



National 5  
Course Assessment  
Specification



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# National 5 Dance Course Assessment Specification (C718 75)

**Valid from August 2013**

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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

<b>Course title:</b>	National 5 Dance
<b>SCQF level:</b>	5 (24 SCQF credit points)
<b>Course code:</b>	C718 75
<b>Course assessment code:</b>	X718 75

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	35 marks
Component 2 — practical activity	65 marks
<b>Total marks</b>	<b>100 marks</b>

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](http://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 skill gained in the Course. Learners will perform a challenging and demanding tutor-choreographed technical solo lasting a minimum of 1.5 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 for two dancers, and review the choreographic 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 to perform a solo in one dance genre.

The performance will have 35 marks (35% of the total mark).

The performance will be of a tutor-choreographed technical solo in a selected dance genre. It will last 1.5 to 2 minutes.

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 two dancers, and review the choreographic process.

The practical activity will have 65 marks (65% of the total marks). There are two Sections: Choreography and Choreography Review.

#### **Section 1: Choreography (35 marks)**

In Section 1: Choreography, learners are given instructions to follow the choreographic process to create and present a dance for two, excluding self, lasting between one-and-a-half and two minutes. The process requires learners to:

- ◆ Select and research a theme or stimulus, and plan movement from this
- ◆ Select appropriate choreographic structure and devices, use of space, and music/sound
- ◆ Prepare the choreography for presentation by two other dancers

Candidates present their choreography in a performance event. The following elements of the final dance are assessed:

- ◆ Use of theme or stimulus to create movement (10 marks)
- ◆ Use of choreographic structure (4 marks)
- ◆ Use of choreographic devices (12 marks)
- ◆ Use of space (6 marks)
- ◆ Use of music/sound (3 marks)

**Section 2: Choreography Review (30 marks)**

In Section 2: Choreography Review, responses to questions about the planning and development of the choreography, and evaluation of choreographic strengths and areas for developed are assessed.

Learners respond to three review tasks which assess the following:

- ◆ Description of movement ideas generated as a result of research into theme or stimulus (6 marks)
- ◆ Description of and explanation for the use of particular structures, devices, space and music/sound in the final choreography (18 marks)
- ◆ Evaluation of choreographic strengths and areas for development (6 marks)

## **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 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.

## **Further mandatory information on Course coverage**

The following gives details of mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the National 5 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 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 practice
- ◆ apply the principles of safe dance practice in relation to physical wellbeing
- ◆ evaluate their own work and the work of others

# Administrative information

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**Published:** June 2013 (version 2.0)

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## History of changes to Course Assessment Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
	2.0	Changes to skills, knowledge and understanding, Course assessment components, and mandatory information on Course coverage. Further information and clarification on scope and structure of the performance/practical activity given in the 'Structure and coverage of Course assessment' section.	Qualifications Development Manager	June 2013

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

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