



Arrangements for:

HNC Contemporary Dance Performance

Group Award Code: G8L9 15

and

HND Contemporary Dance Performance

Group Award Code: G8LA 16

Validation date: May 2007

Date of original publication: April 2008

Version: 06 (March 2017)

Acknowledgement

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of Higher National qualifications.

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1 Introduction

This is the Arrangements Document for the revised Group Awards of HNC Contemporary Dance Performance and HND Contemporary Dance Performance, which were validated in May 2007. This document includes: background information on the development of the Group Awards, their aims, guidance on access, details of the Group Award structures, and guidance on delivery.

The revised HNC and HND in Contemporary Dance Performance awards are designed to equip candidates with the knowledge, understanding and skills required for success in the dance profession. They replace the predecessor HNC/HND Contemporary Dance Performance awards.

2 Rationale for the revision of the Group Awards

This HNC and HND in Contemporary Dance Performance have been designed by a Qualification Design Team (QDT) in consultation with the profession and dance community at large.

The revision of the Group Awards reflects the need to update Unit content and create new Units to reflect current industry practice.

2.1 Market research

Market research was conducted, via questionnaires, with:

- ◆ Employers and industries in the field of contemporary dance
- ◆ Candidates who had recently completed the current awards
- ◆ Candidates currently undertaking the awards

The QDT also researched current contemporary dance training practices and methodology (by observation) at other UK and European dance institutions.

Analysis of the results of market research indicated broad agreement with the aims of the Group Awards, the balance between technique and creativity, and the inclusion of relevant non-dance Units.

While the main purpose of both the HNC and HND Contemporary Dance Performance is to provide the basis for vocational employment, successful completion of these qualifications would also allow candidates to access further training at specialist institutions/HEIs.

The HNC is designed for those who wish to pursue a career in Contemporary Dance Performance at an intermediate level.

The HND is designed for those who wish to pursue a career in Contemporary Dance Performance at an advanced level or progress to further training.

3 Aims of the Group Awards

The aims of the Group Awards have been split into general aims and specific aims and each aim has been referenced to the mandatory Units contained in the Group Awards (see Section 5.2, Mapping Information). In addition to these, both awards further aim to provide skills relevant to Higher Education and contemporary dance training by developing the following:

- ◆ Analytical, evaluative and problem solving skills
- ◆ Investigation and research skills
- ◆ Innovative approaches to work
- ◆ Increased confidence
- ◆ Spatial and physical awareness
- ◆ Improved fitness and well-being
- ◆ Flexibility and adaptability
- ◆ The ability to accept and meet challenges
- ◆ The ability to transfer skills developed across a range of contexts and situations
- ◆ The ability to work in a team
- ◆ Self discipline
- ◆ Responsibility
- ◆ Musicality
- ◆ Posture and deportment

3.1 General aims of the HNC/HND Contemporary Dance Performance

- ◆ Shape the future of contemporary dance in Scotland
- ◆ Contribute to producing dance artists of the highest calibre who can aspire to work nationally and internationally
- ◆ Allow dancers to realise their creative potential

3.2 Specific aims of the HNC Contemporary Dance Performance

- 1 Provide training in contemporary dance performance which is relevant to the needs of the industry.
- 2 Provide candidates who have dance potential with the opportunity to gain a qualification.
- 3 Provide a highly practical training, the core of which will focus on classical ballet and at least one contemporary dance technique.
- 4 Improve and extend technical ability, performance skills and experience through performance opportunities.
- 5 Produce candidates skilled in creative processes of choreography.
- 6 Produce candidates capable of progressing to higher level study in dance.

3.3 Specific aims of the HND Contemporary Dance Performance

- 1 Provide a comprehensive training in contemporary dance performance to an advanced level which is relevant to the needs of the industry.
- 2 Provide candidates who have dance potential with the opportunity to gain an advanced qualification.
- 3 Provide a highly practical training, the core of which will focus on classical ballet and contemporary dance techniques with an emphasis in release-based and Cunningham-based at HND level.

- 4 Improve and extend technical ability, performance skills and experience through performance opportunities.
- 5 Produce candidates skilled in advanced creative processes of choreography.
- 6 Produce candidates capable of progressing to the profession/industry or a degree in dance.
- 7 Prepare candidates for auditions for professional contracts.

3.4 Target groups

These Group Awards are suitable for a range of potential candidates, eg:

- ◆ those who have completed an NQ course in Dance
- ◆ those who have practical experience and who wish to gain a formal qualification
- ◆ dancers in work
- ◆ those with a basic qualification in dance, who wish to take this to an advanced level

3.5 Employment opportunities

Candidates completing the HNC Contemporary Dance Performance could expect to gain employment within the contemporary dance industry.

Those continuing their studies to HND level could expect to gain employment as freelance dancers/choreographers. Others may seek employment in a wide range of posts including dance workers, dance artists, dance development workers, promotional, administrative and related posts.

4 Access to Group Awards

As with all SQA qualifications, access will be at the discretion of the centre. The following recommendations are for guidance only. Examples of appropriate formal entry qualifications are specified below. They are not exhaustive or mutually exclusive and may be considered in a variety of combinations.

- ◆ a relevant SQA National Qualification programme including technique based Units and compositional/choreographic Units at a minimum of SCQF level 6; or equivalent experience/qualification
- ◆ previous dance experience which must include ballet content
- ◆ The Royal Academy of Dancing Syllabus: Intermediate
- ◆ The Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing Syllabus: Intermediate
- ◆ other appropriate examining board of dance training
- ◆ classes at private dance school or dance teacher or other institution which achieves standards equivalent to those listed above

However, it is recommended that centres confirm the practical skills and potential of candidates through an audition and interview, as formal academic achievements in themselves will not be sufficient to establish this.

4.1 Audition and interview

Candidates may be selected through audition and interview to establish:

- ◆ interest and commitment to training in contemporary dance performance
- ◆ evidence of drive, enthusiasm, and reliability
- ◆ knowledge and experience of contemporary dance
- ◆ physical fitness and potential to progress to professional level
- ◆ commitment and understanding of the demands of dance training

The main criteria for selection will be evidence of physical aptitude allied to the capacity to respond creatively to the training. Successful candidates will show a potential for training to professional level.

4.1.1 The audition process

At audition, it is recommended that candidates take part in a one-hour generic contemporary class followed by ballet sequences in petite allegro, adage and grande allegro. The creative section of the audition should require candidates to respond to a set task including improvisation. The following attributes should be assessed at the audition: posture, alignment, strength, stamina, flexibility, co-ordination, musicality and the ability to replicate phrases.

All prospective candidates attending for audition should be interviewed individually by the selection panel.

International applicants may apply by providing the above audition criteria on video or DVD and a detailed personal statement covering their reasons for application.

4.2 Entry requirements for 2nd year of HND

In order to achieve the HND in Contemporary Dance Performance candidates must gain 30 credits. Ideally full-time candidates should be encouraged to achieve 15 credits in each year, ie the 12 HN credits (96 SCQF credit points) which make up the HNC in Contemporary Dance Performance plus an additional 3 optional HN credits (24 SCQF credit points). However, wider access should be provided to cater for the needs of those, for example, who have achieved the HNC at day release or evening classes or in other centres.

4.3 Core Skills Entry level

The following table gives information on the recommended Core Skills entry levels.

Core Skill	HNC Recommended Entry level	HND Recommended Entry level
Working with Others	SCQF level 4	SCQF level 5
Problem Solving	SCQF level 4	SCQF level 5
IT	SCQF level 4	SCQF level 5
Communication: Written	SCQF level 4	SCQF level 5
Communication: Oral	SCQF level 4	SCQF level 5
Numeracy	SCQF level 4	SCQF level 4

5 Group Awards structure

Both Group Awards adhere to the HN Design Principles outlined below:

Design Principles for HNCs and HNDs

- ◆ HNCs shall be designed to be at SCQF level 7 and shall comprise 96 SCQF credit points.
- ◆ HNDs shall be designed to be at SCQF level 8 and shall comprise 240 SCQF credit points.
- ◆ HNCs should incorporate at least 48 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7.
- ◆ HNDs should incorporate at least 64 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8.

Core Skills

- ◆ HNC and HND programmes shall incorporate opportunities for candidates to develop Core Skills.
- ◆ HNCs and HNDs should clearly include opportunities for candidates to develop Core Skills to levels required by the occupations or progression pathways the HNs support. This would mean that all five Core Skills should be developed in every HN programme.

Mandatory section

- ◆ HNCs should include a mandatory section of at least at 48 SCQF credit points including a Graded Unit.
- ◆ HNDs should include a mandatory section of at least 96 SCQF credit points, including Graded Units.

Graded Units

- ◆ HNCs should include one Group Award Graded Unit of 8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7.
- ◆ HNDs should include one Group Award Graded Unit of 8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7, plus 16 SCQF credit points of Graded Unit(s) at SCQF level 8.

5.1 Framework

HNC Contemporary Dance Performance

Mandatory Units

Unit code	Unit title	SCQF credit points	SCQF level	SQA credit points
F1NS 34	Dance: Choreographic Skills	8	7	1
F1LF 34	Dance: Body Conditioning	16	7	2
H4RE 34	Dance: Classical Ballet Techniques: Intermediate*	16	7	2
H4RF 35	Dance: Classical Ballet Techniques: Advanced*	16	8	2
F1LD 34	Dance: An Introduction to Performance and Production	8	7	1
F1Y2 34	Contemporary Dance Performance: Graded Unit 1	8	7	1

Optional Units

A **minimum of 2 credits** must be achieved from the following group of Units:

Unit code	Unit title	SCQF credit points	SCQF level	SQA credit points
F1R6 34	Dance: Graham-based Techniques: Intermediate	8	7	1
F1R5 35	Dance: Graham-based Techniques: Advanced	16	8	2
F1NP 34	Dance: Cunningham-based Techniques: Intermediate	8	7	1
F1NR 35	Dance: Cunningham-based Techniques: Advanced	16	8	2
F1NK 34	Dance: Release-based Techniques: Intermediate	8	7	1

A **minimum of zero** credits and a **maximum of 1 credit** may be achieved from the following group of Units:

Unit code	Unit title	SCQF credit points	SCQF level	SQA credit points
F1NF 35	Current Trends in Contemporary Dance Techniques	8	8	1
F1LP 34	Dance: Contact Improvisation	8	7	1
F4S3 35	Dance: Movement Science for Dancers	8	8	1
F1NB 34	Dance History for Contemporary Dancers	8	7	1
H7V4 34*	Preparing to Start a Business	8	7	1
F1R4 35	Dance: Contextual Studies	8	8	1
F1NL 34	Dance: Freelance Working Skills for Contemporary Dancers	8	7	1
DJ3A 34	Working in the Creative Industries	8	7	1
DM2L 35	Working in the Creative Industries 2	8	8	1
H4A1 34*	Creative Industries: An Introduction	8	7	1

For a candidate to achieve the HNC Contemporary Dance Performance, they would require to attain all the mandatory Units (9 SQA credits/72 SCQF credit points) and optional Units worth 3 SQA credits/24 SCQF credit points.)

HND Contemporary Dance Performance

Mandatory Units

Unit code	Unit title	SCQF credit points	SCQF level	SQA credit points
F1NS 34	Dance: Choreographic Skills	8	7	1
F1NE 35	Choreographic Practice	16	8	2
F1LF 34	Dance: Body Conditioning	16	7	2
H4RE 34	Dance: Classical Ballet Techniques: Intermediate*	16	7	2
H4RF 35	Dance: Classical Ballet Techniques: Advanced*	16	8	2
F1V9 35	Integrated Dance Techniques	16	8	2
F1NP 34	Dance: Cunningham-based Techniques: Intermediate	8	7	1
F1NR 35	Dance: Cunningham-based Techniques: Advanced	16	8	2
F1NK 34	Dance: Release-based Techniques: Intermediate	8	7	1
F1NJ 35	Dance: Release-based Techniques: Advanced	16	8	2
F1LD 34	Dance: An Introduction to Performance and Production	8	7	1
F1Y2 34	Contemporary Dance Performance Graded Unit 1	8	7	1
F1Y3 35	Contemporary Dance Performance: Graded Unit 2	16	8	2

Optional Units

A **minimum of 9 credits** must be achieved from the following group of Units:

Unit code	Unit title	SCQF credit points	SCQF level	SQA credit points
F1R6 34	Dance: Graham-based Techniques: Intermediate	8	7	1
F1R5 35	Dance: Graham-based Techniques: Advanced	16	8	2
F1LG 35	Dance: Body Conditioning: Advanced	16	8	2
F1NV 35	Dance: Choreographic Collaboration (Choreographer)	8	8	1
F1NT 35	Dance: Choreographic Collaboration (Dancer)	8	8	1
F1LP 34	Dance: Contact Improvisation	8	7	1
F1NN 34	Dance: Developing Choreographic Repertoire for a Dance Production	8	7	1
F1VR 34	Choreography for Screen	8	7	1
F1R4 35	Dance: Contextual Studies	8	8	1

Unit code	Unit title	SCQF credit points	SCQF level	SQA credit points
F1M0 35	Dance: Teaching Skills	8	8	1
F1NC 35	Choreographing for Peers	8	8	1
F1ND 35	Choreography for Peers (Dancer)	8	8	1
F1NF 35	Current Trends in Contemporary Dance Techniques	8	8	1
F1NB 34	Dance History for Contemporary Dancers	8	7	1
F4S3 35	Dance: Movement Science for Dancers	8	8	1
F1NL 34	Dance: Freelance Working Skills for Contemporary Dancers	8	7	1
H4RJ 34	Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques*	16	7	2
H4RK 35	Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques: 2	16	8	2
F1NW 35	Dance: Advanced Performance and Production	8	8	1
DE3R 34	Personal Development Planning	8	7	1
HJ4W 34	Work Placement*	8	7	1
H7V4 34*	Preparing to Start a Business*	8	7	1
DJ3A 34	Working in the Creative Industries	8	7	1
DM2L 35	Working in the Creative Industries 2	8	8	1
H4A1 34	Creative Industries: An Introduction*	8	7	1

For a candidate to achieve the HND Contemporary Dance Performance, they would require to attain all the mandatory Units (21 SQA credits/168 SCQF credit points) and optional Units worth 9 SQA credits/72 SCQF credit points.

5.1.1 Graded Units

The purpose of the Graded Units is to assess the candidate's ability to integrate and apply the knowledge and/or skills gained in the individual Units in order to demonstrate that they have achieved the principal aims of the qualifications.

Based on feedback from market research, Project-based Graded Units have been chosen for both awards. The Projects will take the form of practical assignments, as this is the most appropriate method to assess the specific aims of the Group Awards.

For the HNC Contemporary Dance Performance, candidates will undertake one Graded Unit at SCQF level 7. The core of the Practical Assignment will be dance technique in both ballet and at least one contemporary dance technique with the creative balance provided by the opportunity to explore vocabulary and choreographic processes through choreography. All of the skills learned will be combined in a performance project, which encompasses all aspects of the specific aims of the award. Candidates will be set a choreographic brief and be assessed on their individual contribution to the whole process.

For the HND in Contemporary Dance Performance, candidates will undertake one Graded Unit at SCQF level 7 (as described above for the HNC award) and a double credit Graded Unit worth 16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8. The core of the double credit Practical Assignment will be dance technique in both Cunningham-based and release-based techniques and ballet, with the creative balance provided by choreographic practice and several choreographic opportunities within the mandatory and optional Units providing the platform to explore individual vocabulary and choreographic processes. All of the skills learned will be combined in a performance project and in addition an audition project that will encompass all aspects of the specific aims of the award. Candidates will be set a choreographic brief and be assessed on their individual contribution to the whole process. This will involve independent work that is contextualised within current contemporary dance practice. The audition project will mirror the work interview procedure that all graduates will need to master to achieve employment in this industry.

5.1.2 Core Skills

The recommended entry/exit SCQF levels for Core Skills are given in the table below:

Core Skill	HNC		HND	
	Recommended Entry level	Recommended Exit level	Recommended Entry level	Recommended Exit level
Working with Others	SCQF level 4	SCQF level 5	SCQF level 5	SCQF level 6
Problem Solving	SCQF level 4	SCQF level 5	SCQF level 5	SCQF level 6
IT	SCQF level 4	SCQF level 5	SCQF level 5	SCQF level 5
Communication: Written	SCQF level 4	SCQF level 5	SCQF level 5	SCQF level 6
Communication: Oral	SCQF level 4	SCQF level 5	SCQF level 5	SCQF level 5
Numeracy	SCQF level 4	SCQF level 4	SCQF level 4	SCQF level 5

Opportunities to develop Core Skills in the Group Awards are highlighted in the individual Unit specifications. A table showing the embedded/signposted Core Skills is given in Appendix 2.

5.2 Mapping information

HNC

At HNC level, the highly practical core technique training is developed in at least one contemporary dance technique and ballet Units.

The balance of creative processes is developed in choreographic skills and the production Unit and all practical Units are supported by the need for body conditioning. In addition, the Graded Unit allows skills learned in all mandatory Units to be assessed holistically in a solo performance context.

The table shows how each of the mandatory Units meets the specific aims of the award.

HNC MANDATORY UNITS	Aims					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Dance: Choreographic Skills	x	x		x	x	x
Dance: Body Conditioning	x	x	x			x
Dance: Classical Ballet Techniques: Intermediate	x	x	x	x		x
Dance: Classical Ballet Techniques: Advanced	x	x	x	x		x
Dance: An Introduction to Performance and Production	x	x		x	x	x
Contemporary Dance Performance: Graded Unit 1	x	x	x	x	x	x

HND

At HND level, the highly practical core technique training is developed to an advanced level through Cunningham-based and release-based technique Units and in integrated dance techniques, which is a highly complex mix of learned techniques in combination within a balletic framework. The balance of creativity is developed through choreographic practice and production Units and several opportunities within the optional section.

In addition, the Graded Unit allows skills learned in all mandatory Units to be assessed holistically in both a solo performance context and in an audition process, which mirrors that required for employment.

The table shows how each of the mandatory Units meets the specific aims of the award.

HND MANDATORY UNITS	Aims						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Dance: Choreographic Skills	x	x		x	x	x	
Choreographic Practice	x	x		x	x	x	
Dance: Body Conditioning	x	x	x			x	
Dance: Classical Ballet Techniques: Intermediate	x	x	x	x		x	
Dance: Classical Ballet Techniques: Advanced	x	x	x	x		x	x
Integrated Dance Techniques	x	x	x	x		x	x
Dance: An Introduction to Performance and Production	x	x		x	x	x	x
Dance: Cunningham-based Techniques: Intermediate	x	x	x	x		x	
Dance: Cunningham-based Techniques: Advanced	x	x	x	x		x	x

HND MANDATORY UNITS	Aims						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Dance: Release-based Technique: Intermediate	x	x	x	x		x	
Dance: Release-based Technique: Advanced	x	x	x	x		x	x
Contemporary Dance Performance: Graded Unit 1	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Contemporary Dance Performance: Graded Unit 2	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

All technique, choreographic and production Units offer opportunities to develop performance skills as an integral ingredient. Performance skills are again demonstrated within assessment procedures or, in the case of choreography, to audiences either formally or informally.

Self-evaluative skills are developed in various Units at both HNC and HND levels through a personal progress record/log book, which is monitored regularly. This provides candidates with the skills and discipline necessary to identify areas of strength and weakness in their work and allows an opportunity to produce strategies and targets for improvement.

Written skills are developed throughout the awards through assignments, which enhance critical writing and presentation skills, which are necessary for progression onto Higher Education.

At HNC level, the Graded Unit integrates all learned knowledge and skills to focus on performance at an intermediate level. The HNC Graded Unit demonstrates all of the specific aims of the qualification.

The skills required for professional performance and entry to the profession by audition are crucial to gaining employment within the industry. The Graded Unit at HND level is designed to integrate all learned knowledge and skills to focus on the candidates' suitability for employment. The HND Graded Unit demonstrates all of the specific aims of the qualification.

5.3 Articulation, professional recognition and credit transfer

Transition and Credit transfer arrangements

Candidates may be given credit transfer between HN Units (developed using 1988 design principles) and the revised HN Units (developed using 2003 design principles). During the transition period some candidates may wish to transfer from the HNC developed under the 1988 design rules (12 credit HNC or having completed 15 credits for the first part of an HND) to the revised HND. To facilitate this it has been agreed that candidates should:

- ◆ be given opportunities to develop Core Skills
- ◆ achieve the mandatory Units in the revised HND award by credit transfer or normal study
- ◆ obtain the remaining SCQF credit points required at the SCQF level to gain the award (either by credit transfer or normal study)

Credit transfer can be given where there is broad equivalence between the subject related content of the Unit or combination of Units. Candidates who are given credit transfer between predecessor Units and revised HN Units must still satisfy all other conditions of the revised HND Contemporary Dance Performance.

The following table lists where credit transfer can be given between predecessor Units and revised Units. These have been agreed by the External Verifier.

Unit code	Predecessor Unit	Unit code	Revised Unit
D2K0 04	Body Conditioning for Dancers 1	F1LF 34	Dance: Body Conditioning
D3CH 04	Body Conditioning for Dancers 2	F1LG 35	Dance: Body Conditioning: Advanced
A716 04 Plus D2K1 04	Classical Ballet Techniques Plus Advanced Classical Ballet Techniques and Analysis 1	F1LL 34	Dance: Classical Ballet Techniques: Intermediate
D2JW 04	Contemporary Dance Techniques and Analysis: Graham 1	F1R6 34	Dance: Graham-based Techniques: Intermediate
D3CK 04	Advanced Contemporary Dance Techniques: Graham Based	F1R5 35	Dance: Graham-based Techniques: Advanced
D3CF 04	Advanced Classical Ballet Techniques 2	F1LM 35	Dance: Classical Ballet Techniques: Advanced
D2JV 04	Contemporary Dance Techniques and Analysis: Cunningham 1	F1NP 34	Dance: Cunningham-based Techniques: Intermediate
D3CL 04	Advanced Contemporary Dance Techniques: Cunningham	F1NR 35	Dance: Cunningham-based Techniques Advanced Outcomes 1 and 2 only
A718 04	Contemporary Dance Techniques	F1NF 35	Current Trends in Contemporary Dance Techniques
D2JX 04	Contact Improvisation 1	F1LP 34	Dance: Contact Improvisation
D50V 04	Anatomy and Exercise Physiology	F1NM 35	Dance: Movement Science for Dancers
D2K2 04	Dance History 1	F1NB 34	Dance History for Contemporary Dancers
A719 04	Dance Production	F1LD 34	Dance: An Introduction to Performance and Production
D3CR 04	Dance Production 2 (Directed)	F1NW 35	Dance: Advanced Performance and Production
D2JY 04	Choreography 1	F1NS 34	Dance: Choreographic Skills
D2JY 04 Plus D3CJ 04	Choreography 1 Plus Choreography 2	F1NE 35	Choreographic Practice
D3CT 04	Freelance Working Skills for Contemporary Dancers	F1NL 34	Dance: Freelance Working Skills for Contemporary Dancers

Unit code	Predecessor Unit	Unit code	Revised Unit
D3CS 04	Dance Production for Choreographers (Student Choreography for Peers)	F1NC 35	Choreographing for Peers
D3CV 04	Dance Production for Dancers (Choreographed by a Peer)	F1ND 35	Choreography for Peers (Dancer)
D3CN 04	Dance Collaboration (Choreographer)	F1NV 35	Dance: Choreographic Collaboration (Choreographer)
D3CP 04	Dance Collaboration (For Dancers)	F1NT 35	Dance: Choreographic Collaboration (Dancer)
D5Y8 04	Developing Choreographic Repertoire for a Dance Production	F1NN 34	Dance: Developing Choreographic Repertoire for a Dance Production

6 Approaches to delivery and assessment

The HNC Contemporary Dance Performance is a specialised award which allows candidates to gain skills and knowledge in the core performance areas of contemporary dance training. The award is aimed at candidates who wish to pursue a career as a professional contemporary dancer/choreographer or wish to progress to further training in this or other areas of dance.

The HND Contemporary Dance Performance seeks to further advance and develop the skills base of the HNC and allow for greater breadth or diversity through a selection of optional Units which may allow candidates to have a greater focus on creative aspects as choreographers.

Both the HNC and HND awards allow candidates to progress to a range of study options at degree level. (See Section 3.4)

Although the Units have been developed as part of the Group Awards, it is possible for them to be delivered as stand alone qualifications.

6.1 Delivery and assessment

In both awards the aim of the curriculum design is to provide a balance between dance technique and creativity allied to an understanding of the profession. The awards allow for a natural progression in physical skills and creative understanding.

Although centres can choose in which order they deliver the awards, contemporary techniques should be delivered in balance with ballet. A sample programme delivery schedule is outlined in Appendix 1.

It is important that the mandatory Units are delivered before the Graded Units are assessed although some elements of the mandatory Units may be delivered concurrently with the Graded Units.

The assessment strategy adopted in both awards encourages a more holistic approach to assessment. Integrated assessment may be possible in some instances such as choreography and production Units, movement science and body conditioning Units. Opportunities for integrated assessment, however, are limited due to the specialism involved in the content of many Units.

Graded Units have been introduced in both Group Awards in line with the new HN design principles. As well as encapsulating the key aims of both Group Awards, these bring with them a level of integration and synthesis not featured in the predecessor awards.

Unit specifications detail the Evidence Requirements and Assessment Guidelines for each Unit.

6.2 Core Skills

A summary of the recommended entry and exit levels is given in Section 5.1.2 and a Core Skills mapping is given in Appendix 2.

6.3 Open Learning

Distance/open learning may be feasible for some Outcomes within some Units in these awards. These opportunities are highlighted within the Unit specifications. The great majority of Outcomes rely, however, on developing technical, performance and practical skills in the presence of a lecturer and/or fellow candidates. Group work and workshop activities underpin much of the learning and so the opportunities for distance/open learning are very limited. Centres may, however, find it possible to develop solutions for all or parts of some Units provided all Unit Evidence Requirements and verification requirements are met in full.

Because of the intensive nature of the training and need for daily repetition/practice for many Units, part-time provision would be most unusual and difficult to achieve.

6.4 Resource requirements

Suitable dance studios will be required for the delivery and assessment of the Units within these Group Awards.

7 General information for centres

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

Internal and external verification

All instruments of assessment used within this/these Group Award(s) should be internally verified, using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in *SQA's Guide to Assessment and Quality Assurance for Colleges of Further Education* (www.sqa.org.uk).

8 General information for candidates

HNC/HND Contemporary Dance Performance

The awards are designed to train you for a career as a professional contemporary dancer and/or choreographer or for further training at degree level.

Former candidates have been successful in securing work in contemporary dance companies or as choreographers or freelance dancers.

The training at HNC will allow you to:

- ◆ undertake a highly practical and intensive training of which the core will focus on classical ballet and at least one contemporary dance technique
- ◆ improve and extend your technical ability, performance skills and experience through performance opportunities
- ◆ develop skills in the creative processes of choreography
- ◆ develop skills that allow you to progress to further training
- ◆ develop skills in contemporary dance performance that are relevant to the needs of the industry

The training at HND level will allow you to:

- ◆ undertake a highly practical and intensive training the core of which will focus on classical ballet and contemporary dance techniques with an emphasis in Cunningham-based and release-based techniques
- ◆ improve and extend your technical ability, performance skills and experience through performance opportunities
- ◆ develop skills in the creative processes of choreography
- ◆ develop skills in contemporary dance performance realising your potential that will allow you to present yourself as a dancer/choreographer to the profession
- ◆ prepare for auditions for professional contracts

9 Glossary of terms

SCQF: This stands for the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework, which is a new way of speaking about qualifications and how they inter-relate. We use SCQF terminology throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk

SCQF credit points: One HN credit is equivalent to 8 SCQF credit points. This applies to all HN Units, irrespective of their level.

SCQF levels: The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. HN Units will normally be at levels 6–9. Graded Units will be at level 7 and 8.

Subject Unit: Subject Units contain vocational/subject content and are designed to test a specific set of knowledge and skills.

Graded Unit: Graded Units assess candidates' ability to integrate what they have learned while working towards the Units of the Group Award. Their purpose is to add value to the Group Award, making it more than the sum of its parts, and to encourage candidates to retain and adapt their skills and knowledge.

Dedicated Core Skill Unit: This is a Unit that is written to cover one or more particular Core Skills, eg HN Units in Information Technology or Communications.

Embedded Core Skills: This is where the development of a Core Skill is incorporated into the Unit and where the Unit assessment also covers the requirements of Core Skill assessment at a particular level.

Signposted Core Skills: This refers to the opportunities to develop a particular Core Skill at a specified level that lie outwith automatic certification.

Qualification Design Team: The QDT works in conjunction with a Qualification Manager/Development Manager to steer the development of the HNC/D from its inception/revision through to validation. The group is made up of key stakeholders representing the interests of centres, employers, universities and other relevant organisations.

Consortium-devised HNCs and HNDs are those developments or revisions undertaken by a group of centres in partnership with SQA.

Specialist single centre and specialist collaborative devised HNCs and HNDs are those developments or revisions led by a single centre or small group of centres who provide knowledge and skills in a specialist area. Like consortium-devised HNCs and HNDs, these developments or revisions will also be supported by SQA.

10 Appendices

Appendix 1: Examples of Programme Delivery Planners for HNC/HND Year 1 and HND Year 2

Appendix 2: Core Skills Signposting

Appendix 1: Examples of Programme Delivery Planners for HNC/HND Year 1 and HND Year 2

Year 1 Mode: full-time

The suggested schedule given below is for centres delivering the Group Awards over a 3-block academic year. Centres operating on a 2-semester year would have different requirements.

Unit title	SCQF		Hours			Staff	Accommodation	Resources
	Level	Credit points	Block 1	Block 2	Block 3			
Dance: Classical Ballet Techniques: Intermediate	7	16	60	20		Specialist	Dance studio	Sprung floor Barres Mirrors Heating Sound Water
Dance: An Introduction to Performance and Production	7	8		40		Specialist	Dance studio	As above
Dance: Classical Ballet Techniques: Advanced	8	16		50	30	Specialist	Dance studio	As above
Dance: Body Conditioning	7	16	35	35	10	Specialist	Dance studio	As above
Dance: Choreographic Skills	7	8	15	15	10	Specialist	Dance Studio	As above
Contemporary Dance Performance: Graded Unit 1	7	8			40	Specialist	Dance Studio	As above

Plus a minimum of 24 SCQF credit points must be achieved through the optional Units in the award.

Year 2 Mode: full-time

Unit title	SCQF		Hours			Staff	Accommodation	Resources
	Level	Credit points	Block 1	Block 2	Block 3			
Integrated Dance Techniques	8	16	30	25	25	Specialist	Dance studio	Sprung Floor Barres, Mirrors Heating, Sound Water
Dance: Cunningham-based Techniques: Intermediate	7	8	40			Specialist	Dance studio	As above
Dance: Cunningham-based Techniques: Advanced	8	16		60	20	Specialist	Dance studio	As above
Dance: Release-based Techniques: Intermediate	7	8		40		Specialist	Dance studio	As above
Dance: Release-based Techniques: Advanced	8	16		20	60	Specialist	Dance studio	As above
Choreographic Practice	8	16	80			Specialist	Gym or studio	Sprung Floor Heating Sound, Water
Contemporary Dance Performance: Graded Unit 2	8	16			80	Specialist	Dance studio	Sprung Floor Heating Sound, Water

Plus a minimum of 72 SCQF credit points must be achieved through the optional Units in the award.

Appendix 2: Core Skills Signposting

Core Skills Development Opportunities

Unit code	Mandatory Units	Communication	SCQF level	Numeracy	SCQF level	Problem Solving	SCQF level	IT	SCQF level	Working with Others	SCQF level
F1NS 34	Dance: Choreographic Skills	S	5			S	5			S	5
F1NE 35	Choreographic Practice					S	5			S	5
F1LF 34	Dance: Body Conditioning	S	6			S	6				
F1LL 34	Dance: Classical Ballet Techniques: Intermediate					S	5				
F1LM 35	Dance: Classical Ballet Techniques: Advanced	S	5			S	6			S	5
F1V9 35	Integrated Dance Techniques					S	5			S	5
F1NP 34	Dance: Cunningham-based Techniques: Intermediate					S	5			S	5
F1NR 35	Dance: Cunningham-based Techniques: Advanced					S	5			S	5
F1NK 34	Dance: Release-based Techniques: Intermediate	S	5			S	5			S	5
F1NJ 35	Dance: Release-based Techniques: Advanced	S	5			S	5			S	5
F1LD 34	Dance: An Introduction to Performance and Production	S	5			S	5			S	5
F1Y2 34	Contemporary Dance Performance: Graded Unit 1	S	5			S	5				
F1Y3 35	Contemporary Dance Performance: Graded Unit 2	S	5			S	6				

C- Certificated

S- Signposted

Core Skills Signposted Opportunities

Unit code	Optional Units	Communication	SCQF level	Numeracy	SCQF level	Problem Solving	SCQF level	IT	SCQF level	Working with Others	SCQF level
F1R6 34	Dance: Graham-based Techniques: Intermediate					S	5			S	5
F1R5 35	Dance: Graham-based Techniques: Advanced					S	5			S	5
F1LG 35	Dance: Body Conditioning: Advanced	S	6			S	6				
F1NV 35	Dance: Choreographic Collaboration (Choreographer)	S	6	S	4	S	6			S	6
F1LP 34	Dance: Contact Improvisation					S	5			S	5
F1NN 34	Dance: Developing Choreographic Repertoire for a Dance Production					S	5			S	5
F1VR 34	Choreography for Screen	S				S		S		S	
F1R4 35	Dance: Contextual Studies	S	5/6							S	4
F1M0 35	Dance: Teaching Skills	S	6			S	5/6			S	6
F1NC 35	Choreographing for Peers					S	5			S	5
F1ND 35	Choreography for Peers (Dancer)									S	5
F1NF 35	Current Trends in Contemporary Dance Techniques					S	5			S	6
F1NB 34	Dance History for Contemporary Dancers	S	5					S	5		
F1NM 35	Dance: Movement Science for Dancers					S	6				
F1NL 34	Dance: Freelance Working Skills for Contemporary Dancers	S	5					S	5		

C- Certificated

S- Signposted

Unit code	Optional Units	Communication	SCQF level	Numeracy	SCQF level	Problem Solving	SCQF level	IT	SCQF level	Working with Others	SCQF level
F1LS 34	Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques	S	5			S	5			S	5
F1NT 35	Dance: Choreographic Collaboration (Dancer)	S	5			S	5			S	6
F1LV 35	Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques: Advanced					S	6			S	6
F1NW 35	Dance: Advanced Performance and Production	S	6			S	6			S	6
DV0M 34	Work Experience					C	6				
H7V4 34*	Preparing to Start a Business*	S	5	S	5	S	6	S	5		
DJ3A 34	Working in the Creative Industries	S	5	S	4	S	5	S	4		
DM2L 35	Working in the Creative Industries 2	S	5	S	4	S	5	S	4		
DM0V 34	Creative Industries: An Introduction	S	5	S	4	S	5	S	4		

C- Certificated

S- Signposted