



# Higher Dance — draft Course rationale and summary

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# Course rationale

## Background

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. Learners will develop technical and choreographic skills in dance in order to be able to perform in different dance styles and create a piece of choreography.

In the Course, learners are encouraged to exercise imagination and creativity. They will develop important skills, attitudes and attributes and the 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, development of technical dance skills, and the creative use of choreographic skills.

## **Purpose and aims of the Course**

The Course should encourage learners to be inspired and challenged when developing technical dance skills, performing, creating and appreciating dance. Learners will use theoretical knowledge to inform practice and develop understanding of a range of dance techniques and choreographic skills. Learners will develop an appreciation of a range of theatre arts and dance practice. They will also learn to evaluate their own work and the work of others. The skills that learners acquire by successfully completing the Course will be valuable for learning, for life, and for the world of work.

The Course allows learners to broaden and deepen their skills base, and to widen their horizons regarding a range of vocations and careers.

As learners develop their technical skills in dance, they will accurately demonstrate and perform a range of dance techniques. They will also research and create a piece of choreography using a range of choreographic principles. Learners will also select appropriate theatre arts to enhance performance.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ develop technical dance skills
- ◆ understand and apply knowledge of a broad range of choreographic skills to create a dance
- ◆ work imaginatively and demonstrate individual creativity while applying problem solving, critical thinking, analysis and reflective practice

- ◆ co-operate, support and lead others and communicate thoughts, meaning and ideas when creating dance
- ◆ use a range of theatre arts
- ◆ 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
- ◆ consider the social and cultural influences on dance

This Course will help learners to develop important skills, attitudes and attributes, related to dance, that are transferable to other contexts.

## **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 Dance (National 5) Course.

Learners will learn how to apply a broad range of technical skills in dance. They will also develop and apply choreographic skills, including the use of theatre arts. Learners will learn to communicate imaginative personal thoughts, ideas and themes through creating a range of choreographed sequences, using theatre arts to enhance performance. They will analyse and 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 performance of different dance styles; create, present and evaluate choreographed dance sequences; and apply knowledge and understanding of choreographic principles, devices and structures in dance practice.

Learners will also be able to: communicate creative ideas and themes, and apply them in practice; appreciate dance practice, and understand and apply safe dance practice in relation to physical wellbeing; engage with and apply skills in theatre arts; and evaluate their own performance and that of others.

The learning experiences in the Course are flexible and adaptable, with opportunities for personalisation. 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 summary

**Course title: Higher Dance**

**SCQF level 6 (24 SCQF credit points)**

## Course outline

### Mandatory Units

Dance: Technical Skills (Higher) (9 SCQF credit points)

Choreography (Higher) (9 SCQF credit points)

### Course assessment

(6 SCQF credit points)

This Course includes six SCQF credit points for 40 additional programmed hours to allow 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.

## **Course structure and conditions of award**

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

Learners will also develop an understanding of health, physical wellbeing and fitness, and apply this knowledge in safe dance practice. Reflective skills will also be developed as learners evaluate their own progress and performance and that of others. Learners will also learn how to appreciate the impact of a range of theatre arts and the social and cultural 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 variety of ways.

### **Dance: Technical Skills (Higher)**

In this Unit, learners will develop and refine technical skills in a range of dance styles for solo and/or group dance performances. Practical dance techniques will be refined in a range of dance styles, before being applied in choreographed sequences. Learners will apply critical thinking skills and appreciation of dance. They will evaluate their own work and the work of others. They will also consider and apply their knowledge and understanding of cultural and social influences on dance.

### **Choreography (Higher)**

In this Unit, learners will develop self-expression and creative problem solving skills. They will apply their detailed knowledge and understanding of choreographic structures and devices within the creative process while considering the work of dance practitioners. Learners will expand their knowledge of choreographic devices, structures and forms, to express themes, ideas and emotions. They will learn how to apply and use a range of theatre arts to enhance their choreography. They will learn how to appreciate the impact of theatre arts and also the cultural and social influences on choreography.

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all 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.

## Assessment

Information about assessment standards for the Course will be included in the *Course Assessment Specification*, which will provide 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 Unit specifications.

They will be assessed pass/fail within centres.

SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

Exemplification of possible assessment approaches for these Units will be provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.

### Course assessment

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of [added value](#)<sup>1</sup>. 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 and 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 dance [project](#)<sup>2</sup>. This will involve creating and evaluating a dance.

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<sup>1</sup> Definitions can be found here: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45528.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45528.html)

<sup>2</sup> See link above for definition.