



Higher National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Tap Dance Techniques 2

Unit code: H4RG 35

Superclass: LB

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Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to develop advanced tap dance technical skills. This Unit allows the learner to develop the necessary knowledge and skills to participate competently in a structured tap dance class. The learner is also given the opportunity to perform in and contribute to a choreographed tap dance piece.

Outcomes

On successful completion of the Unit the learner will be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate advanced tap dance skills.
- 2 Perform complex tap dance sequences and amalgamations.
- 3 Contribute to and perform in a choreographed dance piece.

Credit points and level

2 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 8: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8)

Recommended entry to the Unit

While entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, it would be beneficial if the learner had gained the HN Unit, *Tap Dance Techniques 1* (H4RH 34), or *Dance: Alternative* (D72N 13).

Other appropriate prior experience may include:

- ◆ A tap dance qualification awarded by an examining board.
- ◆ Classes at a private dance school or at another teaching institution.

Higher National Unit specification: General information (cont)

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Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the Support Notes for this Unit specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

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.

Equality and inclusion

This Unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards

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Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

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. Learners 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

Demonstrate advanced tap dance skills.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Alignment and weight placement
- ◆ Technique, co-ordination and control
- ◆ Rhythmic response

Outcome 2

Perform complex tap dance sequences and amalgamations.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Amalgamations
- ◆ Travelling combinations
- ◆ Musicality
- ◆ Spatial awareness

Outcome 3

Contribute to and perform in a choreographed dance piece.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Choreography
- ◆ Duet/group work
- ◆ Integration of technique and expression
- ◆ Performance qualities
- ◆ Spatial awareness
- ◆ Evaluation skills

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Outcome 1

Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills across all Outcomes by showing that they can:

- ◆ demonstrate secure body alignment and weight placement and apply to advanced tap dance skills.
- ◆ demonstrate through performance well developed and secure advanced technical ability, coordination and control.
- ◆ demonstrate the ability to mimic and choreograph a complex rhythm set by the tutor to 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 or 6/8 timing.

Evidence should be generated through assessment undertaken in controlled, supervised conditions at any appropriate point in the Unit. Performance evidence supported by a video/DVD recording and an assessor observation checklist is required for this Outcome.

Outcome 2

Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ accurately learn and reproduce complex amalgamations combining a variety of advanced tap technique elements.
- ◆ accurately learn and demonstrate advanced travelling combinations using complex floor patterns, varying rhythm and tempi. These must show a minimum of five travelling elements.
- ◆ demonstrate a well-developed understanding and application of a complex range of timings, phrasing, rhythms and dynamics showing elements such as complex syncopation and cross phrasing.
- ◆ demonstrate well developed and effective use of peripheral and performance space.

Evidence should be generated through assessment undertaken in controlled, supervised conditions at any appropriate point in the Unit. Mirrors should not be used during assessment to ensure the authenticity of the learners' work. Performance evidence supported by a video/DVD recording and an assessor observation checklist is required for this Outcome.

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 3

Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ work collaboratively to create a rhythmical phrase of choreography.
- ◆ integrate learned technique and skills with physical expression whilst performing sustained sequences.
- ◆ demonstrate a mature understanding of interpretation, expression, projection and communication while performing complex choreographed sequences.
- ◆ demonstrate effective use of peripheral and performance space throughout the choreographed dance.
- ◆ evaluate their own individual contribution within the collaborative piece and the group performance as a whole.

In this Outcome, learners will be expected to contribute to the creation and performance of an original choreographed work. The tutor will supervise and direct the structure of the piece.

Performance evidence supported by a video/DVD recording and an assessor observation checklist is required for this Outcome.



Higher National Unit Support Notes

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Unit Support Notes are offered as guidance and 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

The Unit is designed to develop the learner's tap dance skills in class and be able to transfer these skills to choreography and performance.

At this level, it is recommended that learners should be studying the following elements of tap dance technique alongside vocabulary learnt in *Tap Dance Techniques 1* (H4RH 34):

- ◆ Single, double, and triple time steps using half breaks and full breaks with pick-ups from the flat foot or the ball of the foot
- ◆ Pick-ups and pick-up changes with shuffles from the flat foot or ball of the foot
5, 6 and 7 beat riffs

Rhythm: tutor sets a complex rhythm through clapping or beating, and the learner choreographs a tap sequence to echo this sound. Different time signatures can be used.

Travelling: a complex combination of steps studied in *Tap Dance Techniques 1* and *Tap Dance Techniques 2*. This should show complex floor patterns with varying rhythm and tempi and include a minimum of five travelling steps.

Strength, stamina and control will be developed through participation in regular studio based classes.

Varied and complex amalgamations and sequences will be taught to promote spatial awareness and movement memory aiming towards participation in an advanced tap dance class and a tutor-led choreographed performance piece. Learners should participate in the creation of the choreographed piece and the overall length of the choreographed dance piece should be appropriate to the number of learners performing together, lasting between two to four minutes.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

This Unit has been developed as part of the HNC/HND Professional Dance Performance, and is expected to be delivered in the HND.

In this Unit, learners are expected to learn complex and demanding skills and techniques in the area of Tap Dance, enabling them to participate in tutor led advanced tap dance classes and perform in a choreographed work to which the learners have contributed. Teaching and learning will take place through individual, small and whole group activities. Progress in this dance style requires repetition and tutor correction of individuals and the group as a whole.

Guidance on approaches to assessment of this Unit

Evidence can be generated using different types of assessment. The following are suggestions only. There may be other methods that would be more suitable to learners.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of centre-devised assessments would help to ensure that the national standard is being met. Where learners experience a range of assessment methods, this helps them to develop different skills that should be transferable to work or further and higher education.

The assessment for Outcomes 1 and 2 should be combined to form a single practical assessment. The learners will know and rehearse the content of the class before the assessment and may be assessed in groups. The assessment may be integrated and evidence gathered by tutor observation which will be recorded by means of an assessment observation checklist and/or by video.

Outcome 3 assessment should be taken by learners at one single assessment event carried out under supervised, controlled conditions. The assessment should be carried out at the end of the delivery of the Unit. The assessment should take the form of a performance either studio or theatre based and the learners will be rehearsed for the assessment. Learner's choreographic contributions will be evidenced by tutor observation throughout the Unit and recorded by means of an assessment checklist. Evaluation can be done by means of a viva voce or short question paper/report. An appropriate word count would be in the region of 300 words or two to three minutes.

Evidence should be generated through assessment undertaken in controlled, supervised conditions. Mirrors should not be used during assessment of performance to ensure the authenticity of the learners' work. The assessment will be recorded by means of an assessment observation checklist and/or by video.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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Assessment Guidelines

Outcomes 1 and 2

The assessment for Outcomes 1 and 2 should be in a studio setting where learners demonstrate skills and techniques required for an advanced tap dance class. The assessment should encompass warm-up exercises, short combinations, amalgamations, rhythm, and travelling sequences.

Outcome 3

The assessment could be taken at a single assessment event and be carried out under supervised, controlled conditions. The assessment should be carried out at the end of the delivery of the Unit.

The learner's contribution to the creation and performance of the choreographed work could include:

- ◆ Steps
- ◆ Phrases
- ◆ Rhythm
- ◆ Theatre arts
- ◆ Dynamics
- ◆ Musical choice
- ◆ Stage craft

Opportunities for e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

There may be opportunities to develop Core Skills in *Communication* (Oral Communication) and *Communication* (Writing), and *Working with Others* in this Unit. It is expected that learners will engage in regular informal and ongoing discussion with their tutor throughout this Unit concerning all aspects of tap dance techniques, allowing for the development of Oral Communication.

Outcome 3 may provide opportunities to develop learners' Core Skills in the area of *Working with Others*. This Core Skill may be developed through learners' involvement in the performance of a choreographed dance piece, where the Outcome depends on learners showing awareness in relation to other dancers working in the same piece with them, and utilising the same performance space.

In Outcome 3 there may also be opportunities to develop learners' Core Skills in *Problem Solving* (Planning and Organising) and *Problem Solving* (Reviewing and Evaluating). Learners are expected to plan and organise both familiar and new tasks when choreographing a complex dance piece. They will use a problem-solving approach to deal with a situation or issue in relation to duet and group work.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for learners

Unit title: Tap Dance Techniques 2

This section will help you decide whether this is the Unit for you by explaining what the Unit is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the Unit and opportunities for further learning and employment.

This Unit has been designed to provide you with knowledge and skills in advanced tap dance technique. This Unit will help you develop secure technical ability, learn, understand and apply advanced tap dance techniques and develop your performance and choreography skills within a complex tap choreography.

You will study the following:

- ◆ Alignment and weight placement
- ◆ Advanced tap dance technique and vocabulary including single, double, and triple time steps using half breaks and full breaks, pick-ups and pick-up changes with shuffles from the flat foot or ball of the foot and 5, 6 and 7 beat riffs.
- ◆ Rhythmic response
- ◆ Amalgamations
- ◆ Travelling combinations
- ◆ Musicality
- ◆ Spatial awareness

After the completion of the first integrated assessment on the above, you will then build on these skills in order to enable you to contribute and perform in a tutor choreographed piece which will combine the following elements:

- ◆ Choreography:
 - Duet/group work
 - Integration of technique and expression
 - Performance qualities
 - Spatial awareness
 - Evaluation skills

Your practical skills will be assessed by means of a studio based assessment for the skills and techniques of tap dance. The final part of the assessment will take place at the end of the Unit in a choreographed dance piece. The assessment will take the form of a performance either studio or theatre based. The evaluation can be done by means of a viva voce or short paper. All assessments will take place under controlled, supervised conditions and the assessments will be recorded by means of an assessment observation checklist and by video.