



Higher
Course Assessment
Specification



Higher Dance Course Assessment Specification (C718 76)

Valid from August 2014

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Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Course Assessment 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
Course assessment code:	X718 76

The purpose of the Course Assessment Specification is to ensure consistent and transparent assessment year on year. It describes the structure of the Course assessment and the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding that will be assessed.

Course assessment structure

Component 1 — performance	70 marks
Component 2 — practical activity	70 marks
Total marks	140 marks

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.

Equality and inclusion

This Course Assessment Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to assessment. Assessments have been designed to promote equal opportunities while maintaining the integrity of the qualification.

For guidance on assessment arrangements for disabled learners and/or those with additional support needs, please follow the link to the Assessment Arrangements web page: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/14977.html.

Guidance on inclusive approaches to delivery and assessment of this Course is provided in the *Course Support Notes*.

Assessment

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all of the Units as well as the Course assessment. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

Course assessment

SQA will produce and give instructions for the production and conduct of Course assessments based on the information provided in this document.

Added value

The purpose of the Course assessment is to assess added value of the Course as well as confirming attainment in the Course and providing a grade. The added value for the Course will 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 this Course assessment, added value will focus on the following:

- ◆ challenge — requiring greater depth or extension of knowledge and/or skills
- ◆ application — requiring application of knowledge and/or skills in practical or theoretical contexts as appropriate

The added value consists of a performance and a practical activity.

In the performance, learners will extend and refine their technical and performance skills gained in the Course. Learners will perform two assessor-choreographed technical solos, each lasting a minimum of one and a half minutes.

In the practical activity, learners will apply choreography skills, knowledge and understanding gained in the Course, along with skills in problem solving and critical thinking, to create and present a choreography. The choreography will be for a minimum of three dancers, and learners will also be required to review the process.

Grading

Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

The Course assessment is graded A–D. The grade is determined on the basis of the total mark for all Course assessments together.

A learner's overall grade will be determined by their performance across the Course assessment.

Grade description for C

For the award of Grade C, learners will have demonstrated successful performance in all of the Units of the Course. In the Course assessment, learners will typically have demonstrated successful performance in relation to the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course.

Grade description for A

For the award of Grade A, learners will have demonstrated successful performance in all of the Units of the Course. In the Course assessment, learners will typically have demonstrated a consistently high level of performance in relation to the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course.

Credit

To take account of the extended range of learning and teaching approaches, remediation, consolidation of learning and integration needed for preparation for external assessment, six SCQF credit points are available in Courses at National 5 and Higher, and eight SCQF credit points in Courses at Advanced Higher. These points will be awarded when a Grade D or better is achieved.

Structure and coverage of the Course assessment

The Course assessment will consist of two Components — a performance and a practical activity.

Component 1 — performance

The purpose of this performance is to assess the learner's ability to apply and combine technical skills and performance skills. Learners will perform two solos, each in a different dance genre.

In total the performance will have 70 marks (50% of the total marks), comprising two technical solos, each worth 35 marks.

Each solo will be assessor-choreographed and last one and a half to two minutes.

In each solo, the learner will be assessed on application of technique and performance skills as follows:

1. Application of technique
 - a. technical accuracy and use of turnout/parallel as appropriate to the dance style (5 marks)
 - b. centring, balance, alignment and posture (5 marks)
 - c. stamina, strength and flexibility (5 marks)
 - d. spatial awareness and accurate recreation of choreography (5 marks)
2. Application of performance skills
 - a. timing and musicality (5 marks)
 - b. quality and dynamics (5 marks)
 - c. self-expression, sense of performance, concentration and focus (5 marks)

Component 2 — practical activity

The purpose of the practical activity is to assess the learner's ability to apply problem-solving, critical thinking, interpretation and reflective practice to create and present a choreography for a minimum of three dancers, and review the choreographic process.

In total the practical activity will have 70 marks (50% of the total marks). There are two Sections: Choreography and Choreography Review, each worth 35 marks.

In Section 1: Choreography learners follow the choreographic process to create a dance for a minimum of three dancers, and lasting two to three minutes. Learners present their choreography in a performance event in which the following elements are assessed:

- ◆ use of movement/motif to convey theme
- ◆ use of choreographic structure
- ◆ use of three choreographic devices
- ◆ use of space
- ◆ use of music/sound
- ◆ use of theatre arts

In Section 2: Choreography Review learners must complete three tasks to review planning, review development and reflect on their skills as a choreographer. Marks are awarded for reviewing:

- ◆ the relationship(s) between motif, research and theme
- ◆ reasons for the choreographic principles used
- ◆ evaluation of personal choreographic skills

Setting, conducting and marking of assessment

Coursework Component 1 — performance

Setting the assessment

Set by centres within SQA guidelines.

Conducting the assessment

Conducted under a high degree of supervision and control.

Marking the assessment

The assessment tasks will be marked collaboratively by an SQA Visiting Assessor and the centre, under conditions set by SQA.

Coursework Component 2 — practical activity

Setting the assessment

Set by SQA.

Conducting the assessment

Conducted under some supervision and control.

Marking the assessment

The assessment tasks will be marked collaboratively by an SQA Visiting Assessor and the centre, under conditions set by SQA.

Further mandatory information on Course coverage

The following gives details of mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Higher Dance Course. Course assessment will involve sampling the skills, knowledge and understanding. This list of skills, knowledge and understanding also provides the basis for the assessment of Units of the Course.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ develop a range of technical dance and performance skills
- ◆ understand and apply knowledge of a range of choreographic skills and principles to create a dance
- ◆ work imaginatively and demonstrate individual creativity
- ◆ co-operate, support and work with others
- ◆ consider how theatre arts can enhance a performance
- ◆ develop knowledge, understanding and appreciation of dance styles and practice
- ◆ apply the principles of safe dance practice
- ◆ evaluate their own work and the work of others

Administrative information

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History of changes to Course Assessment Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
	2.0	<p>Pages 2 –3 — Course assessment structure changed from one Component (performance) to two (performance and practical activity) to reflect the difference between the demands of performance and choreography tasks learners undertake. Mark allocation has also changed as a result.</p> <p>Pages 5–6 — Changes to structure and coverage of course assessment: expanded and clarified detail provided throughout. Setting, conducting and marking of assessment clarified.</p> <p>Page 7 — Further mandatory information on Course coverage amended to reflect aims of the course outlined in Course Specification.</p>	Qualifications Development Manager	April 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 Assessment Specification.

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