

9 May 2012

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To: SQA Co-ordinators
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges
Cc: LEA Contacts, SQA Business Development Managers

Dear Colleague

National Qualifications – Dance Update May 2012

Please pass this to the member of staff responsible for Dance.

This is an update on current National Qualifications (NQ) in Dance and contains new information about the range of Dance and Dance related Courses and Units available now.

Contents:

- 1. National Progression Award in Dance (SCQF level 5) - new Exemplification published by SQA**
- 2. Launch of the new Expressive Arts Bacculaureate**
- 3. Creative Industries Skills for Work Course**

Please pass on this information to your Dance teaching staff. If you would like to discuss any of the contents of this letter with us, please contact Emma Bratchell (contact details above) or myself on 0345 213 6811 (new number since November 2011) or email mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk

Yours sincerely



Mary McDonald
Qualifications Manager
Humanities, Arts and Business

1. National Progression Award in Dance (SCQF level 5) GA7E 45

Please see 2010 Dance Update Letter for full details and see below for a short summary of what this qualification is about:

A National Progression Award (NPA) is a small flexible qualification with a specific subject focus and comprises of a group of SQA National Qualifications (NQ) Units.

The new NPA in Dance:

- ◆ has been available since August 2011 and can be delivered by any SQA approved centre
- ◆ is at SCQF level 5 (Intermediate 2 level), is a new, alternative pathway in the subject area and underpins and mirrors the current Higher Dance Practice qualification
- ◆ has 3 Unit credits which means that the notional delivery time is 3 x 40 hours - 120 hours - which fits in well with school timetables and college programmes
- ◆ has optional Units which provide great scope for personalisation and choice and opportunities for specialism; any of the Units in the NPA may be delivered as free-standing/stand-alone Units

See the table below:

Group Award Code: GA7E 45				
Mandatory Unit				
Code	Unit Title	SCQF level	SCQF points	SQA credits
FH5T 11	Dance: Choreography	5	6	1
Optional Units – choose two from four				
FH5V 11	Dance: Alternative	5	6	1
FH5W 11	Dance: Classical	5	6	1
FH5X 11	Dance: Contemporary	5	6	1
FH5Y 11	Dance: Jazz	5	6	1

Exemplification for the NPA in Dance is now available

In order to support the new National Progression Award, video exemplification has been produced and is available on SQA's secure website on the NQ Dance page. This work was undertaken in response to requests SQA received from centres seeking more guidance on the delivery and assessment of this new award.

In order to exemplify and share good practice, a number of video files and corresponding commentaries have been produced which cover elements of Choreography, Contemporary, Jazz and Classical Units. The excerpts within these Units are not intended as set studies, but rather are examples of the type of work candidates may be undertaking as part of the Units and they may also generate ideas for delivery. The commentaries produced give some context for the excerpts and highlight areas of good practice.

2. Launch of the new Expressive Arts Bacculaureate

SQA has launched a new Expressive Arts Bacculaureate and this will be available for the first time in session 2012/2013 and is now one of four awards in this group:

- ◆ Science (since 2009) and Languages (since 2009)
- ◆ Expressive Arts (from August 2012) and Social Sciences (from August 2012)

The Scottish Bacculaureates have been designed to provide challenging and rewarding experiences for students in S5 and S6 in particular and aim to motivate learners and raise the status and value of S6. The awards aim to provide a bridge between school and higher education and employment and develop generic skills for learning, life and work. Each of the Bacculaureates is based on a coherent group of subjects at Higher and Advanced Higher level with the addition of the Interdisciplinary Project, which offers added breadth and value.

The Expressive Arts Bacculaureate Course requirements are:

Interdisciplinary Project Unit	Advanced Higher level	SCQF level 7
Two eligible Courses	Advanced Higher level	SCQF level 7
One eligible Course	Higher level	SCQF level 6

One of the above Courses must be English (or ESOL or Gaidhlig) or Mathematics (or Applied Mathematics) and this may be at Higher or Advanced Higher level.

Candidates may choose two core Courses, or one core Course and one broadening Course from the following lists:

Core Courses	Broadening Courses
Art and Design *	Graphic Communication *
Dance Practice	Home Economics: Fashion and Textile Technology
Drama *	Media Studies *
Music: Performing *	Physical Education *
Music: Technology *	Product Design
Photography	

* currently available at Advanced Higher level

The Interdisciplinary Project component is an Advanced Higher Unit (SCQF level 7) and can be offered on a free-standing basis. This Unit is graded A, B or C and attracts UCAS tariff points – 65 for A, 55 for B, 45 for C. The Interdisciplinary Project Unit is a process-based project which is internally assessed in centres and externally verified by SQA.

The Expressive Arts Bacculaureate is an exciting new addition to the Dance and Expressive Arts group of qualifications and for more information please see www.sqa.org.uk (hover over the 'Qualifications' tab > select 'Browse NQ Subjects' > select 'Bacculaureates' from the left-hand menu).

3. Creative Industries Skills for Work Course (C276 11)

The Creative Industries Course (SCQF level 5) has been available since August 2011 and we have been very encouraged by the level of interest in this new Course and the number of centres which have come forward for SQA Approval to deliver the Course this year or in subsequent years.

This Course is aimed at school pupils in S3/S4 and above and college students. The Creative Industries Course has the potential to endorse the broad aims and capacities of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), offering opportunities for inter-disciplinary learning, cross cutting initiatives and school/college partnership working. The Creative Industries Course can be delivered in a wide variety of creative contexts and we continue to support centres which are delivering or planning to deliver the Course and/or Units.

A great strength of the Creative Industries Skills for Work Course is the number of possible and potential contexts for delivery, either within an individual subject area or in a cross cutting/interdisciplinary setting. For example, we know of centres who are delivering the Creative Industries Course in the context of the following areas: creative fashion, creating a radio programme, photography exhibition, community drama production, dance production, producing a music CD, producing a school year book.

Here's a summary of the Creative Industries Course:

- ◆ This new Course has been designed to provide an introduction to the Creative Industries which may include the following sectors: Art and Design, Dance, Drama, Media Studies, Music, Music Business, Photography, Sound Production, Technical Theatre
- ◆ Skills for Work Courses encourage young people to become familiar with the world of work by offering practical skills-based programmes of study which are linked to particular careers; a focus of these Courses is the development of employability skills and other transferable skills
- ◆ The Creative Industries Course comprises 4 x 40 hours Units at SCQF level 5 with an emphasis on integrated practical activity and skills building
- ◆ The 4 Units of the Course are:

- ◆ Creative Industries: An Introduction (FH60 11)
- ◆ Creative Industries: Skills Development (FH61 11)
- ◆ Creative Industries: The Creative Process (FH62 11)
- ◆ Creative Industries: Creative Project (FH63 11)

For full information see www.sqa.org.uk (hover over the 'Qualifications' tab > select 'Skills for Work' from the right-hand column > select 'Creative Industries').