



Higher National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques 1

Unit code: H4RJ 34

Superclass: LB

Publication date: August 2013

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to develop learners' contemporary dance techniques and skills, and enable them to understand the structure of contemporary dance classes. It will give learners the experiences of performing in a choreographed contemporary dance piece.

Outcomes

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

- 1 Demonstrate contemporary dance skills.
- 2 Perform contemporary dance sequences and phrases.
- 3 Perform in a choreographed dance piece.

Credit points and level

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

Recommended entry to the Unit

Learners should possess knowledge and understanding of contemporary dance techniques. This may be evidenced by the possession of a Unit, at SCQF level 6, in contemporary dance or equivalent.

Higher National Unit Specification: General information (cont)

Unit title: Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques 1

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: Contemporary Dance Techniques 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 contemporary dance skills.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Posture
- ◆ Spine
- ◆ Plié
- ◆ Short centre work phrases
- ◆ Footwork and leg exercises
- ◆ Travelling and jumps

Outcome 2

Perform contemporary dance sequences and phrases.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Movement phrases
- ◆ Timing in response to accompaniment
- ◆ Use of floor space and spatial awareness
- ◆ Control of body

Outcome 3

Perform in a choreographed dance piece.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Reproduction of choreography
- ◆ Performance qualities
- ◆ Spatial awareness
- ◆ Use of stage craft

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques 1

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Outcome 1

Evidence for Learning Outcome 1 should be assessed in a studio setting where learners demonstrate the techniques required for a contemporary dance class. The assessment should encompass exercises and travelling sequences. Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills across all Outcomes by showing that they can:

- ◆ correct posture.
- ◆ correct use of the spine in contraction and release, spiral and high release.
- ◆ the use of pliés in parallel and turned out positions of the hips: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th positions, combining the use of the arms and spine in contraction and spiral.
- ◆ the execution of technique in short movement phrases combining elements such as suspension and fall, change of direction and use of floor.
- ◆ accurate footwork and leg exercises in parallel and turned out positions of the hips (tendu, battement, rond de jambe).
- ◆ travelling exercises and jumping phrases using triplets, jeté, stag leaps.

The assessment should be recorded by means of an assessment observation checklist and/or by video.

Outcome 2

Evidence for Learning Outcome 2 should be generated through assessment undertaken in supervised conditions. Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills across all Outcomes by showing that they can:

- ◆ reproduce three contrasting movement phrases that combine technique elements: centre work, floor work, travelling and jumps.
- ◆ perform the movement phrases in time with the music/accompaniment.
- ◆ make use of floor space and demonstrate spatial awareness appropriate to the room/space.
- ◆ control body movements in either fast or slow movement phrases.

The assessment should be recorded by means of an assessment observation checklist and/or by video.

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques 1

Outcome 3

Evidence for Learning Outcome 3 should be generated through assessment undertaken in supervised conditions. Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills across all Outcomes by showing that they can:

- ◆ be able to perform tutor led choreography accurately.
- ◆ apply performance qualities in practice throughout the choreographed dance. This must include:
 - projection to the audience
 - artistic interpretation of the movement
 - sensitivity to the mood of the piece.
- ◆ demonstrate spatial awareness through their placement in the space in relation to other dancers.
- ◆ use stage craft through application and awareness of entrances and exits, eye line, size of performance space.

The assessment should be recorded by means of an assessment observation checklist and/or by video.



Higher National Unit Support Notes

Unit title: Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques 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 learners' contemporary dance techniques, with an emphasis on the use of the spine, pli , movement phrases, footwork and leg exercises, travelling and jumps.

Centres should select appropriate contemporary dance techniques on which to base this Unit for example Graham, Limon, and Cunningham.

Strength, stamina and control will be developed through participation in regular weekly studio based classes. Through regular ongoing class work learners will have a good opportunity to develop their skills and understanding of contemporary techniques and of their own body.

Phrases and sequences will be taught to promote spatial awareness and movement towards the participation in a lecturer choreographed performance piece.

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

This Unit has been developed as part of the HNC/HND Dance Artists and HNC/HND Professional Dance Performance Awards, and is expected to be delivered in the HNC.

The Unit should be delivered in a studio setting.

Authentication of learner work will be made through the use of assessment observation checklists and/or video evidence.

Assessment should be conducted in supervised conditions. Centres are advised to combine the assessment of Outcomes 2 and 3. Learners should rehearse the piece before assessment takes place. This will give learners an opportunity to have their dance technique assessed in a choreographed dance piece which will give them a rounded performance experience and put the skills they have gained into practice.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques 1

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.

Mirrors should not be used during assessment to ensure the authenticity of the learner's work.

Outcome 1

This Outcome should be assessed in a studio setting where learners demonstrate the techniques required for a contemporary dance class. The assessment should encompass exercises and travelling sequences.

Learners should achieve Outcome 1 before progressing to Outcomes 2 and 3.

Outcome 2

The assessment of this Outcome should be combined with Outcome 3. The assessment should take the form of a studio or theatre based performance with all the Knowledge and/or Skills items for Outcomes 2 and 3 assessed in a choreographed dance piece. The learners should rehearse the piece before the assessment takes place.

Outcome 3

The assessment of this Outcome should be combined with Outcome 2. The assessment should take the form of a studio or theatre based performance with all the Knowledge and/or Skills items for Outcomes 2 and 3 assessed in a choreographed dance piece. The learners should rehearse the piece before the assessment takes place.

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: Contemporary Dance Techniques 1

Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* (Oral Communication) *Problem Solving* (Planning and Organising), *Problem Solving* (Critical Thinking) and *Working with Others* at SCQF level 5 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

These Core Skills will be developed throughout the Unit as the Outcomes can be assessed holistically.

The learner may be working collaboratively in performing a dance piece in small groups.

Outcome 2 provides opportunities to develop *Problem Solving* (Planning and Organising) as learners are required to show their awareness of significant factors in executing their practical work. In their demonstration of contemporary dance sequences and phrases, learners are required to take account of issues such as style of musical accompaniment, metre, spatial awareness in terms of room size and floor space, and how best to combine learned techniques in their practical demonstration.

Problem Solving (Critical Thinking) Core Skills may be developed through the course of Outcome 3. The artistic interpretation aspect of the choreographed dance, with the necessary consideration of projection to the audience and sensitivity to the mood of the piece provide significant opportunities to develop this Core Skill.

Problem Solving (Planning and Organising) may also be developed here through the aspect of stage craft which involves learners' application and awareness of entrances and exits, and taking account of factors such as eye line and size of performance space in their practical work.

Outcome 3 also provides opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* (Oral Communication) and *Working with Others*. Learners' skills in communicating will be developed through demonstrating their ability to learn and understand the choreography. The Core Skill of *Working with Others* may be developed through learners' involvement in tutor-led choreography, and through demonstrating their spatial awareness in relation to other dancers performing in the same space.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2013

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Business Development and Customer Support team, telephone 0303 333 0330.

General information for learners

Unit title: Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques 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 has been designed to develop your knowledge and skills in contemporary dance.

In **Outcome 1** you will study the following:

- ◆ posture
- ◆ contraction and release
- ◆ pli 
- ◆ use of spiral
- ◆ suspension and release
- ◆ footwork and leg exercises
- ◆ travelling and jumps

In **Outcome 2** you will build on these technical skills so that you can perform short movement sequences and phrases incorporating:

- ◆ recreation of movement phrases
- ◆ timing in response to accompaniment
- ◆ use of floor space
- ◆ control of body

In **Outcome 3** you will take part in a choreographed piece which will combine the following elements:

- ◆ reproduction of choreography
- ◆ performance qualities
- ◆ spatial awareness
- ◆ use of stage craft

All assessments are studio based and will be undertaken in supervised conditions. The assessment for Outcomes 2 and 3 may be combined in a choreographed dance piece.