

# **Marking Instructions**

## **Higher Dance Practice**

### **C03D 12**

**This document should be used in conjunction with the following documents:**

- ◆ *Project-based National Courses: procedural guide for centres*  
(A1312, April 2001)
- ◆ *Performing Arts: Arrangements for Project-based National Courses*  
(G1083, March 2000)
- ◆ *National Course Assessment: Higher Dance Practice - Practical Assignment*  
(BB1496, March 2002)

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## **Section 1 Planning Stage**

**40 marks**

### **Introduction**

**5 marks**

Candidates will cover the following in their introduction:

- Aims and objectives of their Practical Assignment.  
(reasons for choosing the brief i.e. theme for choreography,  
selection of techniques, studio or site specific etc.) **5 marks**

### **Part (i): Choreography**

**20 marks**

This part of the plan will demonstrate that the candidate is able to plan and research their ideas for their choreography, i.e. themes, starting points, choreographic devices, management of rehearsals, time planning, working practices with dancers and design elements.

- Research and rehearse movement ideas e.g. initial starting points, themes and motifs etc **5 marks**
- Demonstrate knowledge of choreographic devices and how they will be used in the choreography (candidates will include those acquired whilst undertaking the mandatory unit, Dance: Choreography, e.g. choreographic structures, canon, motif & development, unison, repetition, layering etc.) **5 marks**
- Describe methods that will be used when working with dancers e.g. communication, goal setting, safe content and attitudes/feelings etc **5 marks**
- Describe how the use of music, costumes, lighting and props/set will enhance the theme of the choreography. **5 marks**

## **Part (ii): Dance Performance**

**15 marks**

Candidates will provide evidence to support their choice of techniques to be studied for performance. This can be gathered from the units covered in dance technique.

- Identify techniques to be studied for performance 1 mark
- Recognise the limitations on the structure of the body with regards to the techniques studied – candidates will show knowledge of alignment and technical skills learned whilst undertaking practical technique units e.g. alignment, strength, stamina, flexibility etc 4 marks
- Establish an action plan for personal improvement and development of skill levels in conjunction with teacher/lecturer guidance. Candidates will use teacher/lecturer selected skills and techniques (see page 6) on which to base their action plan e.g. areas of weakness, specific tasks and exercises to improve technique, time scale for action plan, reassessment of skill levels 10 marks

### **Assessment of Planning Stage**

Candidates must produce a 500 – 1,000 word plan of action. The plan, where appropriate, may include: video, diagrams, floor plan, patterns, choreographic designs and stimuli.

The work produced should be the candidate's own. However, teachers/lecturers are expected to provide candidates with advice, guidance and constructive criticism as necessary when they are devising their plans. It is important to note that, as the plan underpins the rest of the project, centres should ensure that no candidate proceeds to the development stage until the candidate has devised a plan that is potentially workable.

Candidates should submit their plan for marking at an agreed date. Time should be allocated in class to prepare the candidates for the task of writing the plan. Sufficient class time should also be allocated to the writing of the plan prior to the submission deadline.

It is important that candidates know that they will be penalised for submitting evidence that significantly exceeds the stated word count.

A sample of candidates' plans of action will be sent to SQA for marking. In addition, centres will be expected to submit all notes used by the sample candidates during write-up sessions.

## **Portfolio**

The portfolio can take the form of a log book charting the personal experiences of the candidate during the choreographic and performance processes. The portfolio should include as much detail as possible to enable the candidate to have a clear record of the daily process from the start of the project to the end.

This record of work will enable the candidate to evaluate the process from an informed standpoint and will relinquish the necessity for them to work from memory. Candidates should make the portfolio a diverse record of their work and can include written and video evidence, cuttings, resources, costume/design ideas, music, etc.

The portfolio will show the progression of ideas, decisions taken and any changes in direction and approach. What do they leave out, what do they retain - the following is a guideline:

### **Choreography:**

- Selection of ideas and themes
- Content of choreography: stimuli, themes, context
- Location, surroundings (for site specific work)
- Choreographic techniques: motif development, improvisation, canon, unison, layering, chance, collage, contact improvisation, repetition, rondo, sequential
- Costumes, design, staging, lighting
- Response to needs, feelings and attitudes of the dancers

### **Performance:**

- Personal areas of improvement
- Identified weaknesses and strategies for improvement
- Notes of personal corrections and encouragement from teacher/lecturer
- Attendance at classes and rehearsals
- Personal contribution to the classes/rehearsals
- Levels of personal performance: timing, projecting to audience, and sensitivity to others
- Stage craft: awareness of performance space, entrances and exits, eye line, facial expression, footwear, costumes and sound

Although no overall marks are attributed to the portfolio it forms the backbone of the candidate's work and should be seen as a valuable part of the practical assignment.

## Section 2

### Development Stage

**120 marks**

#### Part (i): Candidate's Choreography

**40 marks**

- **Use of choreographic structures**

8 marks

Candidates will demonstrate the use of structure and form e.g. rondo, AB, ABA etc. Marks should be allocated accordingly.

- **Use of physical space**

8 marks

Candidates will demonstrate that they have grasped the use of the physical stage space, through the use of the following: direction, floor patterns, groupings, perspective & pathways etc. Marks should be allocated accordingly.

- **Use of choreographic devices**

8 marks

Candidates will demonstrate that they have the ability to create and develop movement phrases. Devices can include the following: motif & development, unison, canon, repetition, layering, chance etc. Marks should be allocated accordingly.

- **Use of music/sound**

8 marks

Is the choice of music/sound/accompaniment appropriate to the intention of the piece. Has the candidate used the music to highlight the choreography and have they demonstrated an empathy with timing, speed and dynamics of the music. Has the candidate chosen to use a soundscape or silence and is this choice appropriate and/or effective. Marks should be allocated accordingly.

- **Use of design**

8 marks

Candidates will demonstrate that they are able to select appropriate costumes, lighting, props and set (if used) to enhance their choreography. Are the design elements used to their full or has the candidate not fulfilled the possibilities. Marks should be allocated accordingly.

Candidates must include all of the above criteria in their finished choreography. Candidates who demonstrate a basic understanding and who have shown a simplistic grasp of the above criteria will achieve a pass mark. Candidates who demonstrate a sophisticated and innovative use of the above criteria will achieve a pass at a higher level.

**Part (ii): Candidate's Personal Performance** **80 marks**

**Specialist Dance Technique 1:**

**Demonstration of skills and techniques** **16 marks**

- Alignment, turn out/parallel 4 marks
- Skills and techniques (4 for each dance technique, 3 marks each) 12 marks  
e.g. Contemporary: plies, tendus, contractions, spirals  
Teacher/lecturer to select 4 for the chosen dance technique

**Demonstration of choreographed sequences** **6 marks**

- Sequences learned and recreated accurately 3 marks
- Use of rhythm and response to music/accompaniment 3 marks

**Application of skills and techniques to the presentation of the dance form** **18 marks**

- Concentration and focus are maintained effectively 3 marks
- Qualities are demonstrated effectively (use of dynamics) 3 marks
- Control is demonstrated through use of the body 3 marks
- Co-ordination is demonstrated through use of the body 3 marks
- Spatial awareness is demonstrated clearly 3 marks
- Projection is maintained effectively (performance quality) 3 marks

**Specialist Dance Technique 2:**

**Demonstration of skills and techniques** **16 marks**

- Alignment, turn out/parallel 4 marks
- Skills and techniques (4 for each dance technique, 3 marks each) 12 marks  
e.g. Contemporary: plies, tendus, contractions, spirals  
Teacher/lecturer to select 4 for the chosen dance technique

**Demonstration of choreographed sequences** **6 marks**

- Sequences learned and recreated accurately 3 marks
- Use of rhythm and response to music/accompaniment 3 marks

**Application of skills and techniques to the presentation of the dance form** **18 marks**

- Concentration and focus are maintained effectively 3 marks
- Qualities are demonstrated effectively (use of dynamics) 3 marks
- Control is demonstrated through use of the body 3 marks
- Co-ordination is demonstrated through use of the body 3 marks
- Spatial awareness is demonstrated clearly 3 marks
- Projection is maintained effectively (performance quality) 3 marks

## **Assessment of the Development Stage**

This Practical Assignment is subject to type 2 visiting assessment. The evidence for the Development Stage must be in the form of a Live Performance in front of the SQA Visiting Assessor.

Clear video evidence of every candidate's work must be produced to support the practical assignment. The video evidence must cover the candidate's choreography and both specialist dance techniques. The timing may be such that the video is produced all or in part at the time of visiting assessment. Video evidence will allow both internal assessors and SQA Visiting Assessors to have a permanent record of the performance for reference after the live event.

### **The Conditions under which assessment takes place**

Assessments are carried out under controlled conditions to ensure reliability and credibility.

Assessment will take place in a dance studio/gym hall/assembly hall/stage, preferably with a wooden/sprung floor, or, a Site Specific space.

- Candidates must present themselves one at a time for assessment
- Clothing will be suitable to the dance style, e.g. for Contemporary, female: leotard and footless tights with bare feet, male: tight fitting t-shirt/leotard and shorts/tights with bare feet
- Hair must be tied back
- All practical work must be videoed as a record of assessment, and observation checklists must be completed accurately to support this
- All records must be stored and made available for moderation purposes

### **Candidate presentation for practical assessments: Choreography & Performance**

Candidates should be:

- neat and well presented
- disciplined and maintain a professional attitude towards their own work and the work of other candidates

Candidates performing in the choreography of their peers should be:

- wearing appropriate clothing/costumes and footwear
- on time and suitably warmed up
- neat and well presented
- disciplined and maintain a professional attitude towards their own work and the work of other candidates

### **Section 3**

#### **Evaluating Stage**

**40 marks**

#### **The evaluation report will include the following:**

- Provide a brief summary of what the assignment was about 2 marks
- Review, update and assess the effectiveness of the action plan in light of their experience 2 marks
- Summarise any unforeseen events and explain how they were handled 2 marks
- Assess the effectiveness of the research methods used 2 marks
- Review choreographic experience and the use of the following: 10 marks  
Choreographic structures  
Use of physical space  
Choreographic devices  
Music/sound  
Design
- Give recommendations for future choreographic work e.g. planning, choice of music/accompaniment, starting points, themes, motifs, working relationships, design/costumes etc 8 marks
- Review own performance in both specialist dance techniques and identify knowledge and skills, which have been gained/developed e.g. alignment, strength, stamina, flexibility etc 10 marks
- Review the effectiveness of the personal action plan 2 marks
- Determine to what extent the assignment met the original brief 2 marks

Candidates are permitted to submit pictures, photographs, diagrams, samples of costume material, floor patterns, lighting plans, set design as appendices to the evaluation report.

## **Assessment of the Evaluating Stage**

Candidates will produce an extended evaluation report, which should be 1,500 words in length. This assessment will be centre-invigilated and candidates will be allowed to take one A4 sized page of notes (approx. 200 words) into the room with them.

The conditions under which assessment takes place:

Candidates at Higher should be allowed up to three hours to complete an extended evaluation (including the summary). This is a generous time allowance, and some candidates may require less time – two hours should be sufficient.

Candidates are allowed to take one side of A4 page of notes (maximum 200 words), which they have prepared, into the room with them. They should not be allowed to take a draft of the evaluation report into the room with them. The centre has the responsibility for ensuring that the notes brought in are the candidate's own work and should be signed by the centre.

It is important that candidates know that they will be penalised for submitting evidence that significantly exceeds the stated evaluation word count.

Centre-invigilated assessment:

The accommodation should be arranged to reflect centre-invigilated conditions and candidates should not be allowed to communicate with each other in any way. Signed candidate notes should be attached to the written evaluation.

A sample of candidates' evaluation reports will be sent to SQA for marking.

## **Section 4**

### **Grade descriptions for Higher Dance Practice**

Looking at the evidence as a whole:

#### **Grade A**

- produces high quality, clearly inter-related, documented and process related evidence for the three essential phases of the practical assignment
- produces an accurate and insightful interpretation of the brief in their plan of action
- shows an exceptional understanding of the choreographic process
- achieves a high level of understanding of the chosen dance techniques and is able to apply learnt technical skills in performance to a high standard
- evaluation report is tightly structured, effectively applies integrated and consolidated knowledge and a high level of understanding of the assignment

#### **Grade B**

- produces good quality, inter-related, documented and process related evidence for the three essential phases of the practical assignment
- produces an accurate interpretation of the brief in their plan of action
- shows a satisfactory understanding of the choreographic process
- achieves a satisfactory level of understanding of the chosen dance techniques and is able to apply learnt technical skills in performance to a satisfactory standard
- evaluation report is well structured, applies integrated and consolidated knowledge and an understanding of the assignment

#### **Grade C**

- produces adequate, fairly well inter-related, documented and process related evidence for the three essential phases of the practical assignment
- produces an acceptable interpretation of the brief in their plan of action
- shows a basic understanding of the choreographic process
- achieves an adequate level of understanding of the chosen dance techniques and is able to apply learnt technical skills in performance to an acceptable standard
- evaluation report applies integrated and consolidated knowledge and an understanding of the assignment with some lack of continuity and consistency

## Exemplar of Blank Proforma for Recording Marks

### Dance Practice Higher: Practical Assignment

Candidate..... Candidate number.....

<b>MARKING SCHEME</b>	<b>Marks(s) available</b>	<b>Mark(s) allocated</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>5 marks</b>	
Aims and objectives of the Practical Assignment (Reasons for choosing the brief i.e. theme for choreography, selection of techniques, studio or site specific performance)	5 marks	
<b>Part (i): Choreography</b>	<b>20 marks</b>	
Research and rehearse movement e.g. starting points, themes, motifs etc	5 marks	
Demonstrate knowledge of choreographic devices and how they will be used in the choreography e.g. choreographic structures, unison, canon, repetition, layering, motif & development etc	5 marks	
Describe methods that will be used when working with dancers e.g. communication, goal setting, safe content and attitudes/feelings etc	5 marks	
Describe how the use of music, costumes, lighting and props/set will enhance the theme of the choreography.	5 marks	
<b>Part (ii): Dance Performance</b>	<b>15 marks</b>	
Identify techniques to be studied for performance	1 mark	
Recognise the limitations on the structure of the body with regards to the techniques studied e.g. alignment, strength, stamina, flexibility etc	4 marks	
Establish an personal action plan for improvement and development of skill levels in conjunction with teacher/lecturer guidance e.g. areas of weakness, specific tasks and exercises to improve technique, time scale for action plan, reassessment of skill levels etc.	10 marks	
<b>TOTAL MARKS FOR PLAN OF ACTION</b>	<b>40 marks</b>	

**Exemplar of Blank Proforma for Recording Marks**  
**Dance Practice Higher: Practical Assignment**

<b>MARKING SCHEME</b>	<b>Marks(s) available</b>	<b>Mark(s) allocated</b>
<b>Part (i): Candidates Choreography</b>	<b>40 marks</b>	
Use of choreographic structures	8 marks	
Use of physical space	8 marks	
Use of choreographic devices	8 marks	
Use of music/sound	8 marks	
Use of design	8 marks	
<b>Part (ii): Candidates Personal Performance</b>		
<b>Technique 1:</b>	<b>40 marks</b>	
<b>Demonstration of skills and techniques:</b>	<b>16 marks</b>	
Alignment (2 marks) Turn out/parallel (2 marks)	4 marks	
Skills and techniques (4 selected by teacher/lecturer) 1. _____(3 marks) 2. _____(3 marks) 3. _____(3 marks) 4. _____(3 marks)	12 marks	
<b>Demonstration of choreographed sequences</b>	<b>6 marks</b>	
Sequences learned and recreated accurately	3 marks	
Use of rhythm and response to music/accompaniment	3 marks	
<b>Application of skills and techniques to the presentation of the dance form</b>	<b>18 marks</b>	
Concentration and focus are maintained effectively	3 marks	
Qualities are demonstrated effectively (use of dynamics)	3 marks	
Control is demonstrated through use of the body	3 marks	
Coordination is demonstrated through use of the body	3 marks	
Spatial awareness is demonstrated clearly	3 marks	
Projection is maintained effectively (performance quality)	3 marks	

**Exemplar of Blank Proforma for Recording Marks**  
**Dance Practice Higher: Practical Assignment**

<b>MARKING SCHEME</b>	<b>Marks(s) available</b>	<b>Mark(s) allocated</b>
<b>Technique 2:</b>	<b>40 marks</b>	
<b>Demonstration of skills and techniques:</b>	<b>16 marks</b>	
Alignment (2 marks) Turn out/parallel (2 marks)	4 marks	
Skills and techniques (4 selected by teacher/lecturer) 1. _____(3 marks) 2. _____(3 marks) 3. _____(3 marks) 4. _____(3 marks)	12 marks	
<b>Demonstration of choreographed sequences</b>	<b>6 marks</b>	
Sequences learned and recreated accurately	3 marks	
Use of rhythm and response to music/accompaniment	3 marks	
<b>Application of skills and techniques to the presentation of the dance form</b>	<b>18 marks</b>	
Concentration and focus are maintained effectively	3 marks	
Qualities are demonstrated effectively (use of dynamics)	3 marks	
Control is demonstrated through use of the body	3 marks	
Coordination is demonstrated through use of the body	3 marks	
Spatial awareness is demonstrated clearly	3 marks	
Projection is maintained effectively (performance quality)	3 marks	
<b>TOTAL MARKS FOR DEVELOPMENT STAGE</b>	<b>120 marks</b>	

**Exemplar of Blank Proforma for Recording Marks**  
**Dance Practice Higher: Practical Assignment**

<b>MARKING SCHEME</b>	<b>Marks(s) available</b>	<b>Mark(s) allocated</b>
<b>Evaluating Stage</b>	<b>40 marks</b>	
Provide a brief summary of what the assignment was about	2 marks	
Review, update and assess the effectiveness of the action plan in light of their experience	2 marks	
Summarise any unforeseen events and how they were handled	2 marks	
Assess the effectiveness of the research methods used	2 marks	
Review choreographic experience and the use of the following: - Choreographic structures - Use of physical space - Choreographic devices - Music/sound - Design	10 marks	
Give recommendations for future choreographic work e.g. planning, choice of music/accompaniment, starting points, themes, motifs, working relationships, design/costumes etc.	8 marks	
Review own performance in both specialist dance techniques and identify knowledge and skills which have been gained/developed e.g. alignment, strength, stamina, flexibility etc.	10 marks	
Review the effectiveness of the personal action plan	2 marks	
Determine to what extent the assignment met the original brief	2 marks	
<b>TOTAL MARKS FOR EVALUATION STAGE</b>	<b>40 marks</b>	

**TOTAL MARKS FOR PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT \_\_\_\_\_/200**

**Assessor signature .....** **Date .....**