



Higher National Unit specification: general information

This Graded Unit has been validated as part of the HNC Dance Artists. Centres are required to develop the assessment instrument in accordance with this validated specification. Centres wishing to use another type of Graded Unit or assessment instrument are required to submit proposals detailing the justification for change for validation.

Graded Unit title: Dance Artists: Graded Unit 1

Graded Unit code: FA5C 34

Type of Graded Unit: Project

Assessment Instrument: Practical Assignment

Publication date: July 2018

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 02

Unit purpose

This Graded Unit is designed to provide evidence that the candidate has achieved the following principal aims of the HNC Dance Artists:

- ◆ Skills in organisation
- ◆ Skills in dance technique and choreography
- ◆ Skills in self-presentation
- ◆ The ability to integrate these skills into a solo
- ◆ Skills in working independently
- ◆ An understanding of safe dance practice

Candidates will prepare and present a 3–5 minute solo performance. The participants will be invited to a centre to take part. Candidates will be responsible for the research, choreography and performance of the piece and will evaluate the experience by submitting an evaluation.

General information (cont)

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

It is recommended that the candidate should have completed or be in the process of completing the following Units relating to the above specific aims prior to undertaking this Graded Unit:

F1LS 34	<i>Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques</i>
F1NS 34	<i>Dance: Choreographic Skills</i>
F1M1 34	<i>Jazz Dance Techniques</i>
F1LL 34	<i>Dance: Classical Ballet Techniques: Intermediate</i>

Credit points and level

1 Higher National Unit credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from National 1 to Doctorates.*

Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 5 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.'

Assessment

This Graded Unit will be assessed by the use of a practical assignment. The fleshed-out practical assignment should provide the candidate with the opportunity to produce evidence that demonstrates she/he has met the aims of the Graded Unit that it covers. The assessment is based on application of dance technique, creativity and performance quality.

Higher National Graded Unit specification: instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates

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Conditions of assessment

The candidate should be given a date for completion of the solo performance. However, the instructions for the assessment task should be distributed to allow the candidate sufficient time to assimilate the details and carry out the assessment task. During the time between the distribution of the assessment task instructions and the completion date, assessors may answer questions provide clarification, guidance and reasonable assistance.

Reasonable assistance is the term used by SQA to describe the difference between providing candidates with some direction to generate the required evidence for assessment and providing too much support which would compromise the integrity of the assessment. Reasonable assistance is part of all learning and teaching processes.

In relation to the assessment of Higher National Project-based Graded Units, assessors may provide advice, clarification, and guidance during the time between the distribution of the project instructions and the completion date, ie at each stage of the project.

Remediation allows an assessor to clarify candidate responses, either by requiring a written amendment or by oral questioning, where there is a minor shortfall or omission in evidence requirements. In either case, such instances must be formally noted by the assessor, either in writing or recording, and be made available to the internal and external verifier.

In relation to Higher National Project-based Graded Units, candidates must be given the opportunity for remediation at each stage of the project.

The evidence for a Higher National Project-based Graded Unit is generated over time and involves three distinct stages, each of which has to be achieved before the next is undertaken. This means that any re-assessment of stages must be undertaken before proceeding to the next stage. The overall grade is derived from the total number of marks *across all* sections, and should reflect the ability of the candidate to work autonomously and the amount of support required. In relation to Higher National Project-based Graded Units, candidates who have failed any stage of the project and have been unable to provide the necessary evidence through remediation must be given the opportunity for re-assessment of that stage.

Any candidate who has failed their graded unit or wishes to upgrade their award must be given a re-assessment opportunity, or in exceptional circumstances, two re-assessment opportunities. In the case of project-based graded units, this must be done using a substantially different project.

The final grading given must reflect the quality of the candidate's evidence at the time of the completion of the graded unit. Candidates must be awarded the highest grade achieved — whether through first submission or through any re-assessment, remediation, and/or reasonable assistance provided.

The performance should be delivered in front of a panel consisting of a minimum of two people. Evidence of the performance should be visually recorded.

Higher National Graded Unit specification: instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

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Instructions for designing the assessment task

The assessment task is a project. The project undertaken by the candidate must be a complex task which involves:

- ◆ variables which are complex or unfamiliar
- ◆ relationships which need to be clarified
- ◆ a context which may be familiar or unfamiliar to the candidate

The assessment task must require the candidate to:

- ◆ analyse the task and decide on a course of action for undertaking the project
- ◆ plan and organise work and carry it through to completion
- ◆ reflect on what has been done and draw conclusions for the future
- ◆ produce evidence of meeting the aims which this Graded Unit has been designed to cover

This assessment instrument is not concerned exclusively with practical activity — candidates are provided with a brief that allows them to prepare, plan, and demonstrate creative skills. Candidates should be asked to research, perform and evaluate a solo performance.

Higher National Graded Unit specification: instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

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The assessment should be based on a combination of the end result of the activity (the performance) and the carrying out of the activity (the process).

The solo performance should be at least 3–5 minutes long and will be delivered in front of a panel consisting of a minimum of two people. This will allow the solo to be assessed and moderated simultaneously and will provide the candidate with appropriate feedback for their evaluation.

The project must involve a practical assessment culminating in a solo performance, and candidates must demonstrate the application of the following skills: dance technique, planning, performance skills, safe practice.

Candidates will be asked to:

- ◆ interpret the brief
- ◆ plan, research and gather appropriate information in response to the brief
- ◆ choreograph a solo
- ◆ perform the solo
- ◆ evaluate the performance (through feedback)

The creative process should not be directed by staff, and the candidate should not be closely supervised while preparing for the project, however staff can help the candidate to select appropriate material and ensure the candidate carries out appropriate preparation of the task.

The practical assignment and the way that it is planned and conducted should reflect the opportunities for individual research.

Each candidate must supply evidence at each stage of the practical assignment.

Stage 1 — A plan of proposed research in response to the brief and an overview of the initial planning.

Stage 2 — The solo should show evidence of the following:

- ◆ Dance technique
- ◆ Choreographic devices
- ◆ Appropriate music
- ◆ Appropriate costume
- ◆ Performance quality
- ◆ Musicality

Stage 3 — An evaluation of the candidate's creative process and solo performance.

At each of the three stages the assessors must be satisfied that the work has been completed by the individual candidate before allowing them to continue on to the next stage.

Higher National Graded Unit specification: instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Graded Unit title: Dance Artists: Graded Unit 1

Guidance on grading candidates

Candidates who meet the minimum Evidence Requirements will have their achievement graded as C — competent, or A — highly competent or B somewhere between A and C. The grade related criteria to be used to judge candidate performance for this Graded Unit is specified in the following table.

Grade A	Grade C
<p>Is a seamless, coherent piece of work which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ has sufficient evidence for the three essential phases of the project ◆ has produced and performed the brief which is clearly interrelated ◆ demonstrates an interpretation of the project brief which shows insight ◆ is highly focused and relevant to the tasks associated with the project ◆ has clear and well structured performance concepts developed from plan to performance ◆ uses language which is of a high standard and appropriate in terms of level accuracy, and technical content ◆ effectively consolidates and integrates required knowledge and skills 	<p>Is a co-ordinated piece of work which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ has evidence for the three essential phases of the project ◆ has produced and performed the brief ◆ has demonstrated an interpretation of the brief ◆ is focused and relevant to the project brief ◆ displays satisfactorily structured performance concepts ◆ uses language which is adequate in terms of accuracy and technical content ◆ consolidates and integrates knowledge and skills but this may lack some continuity and consistency

The project will be marked out of 100. Assessors will mark each stage of the project, taking into account the criteria outlined. The marks will then be aggregated to arrive at an overall mark for the project. Assessors will then assign an overall grade to the candidate for this Graded Unit based on the following grade boundaries.

A = 70%–100%
 B = 60%–69%
 C = 50%–59%

NOTE: The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified below for each stage of the project in order to achieve the Graded Unit.

Higher National Graded Unit specification: instructions for designing the assessment task and assessing candidates (cont)

Graded Unit title: Dance Artists: Graded Unit 1

Evidence Requirements

The project consists of three stages: planning; developing; and evaluating. The following table specifies the minimum evidence required to pass each stage.

NOTE: The candidate must achieve **all of the minimum evidence** specified below for each stage of the project in order to pass the Graded Unit.

Project stage	Minimum Evidence Requirements
Stage 1 — Planning	<p>The planning stage is worth 20% of the marks.</p> <p>An action plan which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ a plan of proposed research in response to the brief ◆ an overview of the initial planning
	<p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Planning stage.</i></p>
Stage 2 — Developing	<p>The developing stage is worth 50% of the marks.</p> <p>Preparation and delivery of the solo</p> <p>The candidate will research, choreograph and perform a suitable dance solo.</p> <p>This should include a record of the creative process and show evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ appropriate musical research ◆ appropriate costume research ◆ appropriate choreographic research ◆ title of the solo ◆ music/artist and title ◆ programme notes <p>The candidate will deliver a dance solo of at least 3–5 minutes in length.</p> <p>The dance solo should be visually recorded as supporting evidence.</p>
	<p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Developing stage.</i></p>

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Project stage	Minimum Evidence Requirements
Stage 3 — Evaluating	<p>The Evaluating Stage is worth 30% of the marks.</p> <p>An evaluation report which should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ a brief outline of the practical assignment ◆ a review and analysis of the creative process ◆ the identification of any knowledge and/or skills which have been gained and/or developed ◆ the identification of strategies for development <p>The evaluation should consist of approximately 1,000 words or equivalent.</p>
	<p><i>The candidate must achieve all of the minimum evidence specified above in order to pass the Evaluating stage.</i></p>

Support notes

Candidates will individually plan, research, create and perform a solo. The solo performance should be 3–5 minutes and should enable the synthesis of knowledge and skills acquired throughout the HNC Dance Artists. The candidate will select the solo content, which must then be approved by the mentor/assessor.

It is suggested that candidates are assessed by a panel of the Unit lecturer and a moderator. This will allow the solo to be assessed and moderated simultaneously and will provide the candidate with appropriate feedback for their evaluation.

The centre will devise a project brief which fulfils the criteria of the Graded Unit.

The project brief should sample elements from the mandatory Units. Some examples are listed below.

Unit title	Elements
Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques	Technique
Jazz Dance Techniques	Technique
Dance: Choreographic Skills	Choreographic ideas
Dance: Classical Ballet Techniques: Intermediate	Technique

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It is suggested that the Unit is delivered throughout the HNC year with the assessment at the end of the Course. This will allow candidates to take part in seminars, research plan their project, receive mentoring and present their project. While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Weeks	Activity	Resources
1–18	Seminars: introduction, presentation of brief, planning, identification of dance styles, creative processes, mood board	Classroom/Dance Studio, Music Library, Music/CDs Recording Equipment
19–30	Tutorials/Mentoring: one to one sessions to check progress and provide support	Classroom/tutorial room Dance Studio
30–36	Assessment	Dance Studio

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Update of Conditions of Assessment	Jul 2018

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Equality and inclusion

This graded unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

General information for candidates

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This Graded Unit is designed to provide evidence that the candidate has achieved the following principal aims of the HNC Dance Artists:

- ◆ skills in organisation
- ◆ skills in dancing and choreography
- ◆ skills in self-presentation
- ◆ the ability to integrate these skills in a solo performance
- ◆ skills in working independently

You will individually plan, research, create and present a solo performance. The solo performance should be 3–5 minutes and should enable the synthesis of knowledge and skills acquired throughout the HNC Dance Artists. You will select the solo content, which must then be approved by your mentor/assessor.

You will be given a brief and be asked to:

- ◆ interpret the brief
- ◆ plan, research and gather appropriate information in response to the brief
- ◆ create and perform a solo
- ◆ evaluate your performance

The solo should show evidence of the following:

- ◆ Dance technique
- ◆ Choreographic devices
- ◆ Appropriate music
- ◆ Appropriate costume
- ◆ Performance quality
- ◆ Musicality