



Higher National Graded Unit specification

General information for centres

This Graded Unit has been validated as part of the HND Contemporary Dance Performance Award. Centres are required to develop the assessment instrument in accordance with this validated specification. Instruments should therefore reflect the key aims of the Award; to prepare candidates for professional performance work. Emphasis should be placed on the candidate's performance skills, with the additional ability to demonstrate technical ability and creativity. Centres wishing to use another type of Graded Unit or assessment instrument are required to submit proposals detailing justification for change for validation.

Graded Unit title: Contemporary Dance Performance: Graded Unit 2

Graded Unit code: F1Y3 35

Type of Graded Unit: Project

Assessment Instrument: Practical Assignment

Credit points and level: 2 HN credits at SCQF level 8: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8*)

**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.*

Purpose: This Graded Unit is designed to provide evidence that the candidate has achieved the following specific aims of the HND Contemporary Dance Performance Award:

◆ **Advanced Technical Ability**

- provide candidates who have dance potential with the opportunity to gain an advanced qualification
- provide a highly practical training, the core of which will focus on classical ballet and contemporary dance techniques with an emphasis on Release-based and Cunningham-based at HND level
- improve and extend technical ability, performance skills and experience through performance opportunities
- produce candidates capable of progressing to the profession/industry or a degree in dance
- provide a comprehensive training in contemporary dance performance which is relevant to the needs of the industry
- prepare candidates for auditions for professional contracts

General information for centres (cont)

◆ Advanced Creativity

- provide candidates who have dance potential with the opportunity to gain an advanced qualification
- provide a highly practical training, the core of which will focus on classical ballet and contemporary dance techniques with an emphasis on Release-based and Cunningham-based at HND level
- produce candidates skilled in advanced creative processes of choreography
- produce candidates capable of progressing to the profession/industry or a degree in dance
- provide a comprehensive training in contemporary dance performance which is relevant to the needs of the industry
- prepare candidates for auditions for professional contracts

◆ Advanced Performance Skills

- provide candidates with dance potential the opportunity to gain an advanced qualification
- provide a highly practical training, the core of which will focus on classical ballet and contemporary dance techniques with an emphasis on Release-based and Cunningham-based at HND level
- improve and extend technical ability, performance skills and experience through performance opportunities
- provide a comprehensive training in contemporary dance performance which is relevant to the needs of the industry
- prepare candidates for auditions for professional contracts

The candidate will research and perform their own choreography as a solo. The candidate will participate in a mock audition.

Technical ability should be demonstrated through sustained application of technical principles, including but not exclusively shown through; posture, placement, turnout, use of back and centre, flexibility, strength, stamina, control, use of gravity and weight, coordination, and use of arms.

Creativity should show the candidate's ability to respond to given stimuli, and demonstrate their awareness of the productions intentions. These principles should be combined with the candidate's ability to capture the audience's attention by use of appropriate performance skills, which include but are not exclusively shown through; focus, energy, attention to nuance and emotion, and sense of self.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: It is recommended that the candidate should have completed or be in the process of completing the following Mandatory Units relating to the HND Contemporary Dance Performance prior to undertaking this Graded Unit:

F1NE 35	<i>Choreographic Practice</i>
F1V9 35	<i>Integrated Dance Techniques</i>
F1NP 34	<i>Dance: Cunningham-based Techniques: Intermediate</i>
F1NR 35	<i>Dance: Cunningham-based Techniques: Advanced</i>
F1NK 34	<i>Dance: Release-based Techniques: Intermediate</i>
F1NJ 35	<i>Dance: Release-based Techniques: Advanced</i>

In addition candidates may have gained substantial knowledge and skills from the HNC Contemporary Dance Performance and the optional section of the HND Award.

General information for centres (cont)

Core Skills: There may be opportunities to develop the Core Skill of Problem Solving at SCQF level 6 and Communication at SCQF level 5 in this Graded Unit although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Assessment: This Graded Unit will be assessed by the use of a practical assignment. The practical assignment should provide the candidate with the opportunity to produce evidence that demonstrates she/he has met the aims of the Group Award that this Graded Unit covers.

Administrative Information

Graded Unit code: F1Y3 35

Graded Unit title: Contemporary Dance Performance: Graded Unit 2

Original date of publication: May 2007

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History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

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Higher National Graded Unit specification: instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates

Graded Unit title: Contemporary Dance Performance: Graded Unit 2

Conditions of assessment

The candidate should be given a date for completion of the practical assignment. The instructions for the assessment task should be distributed prior to the first rehearsal to allow the candidate sufficient time to assimilate the details and prepare to carry out the assessment task. During the time between the distribution of the assessment task instructions and the completion date, assessors may answer questions, provide clarification, guidance and reasonable assistance. The assessment task should be marked as soon as possible after the completion date. The final grading given should reflect the quality of the candidate's evidence at the time of the completion date.

The evidence for the project is generated over time and involves three distinct stages, where each stage has to be achieved before the next is undertaken. Thus any reassessment of stages must be undertaken before proceeding to the next stage.

If a candidate fails the project overall or wishes to upgrade, then this must be done using a *substantially different* project, ie all stages are undertaken using a new project, assignment, case study, etc. In this case, a candidate's grade will be based on the achievement in the re-assessment, if this results in a higher grade.

At this level, candidates should work independently. It is up to centres to take reasonable steps to ensure that the project is the work of the candidate. For example, centres may wish to informally question candidates at various stages on their knowledge and understanding of the project on which they have embarked.

Instructions for designing the assessment task

The assessment task is a project. The project will be a practical assignment which will take the form of a solo performance and a mock audition. The project undertaken by the candidate must be a complex task which involves:

- ◆ variables which are complex or unfamiliar
- ◆ relationships which need to be clarified
- ◆ a context which may be familiar or unfamiliar to the candidate

This will involve:

TASK 1 Devising movement material from given stimuli

- ◆ creating original choreography in response to a given brief
- ◆ using technical dance skills
- ◆ showing accurate timing and sensitive musicality
- ◆ developing nuances and performance elements key to the production

Higher National Graded Unit specification: instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

TASK 2 Response in an audition process

- ◆ using technical dance skills
- ◆ showing accurate timing and sensitive musicality
- ◆ quick learning response
- ◆ etiquette

The assessment task must require the candidates to:

- ◆ analyse each given task and decide on an approach
- ◆ show planning and organisation, and carry tasks through to completion
- ◆ reflect on what has been done and draw conclusions for the future
- ◆ produce evidence of meeting the aims which this Graded Unit has been designed to cover

This assessment instrument is not concerned exclusively with practical activity — candidates are provided with a brief that allows them to prepare, plan and demonstrate creative and choreographic skills. Candidates should be asked to research, prepare, rehearse and present a finished work and prepare for an audition.

The Brief

The candidate will be expected to demonstrate skills in the major areas covered by the Award, these being:

- ◆ technical ability
- ◆ creativity
- ◆ performance skills

This will be undertaken by demonstrating the following:

TASK 1

- ◆ research, plan and devise solo work in response to a given brief related to and in preparation for a devised performance. It is important that the candidates contextualise their work in relation to current work in contemporary professional practice
- ◆ rehearse solo work to performance standard and keep a detailed record of development
- ◆ deliver the solo performance
- ◆ evaluate the solo performance

The project will involve a practical assignment culminating in a solo performance at an assessment event. Candidates must demonstrate the application of skills learned in the following Mandatory Units in the Award:

F1NE 35	<i>Choreographic Practice</i>
F1V9 35	<i>Integrated Dance Techniques</i>
F1NP 34	<i>Dance: Cunningham-based Techniques: Intermediate</i>
F1NR 35	<i>Dance: Cunningham-based Techniques: Advanced</i>
F1NK 34	<i>Dance: Release-based Techniques: Intermediate</i>
F1NJ 35	<i>Dance: Release-based Techniques: Advanced</i>

Higher National Graded Unit specification: instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Candidates at this level should demonstrate an ability to work on creative and set rehearsal tasks, unsupervised or as independent study.

The assessment task will take the form of a performance event. During this process candidates will be provided with an open brief to produce original work choreographed and developed independently and devised from given stimuli/tasks. This may or may not be material utilised for public performance. Candidates must demonstrate a range of contemporary dance techniques. The solo will be researched with limited tutor advice or intervention. Mentoring will be available in the early planning stage to ensure that the brief and choreographic task is completely understood. To allow for assessment that is identical for each candidate there will be an assessment event. All practical elements will be recorded on video/DVD.

- ◆ The solo performance will last between 7 and 10 minutes and will be performed to an assessment panel of a minimum of 2 people.
- ◆ No costume or props will be permitted.
- ◆ Candidates will select their own music for the given choreographic brief.

TASK 2

- ◆ research and plan appropriate body language, behaviour and etiquette appropriate in an audition for work
- ◆ research and prepare a curriculum vitae appropriate to attendance at an audition for work
- ◆ participate as an individual competing for work in a group audition lasting 30 minutes to a panel of a minimum of 2 people
- ◆ evaluate the audition experience

All practical elements will be recorded on video/DVD.

The practical assignment and the way that it is planned and conducted should reflect the opportunities for individual research. Each candidate must provide evidence at each stage of the practical assignment.

Stage 1 — The Planning Stage

The candidate will produce a research plan in relation to the brief including how response to the choreographic tasks relates to the underlying themes of the production. In addition, the candidate will devise, structure and rehearse a solo in response to the brief. Candidates at this level should demonstrate an ability to work on creative and set rehearsal tasks, unsupervised or as independent study. The candidate will produce an audition plan detailing appropriate etiquette and a Curriculum Vitae.

Stage 2 — The Developing stage

The candidate will rehearse and perform their work, demonstrating advanced technical ability, creativity including advanced choreographic skills and advanced performance skills. The candidate will demonstrate ability to audition for work.

Higher National Graded Unit specification: instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Stage 3 — Evaluation

Assessment for this stage will be shown by the candidate’s evaluation of the whole process. This will be supported by evidence. Evaluations are expected to be reflective and critical, showing that candidates have an accurate and informed understanding of their own abilities, progress and needs for future improvement.

Guidance on grading candidates

Candidates who meet the minimum Evidence Requirements will have their achievement graded as C — competent, or A — highly competent or B somewhere between A and C. The grade related criteria to be used to judge candidate performance for this Graded Unit is specified in the following table.

Grade A	Grade C
<p>Is a seamless, coherent piece of work which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ has sufficient evidence for the three essential phases of the project, is produced to a high standard, and is quite clearly inter-related ◆ demonstrates an accurate and insightful interpretation during performance ◆ is highly focused and relevant to all creative tasks ◆ has a clear and well structured approach to rehearsals, and performance is of a high standard in terms of accuracy and technical content ◆ demonstrates full potential through accurate response to instruction in audition with performance quality ◆ effectively consolidates and integrates required knowledge, and skills 	<p>Is a co-ordinated piece of work which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ has sufficient evidence of the three essential phases of the project, is produced to an adequate standard ◆ demonstrates an acceptable interpretation during performance ◆ is focused and relevant to creative tasks ◆ has a satisfactory approach to rehearsals, and performance is adequate in terms of level, accuracy and technical content ◆ demonstrates satisfactory response to instruction in audition. Performance is adequate in terms of level, accuracy and technical content ◆ consolidates and integrates knowledge and skills but this may lack some continuity and consistency

The project will be marked out of 100. Assessors will mark each stage of the project, taking into account the criteria outlined. The marks will then be aggregated to arrive at an overall mark for the project. Assessors will then assign an overall grade to the candidate for this Graded Unit based on the following grade boundaries.

- A = 70% — 100%
- B = 60% — 69%
- C = 50% — 59%

Note: the candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified below for each stage of the project in order to achieve the Graded Unit.

Higher National Graded Unit specification: instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Evidence Requirements

The project consists of three stages: planning; developing; and evaluating. The following table specifies the minimum evidence required to pass each stage.

Note: The candidate must achieve **all of the minimum evidence** specified below for each stage of the project in order to pass the Graded Unit.

Project stage	Minimum Evidence Requirements
Stage 1 — Planning 15% of total marks	A log book/diary which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ details of each task set ◆ a choreographic plan illustrating choreographic choices — structure, dynamic structure, floor plan ◆ approach taken to interpret each task in relation to the context of the underlying intention of the solo performance ◆ rehearsal schedule and identification of the timescale for completion ◆ identification of appropriate music for the development stage ◆ a Curriculum Vitae ◆ an audition plan detailing appropriate approach, etiquette, behaviour, body language <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Planning stage.</i></p>

Higher National Graded Unit specification: instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Project stage	Minimum Evidence Requirements
<p>Stage 2 — Developing 70% of total marks</p> <p>Task 1 Performance of devised solo</p> <p>Task 2 Mock audition</p>	<p>Devising, Rehearsal and Performance of work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ evidence through inclusion and performance that candidate has creatively and technically developed tasks from the planning stage ◆ demonstrate the ability to work independently ◆ demonstrate individual vocabulary and choreographic understanding at the required level ◆ demonstrate performance skills that reflect the level of knowledge and skills learned in Mandatory Units ◆ demonstrate dance technique that reflects the knowledge and skills learned in Mandatory Units <p>Mock audition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ evidence that the candidate demonstrates their audition plan ◆ demonstrate performance skills that reflect the level of knowledge and skills learned in Mandatory Units ◆ demonstrate dance technique that reflects the knowledge and skills learned in Mandatory Units ◆ demonstrate quick response time to set tasks ◆ demonstrate personality, creativity and individuality in creative/improvisational tasks ◆ level of performance meets required quality and standards <p>A record of the process should be contained in a structured logbook which should include a choreographic log detailing choices made and the reasoning underlying the creative choices and a record of progress. A record of the audition process.</p> <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Developing stage.</i></p>
<p>Stage 3 — Evaluating 15% of total marks</p>	<p>Evaluation report which should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ assess the strengths and weaknesses of their solo performance ◆ review approach to rehearsals and individual practice in the light of experience ◆ assess the strengths and weaknesses of the audition process ◆ review approach to the audition process in the light of experience ◆ identify any knowledge and skills which have been gained and/or developed <p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Evaluating stage.</i></p>

Higher National Graded Unit specification: instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Support notes

This part of the Unit 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 80 hours.

Guidance on the Content and Context for this Unit

This Graded Unit is designed to assess that candidates have met the specific aims of the HND Contemporary Dance Performance Award, assess the candidates' ability to retain and integrate the knowledge/or skills gained in the Units and to grade candidate achievement.

Guidance on the Delivery and Assessment of this Unit

The Unit should be delivered and assessed in a dance studio with adequate space, sprung floor and sound facilities. Candidates will require to use facilities individually to allow for practise and development of work. A schedule allowing for equal access to facilities for each candidate may be necessary. To facilitate the process of individually created solos it may be useful for the planning and development stages to be undertaken during the creative process of a student production. This would allow candidates to relate to the underlying themes of the production and place their work in the context of the production. The student production would not form any part of the assessment and would only serve as a contextual framework for candidates to relate to.

Assessment will be observed by an assessment panel consisting of a minimum of two people. The condition of the assessment must be identical for each candidate. A DVD or video recording should be made of each candidate to serve as evidence and allow for assessment review.

It is essential that the candidate meets the minimum requirements of the task to be eligible for assessment. The minimum time for the solo performance must be achieved.

Each task should be assessed on separate occasions.

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 assessment arrangements. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs*, which is available on SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk.

General information for candidates

This Graded Unit is designed to provide evidence, through a project, that you have achieved the aims of the HND Contemporary Dance Performance Award. The project will be a practical assignment which will take the form of a solo performance and a mock audition.

You will be expected to demonstrate skills in the major areas covered by the Award, these being:

- ◆ technical ability
- ◆ creativity
- ◆ performance skills

This will be undertaken by demonstrating the following:

Task 1

- ◆ research, plan and devise solo work in response to a set brief related to and in preparation for a devised performance. It is important that you contextualise your performance in relation to current contemporary professional practice
- ◆ rehearse solo work to performance standard and keep a detailed record of development
- ◆ deliver the solo performance
- ◆ evaluate the solo performance

Task 2

- ◆ research and plan a mock audition for work
- ◆ take part in a mock audition
- ◆ evaluate the experience

The project will involve a practical assignment culminating in a solo performance at an assessment event and a mock audition at another assessment event. You must demonstrate the application of skills learned in the following Mandatory Units in the Award:

F1NE 35	<i>Choreographic Practice</i>
F1V9 35	<i>Integrated Dance Techniques</i>
F1NP 34	<i>Dance: Cunningham-based Techniques: Intermediate</i>
F1NR 35	<i>Dance: Cunningham-based Techniques: Advanced</i>
F1NK 34	<i>Dance: Release-based Techniques: Intermediate</i>
F1NJ 35	<i>Dance: Release-based Techniques: Advanced</i>

In addition, you may demonstrate the application of skills gained from the HNC Contemporary Dance Performance and the optional section of the HND Award.

The practical assignment and the way that it is planned and conducted should reflect opportunities for individual research. At this level you should demonstrate an ability to work on creative and set rehearsal tasks unsupervised or as independent study. You must provide evidence at each stage of the practical assignment.

Stage 1 — The Planning Stage

You will produce a research plan in relation to the brief including how response to the choreographic tasks relates to the underlying themes of the production. In addition you will devise, structure and rehearse a solo in response to the brief. You will produce an audition plan detailing appropriate etiquette and a Curriculum Vitae.

General information for candidates (cont)

Stage 2 — The Developing Stage

You will rehearse and perform your work, demonstrating advanced technical ability and creativity including advanced choreographic skills and advanced performance skills. You will demonstrate ability to audition for work.

Stage 3 — Evaluation

Assessment for this stage will be shown by your evaluation of the whole process. Evaluations are expected to be reflective and critical, showing that you have an accurate and informed understanding of your own abilities, progress and needs for future improvement.

Assessment

The assessment task will take the form of a performance event. During this process you will be provided with an open brief to produce original work choreographed and developed independently and devised from given stimuli/tasks. This may or may not be material utilised for public performance. You must demonstrate a range of contemporary dance techniques. The solo work will be researched with limited tutor advice or intervention. Mentoring will be available in the early planning stage and will be available to ensure that the brief and choreographic task is completely understood. To allow for assessment that is identical for each candidate there will be an assessment event. In addition, you will be assessed in an audition event. All practical elements will be recorded on video/DVD.

- ◆ The solo performance will last between 7 and 10 minutes and will be performed to an assessment panel of a minimum of 2 people.
- ◆ No costume or props will be permitted.
- ◆ You will choose your own music for the given choreographic brief.
- ◆ You will undertake a group audition lasting 30 minutes to an audition panel of a minimum of 2 people.