



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Dance: Choreographic Skills

Unit code: F1NS 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to develop candidates' choreographic skills and techniques through task driven practical sessions. Candidates will develop the knowledge and skills involved in the creative process of choreography, and will be encouraged to pursue their own creative path.

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

- 1 Use choreographic devices.
- 2 Use choreographic structures.
- 3 Choreograph and present a dance piece.

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: Candidates should possess a basic knowledge and understanding of choreography. This may be evidenced by the possession of:

D646 12 *Dance: Choreography* Higher Unit or equivalent.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* (Written Communication: Writing), *Communication* (Oral Communication), *Working with Others* and *Problem Solving* (Planning and Organising) at SCQF level 5, 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.

Assessment: This Unit will be assessed by practical performances carried out in studio settings under supervised conditions and by written/oral logbooks.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Dance: Choreographic Skills

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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

Use choreographic devices

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Motif and development
- ◆ Dynamics
- ◆ Improvisation

Evidence Requirements

All knowledge and/or skills items above will be assessed.

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can, through a series of short choreographic tasks and studies:

- ◆ develop movement motifs and apply choreographic devices to affect movement including direction, retrograde and inversion
- ◆ apply dynamics to choreography through varying movement qualities to phrases of movement
- ◆ apply improvisation techniques to create movement phrases including sensory, visual and emotional stimuli
- ◆ keep a record of choreographic tasks and reflect on their development through a written and/or oral log book

Evidence should be generated through assessment encompassing short choreographic tasks and be conducted under supervised conditions.

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 1 could be assessed in a studio setting where candidates can demonstrate their choreographic skills and techniques. The practical evidence may be recorded on an assessment observation checklist and/or by video.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Dance: Choreographic Skills

Outcome 2

Use choreographic structures

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Space
- ◆ Form
- ◆ Music/sound

Evidence Requirements

All Knowledge and/or Skills items above will be assessed.

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can, through a series of short choreographic tasks and studies:

- ◆ use space in relation to: floor space, patterns and pathways and use of entrances and exits
- ◆ apply form to short studies of movement including AB, ABA and rondo
- ◆ use appropriate music/sound effectively in relation to choreography
- ◆ keep a record of choreographic tasks and reflect on personal development through a written and/or oral log book

Evidence should be generated through an assessment encompassing short choreographic tasks and be conducted in supervised conditions.

Candidates will keep a log book of choreographic tasks and personal development for Outcomes 1 and 2. The written/oral logbook of a minimum of 1,000 words or equivalent, should chart the candidates' experiences during the choreography sessions.

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 2 could be assessed in a studio setting where candidates can demonstrate their choreographic skills and techniques. The practical evidence may be recorded on an assessment observation checklist and/or by video.

Outcome 3

Choreograph and present a dance piece

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Planning and research
- ◆ Choreographic skills
- ◆ Music/sound
- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Rehearsal management

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Dance: Choreographic Skills

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by creating a dance piece showing that they can:

- ◆ plan and research a theme or an idea for a dance piece
- ◆ apply choreographic skills studied to the dance piece
- ◆ use music and/or sound which is appropriate to the mood and theme of the dance piece
- ◆ communicate with the performers in the dance piece and tailor the demands of the choreography to the physical capabilities of the performers
- ◆ plan and timetable rehearsals to ensure the dance piece is ready for assessment
- ◆ complete a choreographic log book which charts the choreographic process and evaluates the final dance piece

Assessment Guidelines

The assessment for Outcome 3 could take place in a studio setting. The practical evidence may be recorded on an assessment checklist and/or by video.

This Outcome will be assessed by a performance of the candidate's finished dance piece which should be minimum of 2 minutes in length and include a minimum of two performers. Candidates should not perform in their own dance.

Evidence should be generated through performance of the finished dance piece. The assessment should be undertaken in supervised conditions.

The written/oral logbook of a minimum of 1,000 words or equivalent should chart the candidates' experiences in the creation of a dance piece and include an evaluation of the final performance.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F1NS 34
Unit title: Dance: Choreographic Skills
Superclass category: LB
Original date of publication: May 2007
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History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Revisions carried out by Qualifications Officer.	December 2008

Source: SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Dance: Choreographic Skills

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 designed to give candidates the skills to create choreography. Through a series of task based exercises the candidate is prepared for the task of choreographing a dance piece. Candidates are also required to keep a log book of their experiences throughout the Unit.

Outcomes 1 and 2 focus on skills and techniques used to manipulate choreographic material. Candidates should be led through a series of workshops that highlight the use of:

- ◆ Motif and development
- ◆ Space
- ◆ Dynamics
- ◆ Form
- ◆ Improvisation
- ◆ Music/sound
- ◆ Relationships
- ◆ Transitions
- ◆ Imagery
- ◆ Use of contact/lifts
- ◆ Unison
- ◆ Canon

Candidates should be encouraged to work by themselves, in groups and as choreographer where they stand back and instruct the given task on other candidates.

Outcome 3 requires the candidate to create a short piece of choreography for performance in the dance studio. It is essential that the candidate does not perform in his or her own dance. In order to be able to look at their work objectively they must act as their own 'outside eye'. Candidates are expected to bring together all the skills they have acquired in Outcomes 1 and 2 and work closely with their dancers through communication and scheduling of work.

Log Books

Candidates should be encouraged to include appendices in their log books, which cover: floor patterns, dancers' positioning, research on themes and ideas, costume and lighting ideas, photographic/video evidence of own choreographic process, reports on performances, bibliography etc.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Assessment for Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 should be conducted separately. There is a mixture of practical and written/oral assessment through class work and log books. It is recommended that assessment evidence is recorded by a combination of checklists and video.

It is recommended that Dance: Choreographic Skills is delivered at first year HNC/first year HND Group Award. This will enable HND candidates to progress to SCQF level 8 Choreography Units.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Dance: Choreographic Skills

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills in this Unit there are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* (Written Communication: Writing), *Communication* (Oral Communication), *Working with Others* and *Problem Solving* (Planning and Organising) at SCQF level 5. These Core Skills will be developed throughout the Unit as candidates build both log books, as they devise their own choreography and work with performers in tailoring the dance piece and plan and organise a timetable for rehearsals.

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
Evidence Requirements

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).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Dance: Choreographic Skills

This Unit will introduce you to the skills and techniques used to manipulate choreographic material and enable you to create a choreographed dance piece.

Outcome 1 looks at the use of choreographic devices

- ◆ movement motifs, including direction, retrograde and inversion
- ◆ dynamics: applying movement qualities to phrases of movement
- ◆ improvisation techniques, including sensory, visual and emotional stimuli

Outcome 2 covers the use of choreographic structures. You will demonstrate the use of music, sound, form and space in short choreographic tasks.

In **Outcome 3** you will create a dance piece which will be performed in a dance studio. This will involve researching a theme/plan for your piece. You will then apply your choreographic skills to the piece along with appropriate music or sound. Your ideas must be communicated to the performers involved in the piece and you must plan and supervise rehearsals before the dance piece is assessed.

The practical elements of this Unit will be assessed in a studio setting. You will also keep written/oral log books of a minimum of 1000 words or equivalent, recording details of choreographic tasks and personal development. An evaluation of the final dance piece is also required for Outcome 3.