



## Higher National Unit specification

### General information

**Unit title:** Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques 2

**Unit code:** H4RK 35

**Superclass:** LB

**Publication date:** August 2013

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

### Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to further develop contemporary dance skills within a chosen contemporary dance technique. This Unit allows the learner to develop more complex knowledge and skills in the context of a contemporary dance class. The learner is also given the opportunity to perform in and contribute to, a choreographed contemporary dance piece.

### Outcomes

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

- 1 Demonstrate advanced contemporary dance skills.
- 2 Execute complex contemporary dance sequences and phrases.
- 3 Perform in and contribute to a complex choreographed dance piece.

### Credit points and level

2 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 8: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8)

### Recommended entry to the Unit

While entry to this Unit will be at the discretion of the centre, it is recommended that learners have completed the Higher National Unit:

H4RJ 34 *Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques 1*

## **Higher National Unit Specification: General information (cont)**

**Unit title:** Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques 2

### **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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements).

## Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards

### Unit title: Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques 2

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 advanced contemporary dance skills.

##### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Correct use of the spine
- ◆ Plié and tendu exercises
- ◆ Floorwork in complex phrases
- ◆ Centrework phrases involving varying counts and tempos
- ◆ Travelling and jumps using changes of direction and rhythm

#### Outcome 2

Execute complex contemporary dance sequences and phrases.

##### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Re-creation of movement phrases
- ◆ Timing in response to music/accompaniment
- ◆ Use of floor space
- ◆ Spatial awareness
- ◆ Control of body
- ◆ Tempi and rhythms

#### Outcome 3

Perform in and contribute to a complex choreographed dance piece.

##### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Reproduction of choreography
- ◆ Collaboration
- ◆ Create choreography
- ◆ Duet work
- ◆ Group work
- ◆ Performance qualities
- ◆ Spatial awareness
- ◆ Stagecraft

## Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

**Unit title:** Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques 2

### Evidence Requirements for this Unit

#### Outcome 1

Evidence for Learning Outcome 1 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:

- ◆ demonstrate correct use of the spine while executing the chosen technique.
- ◆ demonstrate the use of pliés in parallel and turned out positions of the hips (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th positions), combining use of the arms, change of direction and upper body curves of the spine and various tendu combinations throughout.
- ◆ demonstrate the execution of technique in at least three complex movement phrases and centrework combining the use of the floor, different counts and tempos.
- ◆ demonstrate at least three travelling exercises and jumping phrases using complex floor patterns, changes of direction and rhythms.

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:

- ◆ learn and reproduce accurately, at least three contrasting phrases of movement.
- ◆ accurately execute the movement phrases in time with the music/accompaniment.
- ◆ demonstrate use of the floor space in relation to size of space and spatial awareness in relation to others.
- ◆ demonstrate control of the body in at least three different tempos and rhythms.

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 2

### 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:

- ◆ create and perform choreography accurately.
- ◆ work collaboratively to create short phrases of choreography.
- ◆ work in duets and small groups.
- ◆ put performance qualities into practice throughout the choreographed dance: projection to the audience, artistic interpretation of the movement, sensitivity to the mood of the piece.
- ◆ demonstrate spatial awareness in relation to other dancers.
- ◆ use of stagecraft through application and awareness of entrances and exits, eye line, use 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 2

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' skills with an emphasis on the use of the spine, plié, floorwork, complex movement phrases, travelling and jumps with an emphasis on varying tempi and rhythms.

The centre is required to select an appropriate contemporary dance technique on which to base this Unit, for instance Graham, Limon, or Cunningham.

Learners are given the opportunity to develop their skills and stamina through structured and demanding class exercises and sequences. The development of technical ability is encouraged through awareness of different contemporary dance techniques and practical application of these techniques in classes.

Learners are given set choreographed sequences and phrases that are tutor led. Learners are given the opportunity to create dance movement through individual and duet/small group tasks. This will develop good collaborative skills and encourage a harmonious working environment. This choreographed work will incorporate all the technical elements worked on in the weekly classes and give the learners the opportunity to perform, ie put their technique into practice.

### 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 during the second year of the HND.

The Unit should be delivered in a suitable dance studio environment. Assessment may take place within a dance studio, theatre or other suitable environment. Authentication of learner work will be made through the use of assessment checklists and/or video evidence.

The assessment of Outcomes 2 and 3 could be integrated within this Unit and with another dance production Unit.

## Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques 2

### 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

The assessment for Outcome 1 could take place in a studio setting where learners demonstrate the skills and techniques required for a contemporary dance class, and may be ongoing throughout the Outcome.

It is recommended that learners are assessed for Outcome 1 before progressing onto Outcomes 2 and 3.

#### Outcome 2

The assessment of this Outcome could be combined with Outcome 3 to form a single assessment.

#### Outcome 3

The assessment of this Outcome could be combined with Outcome 2 to form a single assessment.

The assessment could take the form of a studio or theatre based performance with all the knowledge and skills items for Outcomes 2 and 3 assessed in a choreographed dance piece. The learners should rehearse the piece before 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment).

## Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques 2

### **Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills**

Although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills in this Unit there are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Working with Others*, *Problem Solving* (Critical Thinking), and *Problem Solving* (Planning and Organising) at SCQF level 6. These Core Skills will be developed in Outcome 3 where the learners will be working collaboratively to create a piece of choreography in small groups.



## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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## General information for learners

### Unit title: Dance: Contemporary Dance Techniques 2

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 further your knowledge and skills in contemporary dance.

In Outcome 1 you will study and practise the following:

- ◆ Correct use of the spine
- ◆ Plie and tendu exercises
- ◆ Floorwork in complex phrases
- ◆ Centrework phrases involving varying counts and tempos
- ◆ Travelling and jumps using changes of direction and rhythm

In Outcome 2 you will build on the technical skills, developed in Outcome 1 by studying the following:

- ◆ Re-creation of movement phrases
- ◆ Timing in response to music/accompaniment
- ◆ Use of floor space
- ◆ Spatial awareness
- ◆ Control of body
- ◆ Tempi and rhythms

Outcome 2 will enable you to perform short, complex movement sequences and phrases.

In Outcome 3 you will take part in, and contribute to, a choreographed piece which will combine the following elements:

- ◆ Reproduction of choreography
- ◆ Collaboration
- ◆ Create choreography
- ◆ Duet work
- ◆ Group work
- ◆ Performance qualities
- ◆ Spatial awareness
- ◆ Stage craft

Your practical skills for Outcome 1 will be assessed by means of a studio based assessment. The assessment of Outcomes 2 and 3 may be combined in a choreographed dance piece which will be performed at the end of the Unit. All assessments will take place under supervised conditions. Evidence will be recorded on assessment checklists and may be videoed.