



Higher National Graded Unit specification

General information for centres

This Graded Unit has been validated as part of the **HND Dance Artists**. Centres are required to develop the assessment instrument in accordance with this validated specification. Centres wishing to use another type of Graded Unit or assessment instrument are required to submit proposals detailing the justification for change for validation.

Graded Unit title: Dance Artists: Graded Unit 2

Graded Unit code: F22P 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 principal aims of the HND Dance Artists:

- ◆ skills in performing and choreographing
- ◆ skills achieved in dance technique
- ◆ co-operative team working skills
- ◆ innovative and creative approaches to work in rehearsal and performance
- ◆ combining these skills into producing a dance performance in a theatre
- ◆ provide candidates with the knowledge and skills needed to sell themselves in the industry and to work as a freelance artist
- ◆ preparation to enter the profession as dance artists and choreographers

Candidates will plan, choreograph and present a piece of at least 6 minutes at a public performance in a theatre/studio. Candidates will be required to document and evaluate their process.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: It is recommended that the candidate should have completed or be in the process of completing the following Units relating to the above specific aims prior to undertaking this Graded Unit:

F1LJ 35	<i>Dance: Advanced Choreographic Skills</i>
F1LV 35	<i>Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques: Advanced</i>
F1M1 34	<i>Jazz Dance Techniques</i>
DV0M 34	<i>Work Experience</i>

General information for centres (cont)

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Problem Solving at SCQF level 6, Communication at SCQF level 6 and Working with Others at SCQF level 6.

Assessment: This Graded Unit will be assessed by the use of a Practical Assignment. The developed practical assignment should provide the candidate with the opportunity to produce evidence that demonstrates she/he has met the aims of the Graded Unit that it covers. The assessment is based on choreography, production management skills and dance technique.

Administrative Information

Graded Unit code: F22P 35

Graded Unit title: Dance Artists: Graded Unit 2

Original date of publication: August 2007

Version: 03 (August 2010)

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Amend Purpose and Support notes — to ‘theatre/studio’.	30/09/09
03	Add “if appropriate” after costume, lighting throughout unit.	23/08/10

Source: SQA

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

Graded Unit title: Dance Artists: Graded Unit 2

Conditions of assessment

The candidate should be given a date for completion of the Practical Assignment. However, the instructions for the assessment task should be distributed to allow the candidate sufficient time to assimilate the details and 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 **reassessment**.

Instructions for designing the assessment task

The assessment task is a project. 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

The assessment task must require the candidate to:

- ◆ analyse the task and decide on a course of action for undertaking the project
- ◆ plan and organise work and carry it 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 skills. Candidates should be asked to research, plan, manage and choreograph a dance performance.

Assessment should be based on a combination of the end result of the activity (the performance) and the carrying out of the activity (the process).

The project must involve a practical assignment culminating in a piece of choreography, and candidates must demonstrate the application of skills eg developing and devising newly created dance material, organisational skills, planning and staging choreography, producing appropriate performance literature. Candidates must also clearly demonstrate knowledge and skills from the dance technique Units.

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

Candidates will be asked to:

- ◆ interpret and implement the brief
- ◆ schedule and organise rehearsals
- ◆ use dancers to perform in the choreography
- ◆ select and research a theme for the choreography
- ◆ select appropriate music
- ◆ choreograph a short dance piece of at least 6 minutes in length
- ◆ select appropriate theatrical lighting for the choreography
- ◆ devise a technical rehearsal and liaise with the dancers, keep a contact list and organise backstage arrangements
- ◆ cooperate with other choreographers to negotiate the performance running order
- ◆ evaluate the performance (through feedback)

The choreography should not be directed by staff, and the candidate should not be closely supervised while preparing for the project. However staff can help the candidate to select appropriate material and ensure the candidate carries out appropriate preparation of the task.

The dance piece should be at least 6 minutes and will be presented in front of a panel consisting of a minimum of 2 people and a live audience. The audience can be made up of the general public or the class peers. This will allow the candidate to evaluate the response of the audience. This will allow the performance to be assessed by the Graded Unit lecturer and be moderated simultaneously by an Internal Verifier. This will provide the candidate with appropriate feedback for their evaluation. The practical assignment and the way that it is planned and conducted should reflect the opportunities for individual research.

Each candidate must supply written evidence at each stage of the practical assignment.

Stage 1 — A plan of proposed research in response to the brief, and an overview of the initial planning and administration (choreographic theme, choice of music, negotiation with dancers, rehearsal schedule).

Stage 2 — The candidate will present a choreographic and rehearsal log charting the weekly progress of the project (choreographic choices, working relationships with dancers, dealing with unforeseen circumstances, rehearsal schedule). Costume and lighting ideas should be submitted for approval. This should be presented in the form of a structured log book, with appendices used where appropriate.

Stage 3 — A brief outline of the candidate's proposed choreography, technical rehearsal schedule, printed poster and programme should be submitted to the assessment panel seven days prior to the dance workshop.

Candidates should be given the opportunity to receive feedback on their choreography from the Unit lecturer. This should be undertaken on specific scheduled dates to allow all candidates the same access and to ensure equality for all candidates.

At each of the three stages the assessors must be satisfied that the work has been completed by the individual candidate before allowing them to continue on to the next stage.

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

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.

At this level, candidates should work independently.

Grade A	Grade C
Is a seamless, coherent piece of work which: ◆ has detailed evidence for the three essential phases of the project ◆ is produced and performed to a high standard and is clearly interrelated ◆ demonstrates an enhanced interpretation of the project brief which shows insight ◆ is highly focused and relevant to the tasks associated with the project ◆ has clear and well structured performance concepts developed from plan to performance ◆ uses language which is of a high standard and appropriate in terms of level accuracy, and technical content in written work ◆ effectively consolidates and integrates required knowledge and skills	Is a co-ordinated piece of work which: ◆ has sufficient evidence for the three essential phases of the project ◆ is produced and performed to an acceptable standard ◆ demonstrates an acceptable interpretation of the brief ◆ Is focused and relevant to the project brief ◆ displays satisfactorily structured performance concepts ◆ uses language which is adequate in terms of accuracy and technical content in work ◆ 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	The planning stage is worth 30% of the marks. An action plan which includes: ◆ choreographic theme — evidence of research into theme, choreographic devices, use of form, stage plan ◆ choice of music — research into music suitable for theme, length, tempo, dynamics ◆ negotiation with dancers — selection of movement suitable, rehearsal etiquette ◆ rehearsal schedule — devise a workable schedule, contact with dancers, complete tasks in given timeframe <i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Planning stage.</i>

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

Project stage	Minimum Evidence Requirements
Stage 2 — Developing	The developing stage is worth 50% of the marks. Part 1 — in preparation for the performance ◆ rehearsal planning ◆ choreographic choices ◆ working relationships with dancers ◆ unforeseen circumstances Part 2 — the performance ◆ rehearsal schedule ◆ costumes (if appropriate) ◆ lighting (if appropriate) ◆ performance A brief outline of the candidate's proposed choreography, technical rehearsal schedule and programme should be submitted to the assessment panel seven days prior to the dance performance. The dance piece should be at least 6 minutes in length. The candidate will present a choreographic and rehearsal log charting the weekly progress of the project (choreographic choices, working relationships with dancers, dealing with unforeseen circumstances, rehearsal schedule). Draft details of the programme, costume and lighting (if appropriate) ideas should be submitted for approval. This should be presented in the form of a structured log book, with appendices used where appropriate. <i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Developing stage.</i>

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

Project stage	Minimum Evidence Requirements
Stage 3 — Evaluating	The Evaluating Stage is worth 20% of the marks. An evaluation report which: ◆ briefly outlines the practical assignment ◆ analyses the choreographic experience ◆ analyses the effectiveness of the rehearsal and technical schedules (if appropriate) ◆ analyses the use of costumes and lighting (if appropriate) ◆ summarises any unforeseen events throughout the whole project and analyses their impact ◆ identifies any knowledge and/or skills which have been gained and/or developed ◆ assesses the strengths and weaknesses of the planning process of the practical assignment ◆ identifies strategies for development The evaluation should consist of approximately 2,000 words or equivalent. <i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Evaluating stage.</i>

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

Support notes

Candidates will plan, choreograph and present their work in a theatre/studio. Candidates will work individually to produce their piece of choreography and will be responsible for their rehearsal schedule, working relationships with their dancers, devising and setting the choreography, finding costumes and music and staging and lighting the piece in the theatre. The candidate will select a theme for their choreography and devise a piece lasting at least 6 minutes. The candidate will also undertake the necessary administration associated with a performance eg rehearsal and technical schedules, contact lists and producing a programme for the performance. The project should encompass the knowledge and skills acquired throughout the HND Dance Artist Course.

The project brief should sample elements from the Mandatory Units. Some examples are listed below.

Unit Title	Elements
<i>Advanced Contemporary Dance Techniques</i>	Technique and choreography
<i>Advanced Choreographic Skills</i>	Developing and devising newly created dance material
<i>Work Placement</i>	Organisational skills, planning and staging choreography
<i>Jazz Dance Techniques</i>	Technique and choreography

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.

It is suggested that the Unit is delivered throughout the HND year with the assessment at the end of the Course. This will allow candidates to take part in seminars, research plan their project, receive mentoring and present their project. While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 80 hours.

Weeks	Activity	Resources
1–18	Seminars: introduction, presentation of brief, planning, research theme, costumes, music, creation/exploration of choreographic ideas, publicity, administration	Classroom/dance studio Proformas for admin/publicity
19–35	Tutorials/Mentoring: one to one sessions to check progress and provide support Rehearsals in studio Scheduled feedback sessions (approx 3)	Classroom/tutorial room
36	Assessment	Studio theatre/theatre

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

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website

www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

General information for candidates

This Graded Unit is designed to provide evidence that the candidate has achieved the following principal aims of the HND Dance Artists:

- ◆ skills in performing and choreographing
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- ◆ co-operative team working skills
- ◆ innovative and creative approaches to work in rehearsal and performance
- ◆ combining these skills into producing a dance performance in a theatre
- ◆ provide candidates with the knowledge and skills needed to sell themselves in the industry and to work as a freelance artist
- ◆ preparation to enter the profession as dance artists and choreographers

You will plan, choreograph and present their work in a theatre. You will work individually to produce their piece of choreography and will be responsible for their rehearsal schedule, working relationships with their dancers, devising and setting the choreography, finding costumes and music and staging and lighting the piece in the theatre. You will select a theme for your choreography and devise a piece lasting at least 6 minutes. You will also undertake the necessary administration associated with a performance eg marketing, rehearsal and technical schedules, contact lists and producing a programme for the performance.

You will be given a brief and be asked to:

- ◆ interpret and implement the brief
- ◆ schedule and organise rehearsals
- ◆ use dancers to perform in the choreography
- ◆ select and research a theme for the choreography
- ◆ select appropriate music
- ◆ choreograph a short dance piece at least 6 minutes in length
- ◆ select appropriate theatrical lighting for the choreography
- ◆ devise a technical rehearsal and liaise with the dancers, keep a contact list and organise backstage arrangements
- ◆ cooperate with other choreographers to negotiate the performance running order
- ◆ evaluate the performance (through feedback)