● Posture and ergonomics coaching ● Aural skills development
Formative assessment methods	● Performance evidence ● Written evidence

Integrated/Summative assessment

Integrated Situation

A local conservatory is organizing a performance to showcase beginner woodwind players. The event will highlight solo and ensemble performances, emphasizing tone production, proper breathing, fingering techniques, and dynamic expression. You have been invited to prepare learners for this recital.

Your task is to:

- **Teach learners the anatomy and classification of woodwind instruments, focusing on the flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, and bassoon.**
- **Guide learners in tone production, breath control, and embouchure development for each instrument.**
- **Instruct learners on basic fingering patterns, scales, and transitions between notes.**
- **Assist learners in applying articulation techniques such as staccato, legato, and slurring.**

Tools	• **Cleaning kits (swabs, cork grease, bore oil)** • **Tuners** • **Fingering charts.** • **Music stand** • **Metronomes** • **Meed cases.**
Equipment	• **Flutes** • **Clarinets** • **Saxophones** • **Oboes** • **Bassoons**
Materials/ Consumables	• **Sheet music**

	• **Music theory workbooks** • **Instructional videos** • **Practice logs** • **Embouchure mirrors**

- **Collaborate with learners to develop solo and ensemble pieces, ensuring musical accuracy and expressive interpretation.**

<u>Resources</u>

Assessable outcomes	Assessment criteria (Based on performance criteria)	Indicator	Observation		Marks allocation
			Yes	No	
Learning Outcome 1: Apply Basic Instrument Maintenance and Care (20%)	**1.1. Identify woodwind families and explain their importance**	Learner correctly classifies instruments and highlights their historical and functional significance.			**5**
	1.2.Demonstrate proper cleaning procedures..	Learner properly cleans mouthpieces, reeds, and ligatures, and removes moisture effectively.			**5**
	1.3. Perform assembling and disassembling techniques.	Proper alignment of joints and grease application is demonstrated.			**5**
	1.4. Present a preventive care and maintenance plan.	Learner establishes a maintenance routine and demonstrates safe storage and transportation techniques..			**5**

Learning Outcome 2: Produce Fundamental Sound (30%)	**2.1. Demonstrate correct posture and instrument handling**	Posture and handling prevent fatigue and ensure comfort during play.			**5**
	2.2. Develop embouchure for tone production.	Embouchure strength and flexibility allow for clear and consistent sound.			**10**
	2.3. Execute breathing techniques effectively.	Diaphragmatic breathing enhances lung capacity and airflow control.			**5**
	2.4. Produce clear, centered tones.	Learner combines embouchure and airflow to achieve stable tones.			**10**
Learning Outcome 3: Demonstrate Basic Fingering and Hand Position (30%)	**3.1. Exhibit proper hand placement and posture.**	Hands are placed securely and comfortably on the instrument.			**10**
	3.2. Perform basic fingering patterns and transitions.	Fingerings are accurate and transitions are smooth.			**10**
	3.3. Apply dynamics and articulation to fingering exercises.	Fingering integrates with airflow and embouchure for dynamic and expressive play.			**10**
Learning Outcome 4: Apply Articulation Techniques and Artistry (20%)	**4.1. Perform staccato, legato, and slurring techniques.**	Articulations match stylistic requirements and are clear.			**5**

	4.2. Maintain rhythmic alignment and timing.	Learner plays in sync with accompaniment or metronome.			**5**
	4.3. Incorporate articulation with dynamic variation.	Articulations enhance phrasing and expressive performance.			**5**
Total marks		**100**			
Percentage Weightage		**100%**			
Minimum Passing line % (Aggregate): 70%					

References

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