



Higher National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Tap Dance Techniques 1

Unit code: H4RH 34

Superclass: LB

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Unit purpose

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

Upon successful completion of this Unit progression opportunities may include the Unit *Tap Dance Techniques 2*.

Outcomes

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

- 1 Demonstrate tap dance skills.
- 2 Perform tap dance sequences and amalgamations.
- 3 Perform a choreographed tap dance piece.

Credit points and level

2 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 7: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7)

Higher National Unit specification: General information (cont)

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Recommended entry to the Unit

It would be beneficial if learners have some knowledge and experience of tap dance techniques. This may be evidenced by an SCQF level 6 or 7 Unit in tap dance such as *Dance: Alternative* (D72N 12 or 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

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

Unit title: Tap Dance Techniques 1

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 tap dance skills.

Knowledge and/or Skills

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

Outcome 2

Perform tap dance sequences and amalgamations.

Knowledge and/or Skills

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

Outcome 3

Perform a choreographed tap dance piece.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Replication of choreography
- ◆ Integration of technique and expression
- ◆ Performance qualities
- ◆ Spatial awareness

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Tap Dance Techniques 1

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Outcome 1

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

- ◆ demonstrate correct body alignment and weight placement, and apply to tap dance skills.
- ◆ demonstrate through performance sound and secure technical ability, coordination and control.
- ◆ demonstrate the ability to mimic through choreography a rhythm set by the tutor to 3/4 or 4/4 timing.

The assessment should be carried out under supervised conditions at appropriate points in the Unit, in small groups and solo for the rhythmic response.

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 short amalgamations lasting 16–32 bars combining a variety of tap technique elements: riffs, time steps, pick-ups.
- ◆ accurately learn and demonstrate travelling combinations using floor patterns, varying rhythm, and tempi. These must show a minimum of three travelling elements.
- ◆ demonstrate a well-developed understanding and application of timings, phrasing, rhythms and dynamics showing elements such as syncopation and cross phrasing.
- ◆ demonstrate effective use of peripheral and performance space.

The assessment should be carried out under supervised conditions at appropriate points in the Unit, in small groups or solo.

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)

Unit title: Tap Dance Techniques 1

Outcome 3

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

- ◆ replicate a tutor choreographed tap dance piece.
- ◆ integrate learned technique and skills with physical expression whilst performing sustained sequences.
- ◆ demonstrate an understanding of interpretation, expression, projection and communication while performing choreographed sequences.
- ◆ demonstrate peripheral and performance spatial awareness whilst performing in small or large group sequences.

The overall length of the choreographed dance piece should be appropriate to the number of learners performing together and should last between two and four minutes.

The assessment should be carried out under supervised conditions on one assessment occasion. Learners will perform in a group dance.

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



Higher National Unit Support Notes

Unit title: Tap Dance Techniques 1

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 learners' tap dance skills in class and be able to transfer these skills to performance.

At this level, it is recommended that learners should be studying the following elements of tap dance technique:

- ◆ Suzie Q, 6 beat cramp roll, maxi-ford with step, pull backs, riffs
- ◆ Time steps single and double with half breaks and full breaks
- ◆ Pick-ups and pick-up changes from the flat foot or ball of the foot

Rhythm: assessor sets a rhythm of approximately 8 bars through clapping or beating, and the learner choreographs a short tap sequence to echo this sound. Different time signatures can be used.

Travelling: a combination of no less than three steps studied in the Unit and showing varied floor patterns, rhythms and tempi.

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

Varied amalgamations and sequences will be taught to promote spatial awareness and movement memory towards the participation in a tap dance class assessment and a tutor choreographed performance piece.

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 HNC.

In this Unit, learners are expected to learn new skills and techniques in the area of tap dance, enabling them to participate in tutor led tap dance classes and perform in a tutor choreographed work. 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. Video recording may assist in assessment.

The skills gained will prepare learners for participation in advanced tap dance classes should they progress to the Unit, *Tap Dance Techniques 2*.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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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 may be integrated and evidence gathered by tutor observation at appropriate points throughout the Unit. The learners will know and rehearse the content of the class before each assessment and may be assessed in groups.

Outcome 3 assessment should be taken by learners as a group at one single assessment event.

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 for all Outcomes will be recorded by means of an assessment observation checklist and/or by video.

Assessment Guidelines

Outcomes 1 and 2

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

Outcome 3

The assessment should take the form of a performance either studio or theatre based. The learner will demonstrate skills in performing a tutor choreographed dance piece. The learners will be rehearsed for the assessment and will know the content of the piece before the assessment.

The assessment should be carried out at the end of the delivery of the Unit.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Tap Dance Techniques 1

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.

Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

There may be opportunities to develop Core Skills in *Communication* (Oral Communication) 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.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for learners

Unit title: Tap Dance Techniques 1

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 tap dance technique. This Unit will help you improve technical ability and learn, understand and apply tap dance techniques and develop your performance skills within a tap choreography.

You will study the following:

- ◆ Alignment and weight placement
- ◆ Suzie Q, 6 beat cramp roll, maxi-ford with step, pull backs, riffs
- ◆ single and double time steps with half breaks and full breaks
- ◆ pick-ups and pick-up changes from the flat foot or ball of the foot
- ◆ Rhythmic response
- ◆ Amalgamations
- ◆ Travelling combinations
- ◆ Timing in response to accompaniment
- ◆ Spatial awareness
- ◆ Rhythm and dynamics

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

- ◆ Integration of technique and expression
- ◆ Performance qualities
- ◆ Spatial awareness

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. All assessments will take place under controlled, supervised conditions and the assessment will be recorded by means of an assessment observation checklist and by video.