

## Higher National Unit specification

### General information for centres

**Unit title:** Dance: An Introduction to Performance and Production

**Unit code:** F1LD 34

**Unit purpose:** This Unit will provide candidates with the opportunity to perform in a devised production. It will prepare them for the level of professionalism and discipline required during the rehearsal and planning stages of performance. The Unit allows candidates to develop choreographic and performance skills through direction and encourages personal development through critical evaluation of the production process.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Co-operate with others in a tutor choreographed performance.
- 2 Demonstrate performance skills.
- 3 Dance in a devised performance.
- 4 Evaluate the process and end product of a devised production.

**Credit points and level:** 1 HN credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7\*)

*\*SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

**Recommended prior knowledge and skills:** While entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, it would be beneficial if the candidate had some experience of appropriate dance styles, or had completed the following Higher National Units:

- ◆ F1LL 34 *Dance: Classical Ballet Techniques: Intermediate*
- ◆ F1LS 34 *Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques*
- ◆ F1NS 34 *Dance: Choreographic Skills*
- ◆ F1LP 34 *Dance: Contact Improvisation*

**Core Skills:** There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication, Working with Others and Problem Solving to SCQF level 5 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

**Context for delivery:** If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

## **General information for centres (cont)**

**Assessment:** This Unit can be assessed by an holistic instrument of assessment covering Outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4. The practical assessment will require candidates to perform in a devised performance which will be accompanied by a personal record of the production process including a critical evaluation.

## Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

**Unit title:** Dance: An Introduction to Performance and Production

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

### Outcome 1

Co-operate with others in a tutor choreographed performance

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Rehearsals and workshops
- ◆ Positive working relationships
- ◆ Personal response to direction
- ◆ Etiquette
- ◆ Record of production

#### Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ attend at least 80% of scheduled rehearsals/workshops demonstrating commitment and punctuality appropriate to the requirements of the production
- ◆ contribute to the rehearsal process, demonstrating effective development of positive working relationships with choreographer, performers and production team
- ◆ contribute to the rehearsal process, demonstrating effective development of personal response to direction
- ◆ demonstrate appropriate etiquette throughout the rehearsal/planning stages of the devised production to ensure the smooth running of the performance
- ◆ produce a personal record of the production and rehearsal process including: directorial notes, personal response to direction, research and choreographic processes, personal development of role within the production team

Evidence for the knowledge and/or skills in this Outcome will be generated through practical performance and the production of a personal record of development. The personal record will include a critical evaluation featuring appraisal of individual and group contribution to the performance.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Dance: An Introduction to Performance and Production

### **Assessment Guidelines**

As the candidate must perform in a devised production, and concurrently compile a personal record, of approximately 500 words or equivalent, it is recommended that the assessment for this Outcome is combined with Outcomes 2, 3 and 4 as a single assessment for the Unit. The personal record should be maintained throughout Outcomes 1 to 4 and it could be word processed.

Evidence of practical performance should be recorded on an observational checklist and/or video.

### **Outcome 2**

Demonstrate performance skills

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Contextualisation and underlying intention of the dance work
- ◆ Personal experience and observation
- ◆ Director/choreographer interpretation
- ◆ Performance skills
- ◆ Positive response to direction
- ◆ Rehearsal

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ undertake appropriate investigation to increase awareness and understanding of the contextualisation and underlying intention of the dance work, its movement motif, and the function of the candidate's contribution
- ◆ draw on personal experience and observation to assist in creating their part in the production
- ◆ employ performance skills appropriate to the requirements of the production and the interpretation of the director/choreographer
- ◆ respond positively to direction in terms of willing co-operation and exchange of ideas
- ◆ explain how rehearsal relates to performer development

Evidence for the knowledge and/or skills in this Outcome will be generated through practical performance and the production of a personal record of development. The personal record will include a critical evaluation featuring appraisal of individual and group contribution to the performance.

### **Assessment Guidelines**

As the candidate must perform in a devised production, and concurrently compile a personal record, of approximately 500 words or equivalent, it is recommended that the assessment for this Outcome is combined with Outcomes 1, 3 and 4 as a single assessment for the Unit. The personal record should be maintained throughout Outcomes 1 to 4 and it could be word processed.

Evidence of practical performance should be recorded on an observational checklist and/or video.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Dance: An Introduction to Performance and Production

### **Outcome 3**

Dance in a devised performance

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Choreography
- ◆ Discipline and professionalism
- ◆ Spatial awareness
- ◆ Stagecraft

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ perform choreography with expression showing appropriate emotions in accordance with the agreed interpretation
- ◆ demonstrate an understanding of and be able to maintain discipline, concentration and focus throughout the performance
- ◆ demonstrate use of projection showing an awareness of space; respond sensitively and maintain spatial relationship with other performers on stage
- ◆ interact with the audience appropriate to the context of the performance

Evidence for the knowledge and/or skills in this Outcome will be generated through practical performance and the production of a personal record of development. The personal record will include a critical evaluation featuring appraisal of individual and group contribution to the performance.

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

As the candidate must perform in a devised production, and concurrently compile a personal record, of approximately 500 words or equivalent, it is recommended that the assessment for this Outcome is combined with Outcomes 1, 2 and 4 as a single assessment for the Unit. The personal record should be maintained throughout Outcomes 1 to 4 and it could be word processed.

Evidence of practical performance should be recorded on an observational checklist and/or video.

### **Outcome 4**

Evaluate the process and end product of a devised production

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Production opportunities and constraints
- ◆ Personal performance review
- ◆ Group performance review

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Dance: An Introduction to Performance and Production

### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ identify and evaluate the opportunities and limitations within the production process and within individual performance
- ◆ evaluate their own contribution in terms of their strengths and weaknesses
- ◆ evaluate their own contribution to the performance of the group

Evidence of the evaluation will be presented within the candidate's personal record.

### **Assessment Guidelines**

As the candidate must perform in a devised production, and concurrently compile a personal record, of approximately 500 words or equivalent, it is recommended that the assessment for this Outcome is combined with Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 as a single assessment for the Unit. The personal record should be maintained throughout Outcomes 1 to 4 and it could be word processed.

## Administrative Information

**Unit code:** F1LD 34

**Unit title:** Dance: An Introduction to Performance and Production

**Superclass category:** LB

**Original date of publication:** May 2007

**Version:** 01

### History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

**Source:** SQA

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## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes**

### **Unit title: Dance: An Introduction to Performance and Production**

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

### **Guidance on the content and context for this Unit**

The Unit is primarily designed to prepare candidates for performance and can be approached as an ongoing assessment from the beginning of the rehearsal process, culminating in the devised performance. Alongside the rehearsal, planning stages and performance, candidates are required to keep a record of personal experience and development. A dated diary can be used to aid the production of a personal record, of approximately 500 words or equivalent, which will include a critical evaluation.

Outcome 1 looks at the initial rehearsal process and the candidate's response to direction. Candidates should be familiar with choreographic devices and stage directions to assist with this process. Through individual and group choreographic tasks, set by the choreographer, candidates are encouraged to positively develop their personal contribution within the dance work, influencing the development of the piece.

A personal record should be maintained by the candidate detailing directorial notes, choreographic devices employed and an outline of the development of their role within the performance. This record will be maintained throughout Outcomes 1 to 4 and it could be word processed.

Outcome 2 encourages candidates to research the stimulus for the dance piece and apply their findings and knowledge to its development. Through employing choreographic techniques such as improvisation, and drawing upon personal experience, individuals are encouraged to develop the movement motif whilst appropriately conveying the choreographer's intentions.

Candidates should be familiar with methods of structuring a piece of choreography and should be encouraged to make artistic decisions within their own contribution. Their personal record should indicate ongoing development from Outcome 1 and include, where appropriate, information on contextualisation, motif development, investigation evidence of stimulus and choreographic structure.

Outcome 3 is predominantly performance based, and will build on candidates' individual personal development. Candidates must demonstrate the ability to perform choreographic material accurately and in doing so, will demonstrate performance skills such as use of projection, spatial awareness and stagecraft to enhance their performance, whilst also considering discipline and professionalism.

Outcome 4 presents candidates with the opportunity to analyse their own skills and techniques, identifying areas of strength and weakness within their development. Through evaluation of the whole production process, candidates are able to analyse and discuss personal and group contribution to the performance. The critical evaluation should be a continuation of the personal record maintained in Outcomes 1 to 3.



## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)**

**Unit title:** Dance: An Introduction to Performance and Production

### **Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit**

This Unit has been developed as part of HNC/HND Professional Stage Dance and it is recommended that it is delivered during the HNC/first year HND award.

It is recommended that the Unit is holistically assessed, with the single assessment for the Unit taking the form of a practical performance, under supervised conditions, accompanied by a personal record. The personal record will detail planning, involvement, personal development and critical evaluation. It is recommended that assessment evidence of practical performance is recorded by video. This video evidence can be used as an aid for candidates' personal analysis and critical evaluation.

#### ***Opportunities for developing Core Skills***

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication (Written Communication), Working with Others and Problem Solving (Reviewing and Evaluating) to SCQF level 5, and Problem Solving (Planning and Organising) to SCQF level 4 although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

The personal record that candidates will produce, detailing production notes, choreographed devices and describing their development offers opportunities to develop the Core Skill of Communication (Written Communication) to SCQF level 5. The aspect of personal review will provide opportunities to develop the Core Skill of Problem Solving (Reviewing and Evaluating) to SCQF level 5.

The collaborative aspects of the rehearsal, choreography and performance processes, and the research aspects included in Outcomes 1 and 2 offer opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Working with Others and Problem Solving (Planning and Organising) to SCQF levels 5 and 4 respectively.

### **Open learning**

This Unit is not suitable for delivery by distance learning because it requires candidates to take part in regular studio based practical sessions which are required to be led and observed by a qualified practitioner to meet Health and Safety requirements.

For further information and advice please refer to the SQA document *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning* which is available on SQA's website: [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk).

### **Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs**

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)).

## **General information for candidates**

### **Unit title:** Dance: An Introduction to Performance and Production

This Unit has been designed to provide you with the knowledge and skills required to participate in a devised production from rehearsal and planning stages through to the performance itself.

This Unit is primarily designed to prepare you for performance, and will feature an ongoing assessment from the beginning of the rehearsal process, culminating in the devised performance.

The Unit will cover the following topics:

#### **Outcome 1**

Co-operate with others in a tutor choreographed performance

- ◆ Attendance at rehearsals/workshops
- ◆ Development of positive working relationships
- ◆ Personal response to direction
- ◆ Appropriate etiquette
- ◆ Record of production

Through individual and group choreographic tasks, set by the choreographer, you will be encouraged to develop your skills and personal contribution within the dance work, influencing the development of the piece.

#### **Outcome 2**

Demonstrate performance skills

- ◆ Underlying intention of the dance work
- ◆ Utilisation of personal experience and observation
- ◆ Development appropriate to director/choreographer's interpretation
- ◆ Positive response to direction

During the rehearsal period you will research the stimulus for the dance piece and apply your findings and knowledge to its development and through the rehearsal process itself, you will develop performance skills. By employing choreographic techniques, such as improvisation, and drawing upon personal experience you will contribute to the development of the movement motif whilst appropriately conveying the choreographer's intentions.

#### **Outcome 3**

Dance in a devised performance

- ◆ Performance of choreography
- ◆ Discipline and professionalism
- ◆ Spatial awareness
- ◆ Stagecraft

## **General information for candidates (cont)**

### **Unit title:** Dance: An Introduction to Performance and Production

Through your performance in the devised production, you will demonstrate the ability to perform choreographic material accurately. Within the performance you will demonstrate skills such as: use of projection, spatial awareness and stagecraft to enhance performance.

#### **Outcome 4**

Evaluate the process and end product of a devised production

- ◆ Opportunities and constraints in staging the production
- ◆ Personal performance review
- ◆ Group performance review

You will keep a compile a record of personal experience and development throughout the planning stages, rehearsal and production process detailing directorial notes, choreographic devices employed and an outline of the development of your personal contribution within the performance. This record will be maintained throughout Outcomes 1 to 4 and may be word processed for assessment.