



Higher
Course
Specification



Higher Dance Course Specification (C718 76)

Valid from August 2014

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Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Course Specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

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Course outline

Course title: Higher Dance
SCQF: level 6 (24 SCQF credit points)
Course code: C718 76

Mandatory Units

H22R 76 Dance: Technical Skills (Higher) **9 SCQF credit points**
or
H6MS 76 Dance: Technical Skills with a Scottish Context (Higher) **9 SCQF credit points**
and
H22S 76 Dance: Choreography (Higher) **9 SCQF credit points**
and
Course assessment **6 SCQF credit points**

This Course includes six SCQF credit points to allow additional time for preparation for Course assessment. The Course assessment covers the added value of the Course. Further information on the Course assessment is provided in the Assessment section.

*Scottish Studies Award contributing Unit: This Course Specification should be read in conjunction with the relevant Scottish Studies Unit Specification on the [Scottish Studies Award web page](#).

Recommended entry

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ National 5 Dance Course or relevant component Units

Progression

This Course or its Units may provide progression to:

- ◆ a range of dance-related National Progression Awards (NPAs), Higher National Certificates (HNCs) and Higher National Diplomas (HNDs)
- ◆ further study, employment and/or training

Further details are provided in the Rationale section.

Equality and inclusion

This Course 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. For further information, please refer to the *Course Support Notes*.

Rationale

All new and revised National Courses reflect Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles. They offer flexibility, provide more time for learning, more focus on skills and applying learning, and scope for personalisation and choice.

In this Course, and its component Units, there will be an emphasis on skills development and the application of those skills. Assessment approaches will be proportionate, fit for purpose and will promote best practice, enabling learners to achieve the highest standards they can.

This Course provides learners with opportunities to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities, as well as skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

All Courses provide opportunities for learners to develop breadth, challenge and application, but the focus and balance of the assessment will be appropriate for the subject area.

Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles

The Course is practical and experiential, and provides scope for personalisation and choice. Learners will develop technical and choreographic skills in dance in order to be able to appreciate and produce creative and imaginative performances.

The Course allows learners to broaden and deepen their skills base and to widen their horizons regarding a range of vocations and careers. It provides opportunities to further acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities, including creativity, flexibility and adaptability, enthusiasm and a willingness to learn, perseverance, independence and resilience, responsibility and reliability, and confidence, enterprise and leadership.

This Course encourages learners to be creative and to express themselves in different ways. Learning through dance helps learners to develop an appreciation of aesthetic and cultural values, identities and ideas.

Learners will develop important skills, attitudes and attributes. Learning in the Course will include active involvement in creative activities and performance, and the creative use of technical and choreographic dance skills.

Purpose and aims of the Course

The Course provides opportunities for learners to be inspired and challenged by creating, demonstrating and appreciating dance. Learners will use knowledge and understanding of dance techniques and choreographic skills to inform practice, and will also develop skills in appreciating dance practice and theatre arts.

As learners develop their knowledge, understanding and skills, they will learn how to use dance techniques and choreography creatively to enhance performance. They will experiment with a range of dance styles and learn how to apply them to enhance their

own performances and the performances of others. Learners will also be encouraged to explore the use of theatre arts in dance.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ develop a broad range of technical dance skills
- ◆ understand and apply knowledge of a range of choreographic skills to create a dance for a group
- ◆ work imaginatively and demonstrate creativity through problem solving, critical thinking, analysis and reflective practice
- ◆ co-operate, support and work with others
- ◆ consider how theatre arts can enhance a performance
- ◆ develop knowledge, understanding and appreciation of dance practice
- ◆ apply the principles of safe dance practice
- ◆ evaluate their own work and the work of others

The Course provides opportunities for vertical and lateral progression to National Courses and other SQA qualifications in dance and related fields.

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course is a broad-based qualification, suitable for all learners with an interest in dance. It is suitable for learners with a general interest in the subject, or for those wanting to progress onto higher levels of study. This qualification will allow learners to consolidate and further extend their dance skills developed through the National 5 Dance Course.

Learners will learn how to apply a broad range of technical skills in dance. They will also develop and apply choreographic skills and consider the use of theatre arts appropriate to dance. Learners will learn to communicate imaginative personal thoughts, ideas and themes through creating choreographed sequences, and use theatre arts to enhance performance. They will reflect through the evaluation of their own performance and that of others. Learners will also learn to appreciate and develop cultural awareness of different dance styles.

On completing the Course, learners will be able to demonstrate technical dance skills in the performance of different dance styles, and apply safe dance practice. They will also be able to apply knowledge and understanding of choreographic principles, devices and structures in dance practice, and apply these to create, present and evaluate choreographed dance sequences.

Learners will be able to appreciate dance practice and the use of theatre arts in dance, and communicate creative ideas and themes through movement. They will be able to evaluate their own performance and that of others.

The learning experiences in the Course are flexible and adaptable, with opportunities for personalisation and choice. This makes the qualification highly accessible, as it can be contextualised to suit a diverse range of learners' needs and aspirations. The Course is largely learner-centred, with practical and experiential learning opportunities.

Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

The Course has an integrated approach to learning and includes a mix of practical and performance activities, and development of knowledge and understanding through analysis, evaluation and reflection. As learners develop their technical and choreographic skills, they will also learn to analyse the work of dance practitioners and will use this knowledge to inform and influence their own creative thinking and performance. They will apply technical skills in the performance of different dance styles, and will also experiment with a range of choreographic skills.

Learners will also develop an understanding of safe dance practice and apply this throughout their work. Reflective skills will also be developed as learners evaluate their own progress and performance and that of others. They will also learn how to appreciate the impact of a range of theatre arts and influences on choreography and performance.

Units are statements of standards for assessment and not programmes of learning and teaching. They can be delivered in a number of ways.

The Course consists of two mandatory Units.

Dance: Technical Skills (Higher)

In this Unit, learners will develop refined technical skills in contrasting dance styles for solo and/or group dance performances. Dance techniques will be explored before being applied in tutor-choreographed dance sequences and performance. Safe dance practice will also be developed and applied. Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of the social and cultural factors influencing dance, and will also apply critical thinking skills when developing knowledge and understanding of dance styles and practitioners. They will evaluate their own work and that of others.

Dance: Choreography (Higher)

In this Unit, learners will develop the skills and knowledge required to plan and create a piece of choreography. Learners will develop their knowledge and understanding of choreographic structures, devices and spatial patterns, and the relationships between these and theme/stimulus; they will then go on to apply these in the development of their own choreography. They will explore the use of theatre arts in choreography and, through experience of the choreographic process, will develop creative, problem solving and evaluation skills.

Conditions of award

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all of the Units as well as the Course assessment. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

Skills, knowledge and understanding

Further information on the assessment of the skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course is given in the *Course Assessment Specification*. A broad overview of the mandatory subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be assessed in the Course is given in this section. This covers:

- ◆ performing a broad range of dance skills and techniques
- ◆ applying a range of choreographic principles, devices and structures in choreographed sequences
- ◆ understanding and applying safe dance practice
- ◆ evaluating learners' own work and that of others
- ◆ researching and responding to theme/stimulus using imagination and creativity, and working with others, to create choreography
- ◆ conveying a range of themes, ideas and emotions through movement
- ◆ applying knowledge and understanding of a range of theatre arts relevant to dance
- ◆ developing and evaluating the process of creating choreography

Skills, knowledge and understanding to be included in the Course will be appropriate to the SCQF level of the Course. The SCQF level descriptors give further information on characteristics and expected performance at each SCQF level (www.sqa.org.uk/scqf).

Assessment

Information about assessment for the Course is included in the *Course Assessment Specification*, which provides full details including advice on how a learner's overall attainment for the Course will be determined.

Unit assessment

All Units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in the *Unit Specification*.

They can be assessed on a Unit-by-Unit basis or by using other approaches which combine the assessment for more than one Unit.

They will be assessed on a pass/fail basis within centres. SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgments are consistent and meet national standards.

The assessment of the Units in this Course will be as follows:

Dance: Technical Skills (Higher)

In this Unit, learners will be required to provide evidence which demonstrates knowledge and understanding of two contrasting dance styles, and application of a range of technical skills. Evidence of safe dance practice and evaluation skills will also be required.

Dance: Choreography (Higher)

In this Unit, learners will be required to provide evidence which demonstrates knowledge and understanding of a range of choreographic principles and theatre arts relevant to dance, and application of these to create a group choreography. Evidence of evaluation skills will also be required.

Course assessment

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of [added value](#).¹ At National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, the added value will be assessed in the Course assessment. The added value for the Course must address the key purposes and aims of the Course as defined in the Course Rationale. It will do this by addressing one or more of breadth, challenge or application.

In the Higher Dance Course, added value will focus on:

- ◆ challenge
- ◆ application

Learners will draw on, extend and apply the skills they have learned during the Course. This will be assessed through a performance of two technical solos and a practical activity in which learners create a group choreography and review the choreographic process.

¹ Definitions can be found here: www.sqa.org.uk/jargonbuster

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

It is expected that learners will develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Course are based on SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Course where there are appropriate opportunities.

3 Health and wellbeing

- 3.1 Personal learning
- 3.3 Physical well being

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

- 4.3 Working with others

5 Thinking skills

- 5.3 Applying
- 5.4 Analysing and evaluating
- 5.5 Creating

Amplification of these skills is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills will be appropriate to the level of the Course. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work for the Course is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Administrative information

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History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
	2.0	<p>Pages 3–6 — Clarification of expression and descriptions, but no fundamental changes, to the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Relationship between Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles ◆ Purpose and aims of the Course ◆ Information about typical learners who might do the Course ◆ Course structure and conditions of award ◆ Skills, knowledge and understanding <p>Page 7 — Unit assessment section: changes to reflect clarifications and minor amendments to Assessment Standards in Unit Specifications; Course assessment section: changes to reflect change from one Component to two.</p>	Qualifications Development Manager	April 2014
	2.1	<p>Scottish Studies Award Unit contributing information added. No other changes made to document content.</p>	Qualifications Manager	September 2014

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Note: You are advised to check SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk) to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of the Course Specification.

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