

## National Unit Specification: general information

**UNIT** Dance: Alternative (Advanced Higher)

**NUMBER** D72N 13

### COURSE

### SUMMARY

This unit is designed to provide candidates with the opportunity to further develop existing dance skills and techniques in an alternative dance form and perform acquired skills and techniques in choreographed presentations.

### OUTCOMES

- 1 Demonstrate superior dance skills and techniques applicable to a chosen dance form.
- 2 Demonstrate appreciation of style, performance and musical awareness in the chosen dance form.
- 3 Demonstrate understanding of the skills and techniques of the chosen dance form, through total body awareness.
- 4 Demonstrate personal progression and development in the skills and techniques of the chosen dance form.

### RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Access to this unit is at the discretion of the centre, although it would be beneficial if candidates had previous experience in movement or dance. This may be evidenced by the following SQA unit: Dance: Alternative (D72N 12) at Higher level or equivalent.

### CREDIT VALUE

1 Credit at Advanced Higher.

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### Administrative Information

**Superclass:** LB

**Publication date:** February 2002

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority 2002

**Version:** 01

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## **CORE SKILLS**

Information on the automatic certification of any core skills in this unit is published in *Automatic Certification of Core Skills in National Qualifications* (SQA, 1999).

There is no automatic certification of core skills or core skills components for this unit.

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards**

### **UNIT**      Dance: Alternative (Advanced Higher)

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 the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

#### **OUTCOME 1**

Demonstrate superior dance skills and techniques applicable to a chosen dance form.

##### **Performance criteria**

- a) Superior concentration and focus are maintained effectively.
- b) Superior use of body demonstrates the qualities required in executing dance skills and techniques.
- c) Superior use of body demonstrates the control required in executing dance skills and techniques.
- d) Superior use of body demonstrates the co-ordination required in executing dance skills and techniques.

##### **Evidence requirements**

Practical evidence that the candidate has achieved all the performance criteria through accurate physical demonstration.

#### **OUTCOME 2**

Demonstrate appreciation of style, performance and musical awareness in the chosen dance form.

##### **Performance criteria**

- a) Composed dances are learned and recreated accurately.
- b) Projection and style are maintained effectively.
- c) Sympathy and understanding are demonstrated in response to the music.
- d) Dance steps and movements are reproduced accurately.

##### **Evidence requirements**

A tutor-taught dance piece lasting a minimum of 3 minutes is learned and reproduced accurately showing the candidate has achieved all performance criteria.

## National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

**UNIT** Dance: Alternative (Advanced Higher)

### **OUTCOME 3**

Demonstrate understanding of the skills and techniques of the chosen dance form, through total body awareness.

#### **Performance criteria**

- a) Skills and techniques are integrated with physical expression to meet the context of the work and reflect total body awareness.
- b) Body awareness reflects understanding of dynamics.
- c) Body awareness reflects understanding of dance style.

#### **Evidence requirements**

A tutor-taught dance piece lasting a minimum of 3 minutes is learned and reproduced accurately showing the candidate has achieved all performance criteria.

### **OUTCOME 4**

Demonstrate personal progression and development in the skills and techniques of the chosen dance form.

#### **Performance criteria**

- a) Personal progression and development in the use of **stamina** is demonstrated.
- b) Personal progression and development in the use of **flexibility** is demonstrated.
- c) Personal progression and development in the use of **alignment** is demonstrated.
- d) Personal progression and development in the use of **strength** is demonstrated.
- e) Personal progression and development in the use of **co-ordination** is demonstrated.
- f) Personal progression and development in the **performance** of steps and sequences is demonstrated.

#### **Evidence requirements**

A tutor-taught dance piece lasting a minimum of 3 minutes is learned and reproduced accurately showing the candidate has achieved all performance criteria.

## National Unit Specification: support notes

**UNIT** Dance: Alternative (Advanced Higher)

This part of the unit specification 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 40 hours.

### **GUIDANCE ON THE CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT**

The flexible nature of this unit may give scope for particular specialisation in any type of dance which has recognised and structured techniques.

The skills and techniques required in this unit should include:

- Classical ballet techniques
- Jazz dance techniques
- Contemporary dance techniques (Graham, Cunningham, Limon, Horton, Hawkins etc)
- Tap dance techniques
- Modern stage dance techniques
- Scottish dance techniques
- Ethnic dance techniques
- Folk or social dance techniques:

Although terminology and skills and techniques will differ between the various dance styles. On completion of the unit candidates should be able to recognise the following within the chosen technique:

- Combined body movements, muscular extension and strength that demonstrate freedom from unnecessary tension to an advanced level
- Combined body movement showing a range of dynamics to an advanced level
- Combined body movements showing clear interpretation of rhythm to an advanced level
- Combined body movements showing clear use of force and motion to an advanced level
- Musical awareness
- Positive relationships with other dancers and choreographer
- Patterns, shapes, choreographed sequences, motifs and combinations (where appropriate) to an advanced level
- Spatial awareness
- Rhythmic Response (where appropriate – ie in Tap Dance to an advanced level)
- Development workouts/development exercises (where appropriate)
- Improved and heightened technical performance skills.

## **National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)**

**UNIT** Dance: Alternative (Advanced Higher)

### **GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT**

Teachers and lecturers may find the following helpful in teaching this unit:

- Classes
- Workshops
- Visits to performances
- Specialist lectures/demonstrations
- Videos
- Handouts

Reference to the following books may be useful in teaching this unit:

#### **BOOKS:**

- Basic Tap Dancing, Diana Washbourn, 1979
- Inside Tap, Anita Feldman, 1995
- Christy Lanes complete book of Line Dancing, Christy Lane, 1994
- Rock and Roll Dancing, Derek Young, 1991
- This Thing Called Swing, Christian Batchelor
- Waltz: Step by Step instruction, Paul Baltomer, 1997
- Teach Yourself Ballroom, Dancing I.S.T.D. 1977

The resources listed for the National Units in Classical, Contemporary and Jazz dance may also be useful:

#### **CLASSICAL DANCE**

##### **BOOKS:**

- The Art of Teaching Ballet, Gretchen Ward, 1996
- Ballet Barre and Centre Combinations, Linda Crist, 2000
- The Art of Teaching Classical Ballet, Woytek Lowski, 1998
- Basic Principles of Classical Ballet, Agrippina Vaganova, 1969
- Beginning Ballet, Joan Lawson, 1994
- Dictionary of Classical Ballet Terminology: RAD Method, Rhoda Ryman, 1998
- One Hundred Lessons In Classical Ballet, Vera Kostroviskaya

##### **VIDEO:**

- Ballet Class for Beginners, David Howard

#### **CONTEMPORARY DANCE**

##### **BOOKS:**

- The Dance Workshop, Robert Cohen, 1997
- Modern Dance Fundamentals, Schurman/Clark, 1972
- Modern Dance Terminology, Paul Love, 1996

##### **VIDEO:**

- Guidelines in Contemporary Dance Training Volume 1, Phyllis Gutelias

## National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

**UNIT** Dance: Alternative (Advanced Higher)

### JAZZ DANCE

#### BOOKS:

- Frank Hatchetts Jazz Dance, Hatchett/Gillin, 2000
- Jazz Dance Training, Dorte Wessel Therhorn, 1998
- Jump Into Jazz, Mind Goodman/Esther Kan, 1996

#### VIDEO:

- Have Fun and Dance “Burning Up”, Bryan Rogers.

All books and videos available from:

Dance Books Ltd, The Old Bakery, 4 Lenten St, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1HG

Website: [www.dancebooks.co.uk](http://www.dancebooks.co.uk)

### GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

In order to achieve this unit candidates are required to present sufficient evidence that they have met all the performance criteria for each outcome within the range specified. Details of these requirements are given for each outcome. An integrative approach to assessment is encouraged.

For example: Outcomes 2, 3 and 4 may be integrated in the same 3 minute dance piece. Accurate records should be kept of the candidate’s performance in each outcome.

Video evidence should be supported by checklists and/or marking schemes. These records should be kept and made available for external verification.

### SPECIAL NEEDS

This unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering special alternative outcomes for units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment and Certification Arrangements for Candidates with Special Needs/Candidates whose First Language is not English* (SQA, 1998).