



Higher National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Dance Technique for Commercial Performance 1

Unit code: H4RC 34

Superclass: LB

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Unit purpose

The purpose of this Unit is designed as an introduction to the commercial dance industry and to provide learners with an understanding of its place within the global dance industry. Learners will have opportunities to improve their technique and performance in styles within the commercial dance field, which will help in their understanding of the current trends in commercial dance seen on the television, music video, film, stage industries, etc. Learners will also develop technique, which will aid individual creativity.

Outcomes

On successful completion of the Unit the learner will be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate dance classwork relevant to the commercial dance industry.
- 2 Demonstrate rhythmic understanding of music.
- 3 Demonstrate dance sequences relevant to the commercial dance industry.
- 4 Perform a self-choreographed dance sequence.
- 5 Perform a taught, choreographed dance group piece.

Credit points and level

2 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 7: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7)

Higher National Unit specification: General information (cont)

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Recommended entry to the Unit

While entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, it would be beneficial if learners have gained the following or equivalent:

H4RL 34	<i>Jazz Dance Techniques 1</i>
H4RE 34	<i>Dance: Classical Ballet Techniques 1</i>
F1NS 34	<i>Dance: Choreographic Skills</i>

Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the Support Notes for this Unit specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

Context for delivery

If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Equality and inclusion

This 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.

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards

Unit title: Dance Technique for Commercial Performance 1

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Learners should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Demonstrate dance classwork relevant to the commercial dance industry.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Energy
- ◆ Musicality
- ◆ Technique
- ◆ Sharpness
- ◆ Accuracy

Outcome 2

Demonstrate rhythmic understanding of music.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Rhythmic identification
- ◆ Rhythmic understanding
- ◆ Rhythmic demonstration

Outcome 3

Demonstrate dance sequences relevant to the commercial dance industry.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Movement phrases
- ◆ Timing in response to music and tempi
- ◆ Spatial awareness
- ◆ Freestyle response to music

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 4

Perform a self-choreographed dance sequence.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Choreographic skills
- ◆ Choreographic devices
- ◆ Performance qualities
- ◆ Stagecraft

Outcome 5

Perform a taught, choreographed dance group piece.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Reproduction of choreography
- ◆ Performance qualities
- ◆ Stagecraft

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Outcome 1

Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can perform classwork exercises specific to commercial dance. Classwork must include differing rhythms and at least two differing tempi. Classwork must include exercises for:

- ◆ Isolations — these must use head, arms, legs and trunk
- ◆ Arm combinations
- ◆ Coordination exercises
- ◆ Directional change exercises

Evidence of tutor taught classwork will be gathered under supervised conditions at appropriate points in the Unit.

Performance evidence supported by a video/DVD recording and an assessor observation checklist is required for this Outcome.

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Dance Technique for Commercial Performance 1

Outcome 2

Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ identify three separate musical rhythms from one piece of current chart music. These rhythms can include, but are not limited to, the bass line, the kick drum, the vocal melody, the strings, etc.
- ◆ recreate the identified rhythm. This could be through clapping, using a drum, etc.
- ◆ perform each of these rhythms with dance movement.

Evidence of rhythmic exercises as identified above will be gathered under supervised conditions at appropriate points in the Unit.

Performance evidence supported by a video/DVD recording and an assessor observation checklist is required for this Outcome.

Outcome 3

Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ accurately reproduce a range of three movement phrases of up to one minute long that combine the commercial dance skills acquired in Outcome 1 and rhythmic understanding acquired in Outcome 2.
Each sequence must include a minimum of 16 counts of freestyle movement.
- ◆ execute these movement phrases in time to music demonstrating understanding of rhythm and tempo.
- ◆ demonstrate spatial awareness in relation to the studio space and other dancers.

Evidence of tutor taught sequences will be gathered under supervised conditions at appropriate points in the Unit.

Performance evidence supported by a video/DVD recording and an assessor observation checklist is required for this Outcome.

Outcome 4

Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ choreograph and perform a 30-second dance sequence in a commercial style.
- ◆ choose music appropriate to the commercial style.
- ◆ demonstrate a personal style of dance performance.
- ◆ demonstrate performance qualities throughout the choreography.
- ◆ demonstrate special awareness and use of stagecraft.
- ◆ analyse and reflect on their process.

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Dance Technique for Commercial Performance 1

Evidence for this Outcome will be generated by the performance of a self-choreographed solo sequence and the submission of short review of the choreographic skills used to create the solo, including an overview of their process. Performance evidence will be gathered under supervised conditions.

Performance evidence supported by a video/DVD recording and an assessor observation checklist is required for this Outcome.

Outcome 5

Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ accurately reproduce tutor-led choreography. This will be a tutor-led piece of approximately two and a half minutes in length.
- ◆ demonstrate performance qualities throughout the choreographed piece. This must incorporate projection to the audience, artistic interpretation of the movement, use of dynamics and musicality.
- ◆ demonstrate use of stagecraft through the knowledge and application of awareness of exits and entrances, eye line, size of performance space, and type of performance event.

Evidence will be generated by the performance of tutor taught classwork under supervised conditions.

Performance evidence supported by a video/DVD recording and an assessor observation checklist is required for this Outcome.



Higher National Unit Support Notes

Unit title: Dance Technique for Commercial Performance 1

Unit Support Notes are offered as guidance and are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is designed to develop the learner's skills and knowledge within the commercial dance industry and to gain skills within musicality and performance.

The origins of commercial dance work developed from many styles but it has ultimately grown into its own style. Its defining characteristics are the rhythmic response to music and extreme performance quality.

Different styles can be used in the commercial industry and can be seen in music videos, concerts, live shows, movies, industry events, and, obviously, commercials. There are many different styles of dance that can be incorporated into the commercial category, however, fundamentally dance in the commercial industry is subject to changing trends and doesn't remain the same from year to year. Its continuous evolution has been demonstrated in many incarnations as a fusion between different dance styles. It is reliant on the individual's style and due to the continually changing trends in this field, centres should select and incorporate appropriate current styles based on current dance industry trends and directions.

At this level, learners are acquiring the skills to demonstrate existing commercial styles, yet they should also be encouraged to interpret these and create personal styles.

In Outcome 1 learners develop specific skills through classwork to develop, refine and execute dance styles in the commercial industry. Strength and stamina will be developed through participation in regular studio-based classes.

In Outcome 2 learners will develop an understanding of rhythmic musicality. They will learn how to identify, interpret and use musical rhythm for dance. Learners should explore pre-existing dance works within the commercial field by watching pre-recorded performances (music videos, tours, etc) in order to fully understand how integral rhythmic understanding is to the commercial industry.

In Outcome 3 learners will explore and implement the skills they have developed in Outcomes 1 and 2 within dance sequences. These sequences will be taught to promote spatial awareness and to improve movement memory, geared towards the participation in a taught piece of choreography. Freestyle movement should be used to develop individual dance vocabulary and style for performance in the commercial dance industry demonstrating a wide range of knowledge and understanding of music.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Dance Technique for Commercial Performance 1

Outcome 4 allows learners to learn the skills required to develop and experiment with choreographing a short sequence in a dance style appropriate to the commercial environment. Learners should keep a log of this process to enable the completion of a short review.

Outcome 5 enables learners to synthesise learning from Outcomes 1–4 by performing in a tutor-choreographed dance piece. This will allow learners to combine their technical and performance skills while demonstrating musicality and rhythmical knowledge. This Outcome also allows for the development of choreographic skills in relation to current trends in the commercial dance industry.

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

This Unit has been developed as part of the HNC/HND Professional Dance Performance Group Award and is a mandatory Unit. It is recommended that it is delivered in the HNC year.

Lessons should involve mainly practical work which includes classwork, sequences, freestyling, choreographic techniques as applied to commercial dance and rehearsals, although it is also recommended that as many examples of current commercial dance work be shown, discussed and evaluated to enable learners to gain a full understanding of the dance style. This may include verbal presentation, critiques of work, discussions of content on YouTube or other viral content, etc. The ability to examine the vast variety of work in this field will support the learning in all aspects of this Unit.

Guidance on approaches to assessment of this Unit

Evidence can be generated using different types of assessment. The following are suggestions only. There may be other methods that would be more suitable to learners.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of centre-devised assessments would help to ensure that the national standard is being met. Where learners experience a range of assessment methods, this helps them to develop different skills that should be transferable to work or further and higher education.

Assessments will be recorded in order to ensure authentication of learner work. This should be done by use of video recording.

Due to the Unit structure it is recommended that the assessment for each Outcome is taught in chronological order and is assessed before moving onto the next Outcome.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Dance Technique for Commercial Performance 1

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 1

Evidence should be generated by the performance of dance classwork relevant to the commercial industry.

Outcome 2

Evidence should be generated by giving the learners a piece of current music and instructing the learner to identify three separate rhythms of their choice that they can hear within the music and recreate the rhythm by either clapping, drumming, etc. The learner should then be given time to choreograph a phrase of movement to each of their identified rhythms.

Outcome 3

Evidence should be generated by learners performing three one-minute tutor choreographed dance sequences. Each of different tempo and including different rhythms.

Outcome 4

Evidence should be generated by learners performing a 30 second self-choreographed dance sequence that includes different rhythms. Learners should also undertake a review of the choreographic skills used to create the solo and include an overview of their process. An appropriate instrument of assessment for this would be a viva voce lasting approximately two to three minutes. It is good practice that learners be encouraged to keep a log of their process to enable a reflective approach to this piece work.

Outcome 5

Evidence should be generated by learners performing a tutor taught dance group piece of around two and a half minutes appropriate to the commercial industry.

Opportunities for e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Dance Technique for Commercial Performance 1

Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

Outcome 3 demands a minimum level of co-operation from the learners whilst they are demonstrating their movement sequences, as they are also required to show spatial awareness in relation to the other dancers around them. This allows for opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skills *Working with Others*.

There are opportunities to develop the component 'Planning and Organising' of the Core Skill *Problem Solving* across the Outcomes of this Unit but specifically in Outcomes 2 and 4 where learners must produce pieces of their own choreography.

Outcome 5 also provides opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Communication* as learners record the choreographic skills they have used and review the process they undertook.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for learners

Unit title: Dance Technique for Commercial Performance 1

This section will help you decide whether this is the Unit for you by explaining what the Unit is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the Unit and opportunities for further learning and employment.

This Unit is designed to develop your skills and knowledge within the commercial dance industry and to gain skills within musicality and performance.

The origins of commercial dance work developed from many styles but it has ultimately grown into its own style. Its defining characteristics are the rhythmic response to music and extreme performance quality.

Different styles can be used in the commercial industry and can be seen in music videos, concerts, live shows, movies, industry events, and, obviously, commercials. There are many different styles of dance that can be incorporated into the commercial category, however, fundamentally dance in the commercial industry is subject to changing trends and doesn't remain the same from year to year. Its continuous evolution has been demonstrated in many incarnations as a fusion between different dance styles. It is reliant on the individuals style and due to the continually changing trends in this field, centres should select and incorporate appropriate current styles based on current dance industry trends and directions.

The purpose of this Unit is to enable you to identify and understand the place of dance within the commercial industry. You will learn about current dance trends in the commercial industry based on the television, music video, film, stage, etc. You will also develop knowledge and technique which will help to develop your individual creativity and broaden your understanding of musicality and rhythm for dance.

In Outcome 1 you will develop specific skills through classwork to develop, refine and execute dance styles in the commercial industry. Strength and stamina will be developed through participation in regular studio-based classes.

In Outcome 2 you will develop an understanding of rhythmic musicality. You will learn how to identify, interpret and use musical rhythm for dance. You should explore pre-existing dance works within the commercial field by watching pre-recorded performances (music videos, tours, etc) in order to fully understand how integral rhythmic understanding is to the commercial industry.

In Outcome 3 you will explore and implement the skills you have developed in Outcomes 1 and 2 within dance sequences. These sequences will be taught to promote spatial awareness and to improve movement memory, geared towards the participation in a taught piece of choreography. Freestyle movement should be used to develop individual dance vocabulary and style for performance in the commercial dance industry demonstrating a wide range of knowledge and understanding of music.

Outcome 4 allows you to learn the skills required to develop and experiment with choreographing a short sequence in a dance style appropriate to the commercial environment. You should keep a log of this process to enable the completion of a short review.

General information for learners (cont)

Unit title: Dance Technique for Commercial Performance 1

Outcome 5 enables you to synthesise learning from Outcomes 1–4 by performing in a tutor-choreographed dance piece. This will allow you to combine your technical and performance skills while demonstrating musicality and rhythmical knowledge. This Outcome also allows for the development of choreographic skills in relation to current trends in the commercial dance industry.

All assessment will take place under supervised conditions and be recorded by appropriate means to ensure authenticity of your work.

There are opportunities to in this Unit to develop Core Skills in the areas of *Working with Others*, *Communication* and *Problem Solving*.