



National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Dance: Preparation for Audition (SCQF level 6)

Unit code: H73K 46

Superclass: LB

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Unit purpose

This Unit is designed those interested in pursuing a career in the dance industry by helping learners to prepare for the audition process for dance. Dance is a very competitive industry and is becoming ever-more popular. It is vital that learners are fully prepared, well-rehearsed and confident when attending auditions.

This Unit therefore aims to introduce skills and understanding required for this important process, as well as supporting knowledge, understanding and practice required within the practical dance environment. The knowledge and skills developed are applied to both the audition process within the dance profession and for progression to further/higher dance training and development.

This Unit is part of the National Certificate in Dance (SCQF level 6) and is also available on a free-standing basis.

Possible progression opportunities on achievement of this Unit may include relevant dance Units at SCQF 7 (ie HNC); *Audition and Portfolio Skills* Unit SCQF level 8 (ie HND); and other further courses of study which lead to recognised achievement at a higher level of dance performance.

Outcomes

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

- 1 Describe areas of employment and sources training in dance.
- 2 Produce a Curriculum Vitae (CV), covering letter and personal statement.
- 3 Demonstrate conduct and dance ability at a mock audition

National Unit specification: General information (cont)

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Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 6 (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6)

Recommended entry to the Unit

Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre and there is no requirement for learners to have previous learning in this subject. However, it would be helpful if learners have previous experience in movement or dance at SCQF level 5 or equivalent.

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.

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.

Outcome 1

Describe areas of employment and sources of training in dance.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Investigate and describe specific areas of employment within the dance industry.
- (b) Describe skills and techniques required within specific areas of employment.
- (c) Investigate dance provision in colleges and/or private institutions.
- (d) Describe training which is appropriate for a specific area of employment area in PC1 (b).

Outcome 2

Produce a Curriculum Vitae (CV), covering letter and personal statement.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Design a CV for an audition
- (b) Produce a formal covering letter
- (c) Prepare a personal statement suitable to accompany the application

Outcome 3

Demonstrate conduct and dance ability at a mock audition.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Demonstrate professional conduct at a dance audition.
- (b) Performance of tutor-taught choreography for a dance audition.
- (c) Choreograph and demonstrate a short dance or sequence for an audition.

National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that learners have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Outcome 1

Learner's response must include evidence which covers:

- PC1 (a) Investigation/research and a description of two specific areas of employment within the dance industry.
- PC1 (b) Description of skills and techniques required within the two specific areas of employment within the dance industry described in PC1 (a).
- PC1 (c) Investigation/research into current dance training provision available.
- PC 1(d) Description of an appropriate training provider and a training course/programme for one area of employment identified in PC1 (a), including details of the content of the training course/programme and how this helps develop the skills and techniques identified in PC1 (b).

Outcome 2

All documents and evidence for this Outcome should in the form of an application appropriate for one of the following:

- ◆ A specific area of employment identified in Outcome 1
- ◆ A training course/programme identified in Outcome 1

All evidence and documentation are to be in line with acceptable dance industry standards and be submitted before the mock audition in Outcome 3.

Outcome 3

Evidence for this Outcome is to be generated through a practical demonstration within a mock audition for one of the following:

- ◆ A specific area of employment identified in Outcome 1
- ◆ A training course/programme identified in Outcome 1

National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

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Learners are required to:

- PC3 (a) Demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of professional standards of conduct and appearance required at dance auditions, including appropriate clothing, footwear, hair and make-up.
- PC3 (b) Promptly recreate an unseen short tutor choreographed dance/sequence including accurate movement, use of dynamics and choreographic intention.
- PC3 (c) Choreograph and perform a solo dance/sequence lasting one minute in a genre appropriate to the select area of employment or training course/programme identified in Outcome 1. Learners should perform this live for assessment in front of a panel that consists of a minimum of two people, one of whom should be the assessor.

Assessment for this Unit should be on an Outcome by Outcome basis.

- Outcome 1: Assessment is in open-book conditions and evidence can be in written format or an oral presentation.
- Outcome 2: Assessment is in open-book conditions and evidence should meet current dance industry standards.
- Outcome 3: A single practical assessment under supervised conditions, which should be videoed. This can take place in a studio environment. All mirrors should be covered or learners must not be facing mirrors to ensure the authenticity of learners' work.



National Unit Support Notes

Unit title: Dance: Preparation for Audition (SCQF level 6)

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 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

Dance is a very competitive industry and is becoming ever-more popular. It is vital that learners are fully prepared, well-rehearsed and confident when attending auditions. This Unit therefore is designed to introduce skills and understanding in the audition process for dance and to support knowledge, understanding and practice within the practical dance environment.

The knowledge and skills can then be applied to both the audition process within the profession and to the audition process for progression to further training and development.

This Unit covers the investigation of specific areas of employment across the dance industry; relevant training and development courses; and the wide range of colleges, training providers and dance schools now operating. This helps give learners a broad overview of the types of work available in the dance industry and courses/progression opportunities available.

Learners are required to identify two areas of employment within the dance industry. Some examples of employment areas are listed below:

- ◆ Dance Performer
- ◆ Dance Teacher
- ◆ Choreographer
- ◆ Dance Artist
- ◆ Dance Captain

The above list has is not exhaustive but can be used as a broad guide to areas of employment. Learners should be more specific in their identification of the two employment areas.

Learners are to identify skills and techniques required within the two employment areas. The skills and techniques can be identified and influenced by the following:

- ◆ Area of employment
- ◆ Dance genre
- ◆ Performance qualities

National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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The importance of the production of appropriate documentation for applying for auditions which should be tailored for the relevant job opportunity or training course etc must be covered. This documentation should be to the required professional industry standards and include all relevant attachments, photographs, etc.

Learners have an opportunity to apply skills and knowledge through, preparation for and performance at, a mock audition — allowing learners to experience the pressure and demands of auditioning.

This Unit therefore gives focus to learners wishing to follow a career in the dance industry, and can help widen their knowledge and expectations en route to employment.

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

It is recommended that the Outcomes in this Unit be delivered sequentially as the learner's research and evidence gathered in each has an impact on the next PC/Outcome.

In Outcome 1, learners should be encouraged to research employment opportunities through a variety of media including: internet research; industry publications eg *The Stage* and *Spotlight*; and reference books. Opportunities for lectures from visiting professionals within the dance industry would also be beneficial.

Internet sites are useful tools to highlight CV and audition preparation for dance performance. Where possible, learners should also be encouraged to attend open days and higher level performances staged by other dance training establishments or private institutions. This will help to provide a greater understanding of training at this level as well as entry requirements for skills and techniques, etc.

In Outcome 3, the learners perform in a mock dance audition. It is advised that the audition follows a class format in a dance discipline chosen by the tutor. The class should include short exercises and/or sequences to demonstrate the learner's performance, technique, and movement memory.

The learner should also choreograph and perform a solo of approximately one minute in a dance genre appropriate for audition for the area of employment or for the training course/programme selected.

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.

National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Dance: Preparation for Audition (SCQF level 6)

Assessment should be on an Outcome by Outcome basis.

Outcome 1

Learners can produce written and/or oral evidence for Outcome 1 which is an open-book assessment. The evidence can be in variety of forms, eg a report, paper portfolio; e-portfolio or presentation. Where the response is in a written format, the recommended word count is around 300 words. A checklist may be used to ensure all PCs are covered.

Outcome 2

This as an open-book assessment where learners are to produce appropriate documentation for auditions in the dance industry, eg include photograph(s) if required. This must include a CV, a covering letter and a personal statement — and all must be tailored to one area of employment or training course/programme from Outcome 1. A checklist may be used to ensure all PCs are covered.

Outcome 3

Assessment evidence for this Outcome is to be generated through learner participation in a mock audition. This should be a single assessment in a studio environment, which is to be videoed and may be supported by an assessment checklist.

Learners are to demonstrate two performances live in front of an audition panel, consisting of a minimum of two people including the assessor:

- ◆ An unseen short tutor-choreographed dance/sequence; learners should have no prior knowledge of the choreography for the mock audition.
- ◆ A self-choreographed one minute solo dance/sequence.

To ensure authenticity of the assessment, all mirrors should be covered or learners must not be facing mirrors.

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.

National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Dance: Preparation for Audition (SCQF level 6)

Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

(a) Core Skills

Although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills in this Unit, there are opportunities to develop the following Core Skills.

Communication

◆ **Component: Oral Communication at SCQF level 5**

There are opportunities for learners to develop oral communication skills where assessment takes the form of short oral presentations. Also, learners are required to communicate appropriately and professionally at the mock audition in Outcome 3.

◆ **Component: Written Communication at SCQF level 5**

Opportunities may exist during the delivery of this Unit to develop reading skills where supporting documentation is provided for learners in written format (eg handouts on employment opportunities and training provision in the dance industry, support for preparation and performance at dance auditions, etc). Also assessments may take written format, eg short essays, reports; portfolios; CV, covering letter, personal statement, etc.

Problem Solving

◆ **Component: Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5**

Using analysis and reasoning, learners have opportunities to develop critical thinking by creating their CV, covering letter and personal statement for a mock audition for a relevant job role or training place in the dance industry.

◆ **Component: Planning and Organising at SCQF level 5**

In Outcome 3, learners have opportunities develop planning and organisational skills as they are required to prepare and plan for a mock audition which reflects professional dance industry standards. They must then carry this out in terms of professional conduct (eg appropriate clothing, footwear, hair, etc) and appropriate dance performances live in front of a panel.

◆ **Component: Reviewing and Evaluating at SCQF level 5**

During the delivery of this Unit, learners will have opportunities to review and evaluate their own performance in preparation for the mock audition eg assess how well they recreate tutor taught sequences; their performances of self-choreographed sequences for particular job roles or training opportunities in the dance industry, etc. Also in this Unit, learners have to review how the content of particular training provision can help develop specific techniques and skills of an appropriate area of employment in the dance industry.

National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Dance: Preparation for Audition (SCQF level 6)

Working with Others

◆ **Component: Working Co-operatively with Others at SCQF level 5**

Where learners work in groups in the delivery of this Unit, they may have opportunities to develop skills in working with others such as, work in collaboration with others; use interpersonal skills; take responsibility for own contribution; reflect on own personal learning; value the roles of others; handle the behaviour of others in a group or mock audition situation, etc.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

◆ **Component: Accessing Information at SCQF level 4**

During the delivery of this Unit, learners may be given opportunities to electronically access and collect relevant and appropriate information on employment opportunities; job roles and training provision for dance the dance industry using straightforward searches, using filtering techniques with appropriate criteria, keywords, etc.

◆ **Component: Providing/Creating Information at SCQF level 4**

There are opportunities for learners to present information using ICT, eg electronically produced CVs; personal statements; reports; essays; presentations; posters; etc. There are also opportunities to use blogs and wikis etc to support learning.

(b) Overview of other Essential Skills

It is expected that learners will naturally develop broad, generic skills through this Unit. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Unit 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 may be built into the Unit where there are appropriate opportunities, some of which are identified below:

- ◆ **Literacy:** Opportunities exist for learners to develop their listening skills in class and in independent learning, in relation to their tutors, peers and audio-visual materials supporting class content. This may relate to information regarding content about employment opportunities in the dance industry, training provision for dance and preparation/performance for dance auditions. Also could include feedback and guidance on their own learning (ie taking instruction about professional conduct at auditions, performance of tutor-choreographed dance/sequence, etc).
- ◆ **Health and Wellbeing:** This Unit includes some practical performances. This could encourage learners to take responsibility for their own personal learning, and further develop their physical wellbeing through training in the techniques associated with dance performances at auditions. Class-based activities and performance opportunities encourage learners to develop further understanding of body/use of body in applying technique (alignment, flexibility, strength, stamina, co-ordination, etc). Group-based activities in this Unit can offer opportunities for learners to develop their interpersonal skills for the benefit of themselves and others.

National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Dance: Preparation for Audition (SCQF level 6)

Employability, Enterprise and Citizenship: Through the delivery and assessment, this Unit provides opportunities to develop skills in working cooperatively. Also, there are many opportunities to research current employment roles and training provision in the dance industry; prepare for employment positions or training places and then apply skills and techniques for a mock audition in front of a panel in line with professional dance industry standards.

Thinking Skills: The requirement to accurately and promptly replicate a short tutor-taught dance/sequence provides learners with the opportunity to develop their capacity to retain and apply non-verbal and sequential complex information. Further there is possibly some opportunity for learners to develop their capacity for creativity in this Unit, eg the production of a CV and personal statement and performance of a self-choreographed dance/sequence.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for learners

Unit title: Dance: Preparation for Audition (SCQF level 6)

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 is part of the NC in Dance at SCQF level 6 (ie Higher level) and is designed to introduce you to what is involved in the audition process for dance. Dance is a very competitive industry and is becoming ever-more popular. It is vital that you are fully prepared, well-rehearsed and confident when attending auditions. As well as developing knowledge and skills, this Unit also gives you the chance to apply these to the audition process for employment and/or training opportunities in dance. Achievement of this Unit could therefore be useful to help you research, prepare for, and perform well at dance auditions.

In this Unit you will research areas of employment/job roles in dance such as dance performer, dance teacher, choreographer etc and then investigate possible training opportunities for some of these. You will have the opportunity to produce the required documentation for a dance audition such as a Curriculum Vitae (CV), a covering letter and your personal statement. Finally you will prepare for and perform at a mock dance audition — this will include both a demonstration of a tutor-taught short dance/sequence and the performance of a short dance/sequence that you have choreographed.

If you achieve this Unit, you will be able to:

- ◆ describe areas of employment and sources training in dance.
- ◆ produce a CV, covering letter and personal statement.
- ◆ demonstrate conduct and dance ability at a mock audition

The assessments for this Unit will be outlined by your tutor/lecturer. They will include producing information on areas of employment in dance and relevant training opportunities; the creation of suitable and relevant documentation for a dance audition for a dance job role or a training place; followed by a practical demonstration/performance at a mock audition for the specific dance job role or training place.

There are opportunities to develop Core Skills in *Communication, Problem Solving, Working with Others* and *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* in this Unit.

There is no requirement for you to have previous learning in this subject area, however previous experience in movement or dance at SCQF level 5 (ie Intermediate 2 or National 5) or equivalent would be helpful.

If you achieve this Unit, it will help you to develop a professional approach to dance auditions, help you prepare for further learning/training opportunities and possible employment in a variety of roles in the dance industry. However, due to the practical nature of the dance industry, progression may not be automatic as entry may be through audition.