



Higher National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Audition and Portfolio for Dance

Unit code: H4T1 35

Superclass: LC

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Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to prepare learners for auditions for professional employment in theatre dance, commercial dance or stage dance. Learners should have the opportunity to evaluate a variety of different dance audition styles and understand the implications of different auditions on their own audition portfolio.

The purpose of this Unit is to prepare learners with a professional grade portfolio they can use to gain work within the dance industry. The underpinning knowledge gained from this Unit should enable learners to effectively keep their portfolio up to date throughout their career and be adaptive to different styles of dance work.

The Unit also gives learners the opportunity to experience the audition process in a controlled environment, allowing them to apply the skills and knowledge they have gained while experiencing the pressures of an audition environment.

Outcomes

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

- 1 Create a performance Curriculum Vitae (CV).
- 2 Create a photographic portfolio.
- 3 Create a dance showreel.
- 4 Demonstrate dance performance in a mock audition environment.

Credit points and level

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

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:

H4RE 34	<i>Dance: Classical Ballet Techniques 1</i>
H4RL 34	<i>Jazz Dance Techniques 1</i>
H4RJ 34	<i>Dance: Commercial Dance Techniques 1</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.

The Assessment Support Pack (ASP) for this Unit provides assessment and marking guidelines that exemplify the national standard for achievement. It is a valid, reliable and practicable assessment. Centres wishing to develop their own assessments should refer to the ASP to ensure a comparable standard. A list of existing ASPs is available to download from SQA's website (<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/46233.2769.html>).

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: Audition and Portfolio for Dance

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

Create performance Curriculum Vitae (CV).

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Sources of dance auditions and dance agencies
- ◆ Styles of dance auditions currently available within the industry, eg open, closed and private
- ◆ CV writing for performance
- ◆ Understanding of different types of dance work, eg, stage, TV, music video, theatre in education, etc

Outcome 2

Create a photographic portfolio.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Appropriate sartorial preparation for a photographic portfolio
- ◆ Appropriate make-up preparation for a photographic portfolio as appropriate
- ◆ Positioning and good poses for photographic portfolio
- ◆ Photographic portfolio

Outcome 3

Create a dance showreel.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Performance skills
- ◆ Dance choreography
- ◆ Understanding of basic video editing

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Audition and Portfolio for Dance

Outcome 4

Demonstrate dance performance in a mock audition environment.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Performance skills
- ◆ Accurate demonstration and recreation of previously unseen taught dance choreography in a mock audition environment

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Outcome 1

Evidence for Learning Outcome 1 should be generated under open-book conditions at an appropriate time within the Unit and can be submitted as a final Portfolio combining Outcome 1–3. Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ source a minimum of three different auditions each available from a different publication such as dance newspaper, websites and/or magazine.
- ◆ select one audition from the previously sourced content.
- ◆ prepare a single sided A4 CV for the chosen audition.
- ◆ demonstrate the ability to section relevant information and experience into appropriate headings, each in the correct chronological order.

Outcome 2

Evidence for Learning Outcome 2 should be generated under open-book conditions at an appropriate time within the Unit and can be submitted as a final Portfolio combining Outcome 1–3. Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ prepare and present a photographic portfolio containing a minimum of three photographs to accompany the prepared CV. One headshot, one $\frac{3}{4}$ length and one full body dance movement shot.

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Audition and Portfolio for Dance

Outcome 3

Evidence for Learning Outcome 3 should be generated under open-book conditions at an appropriate time within the Unit and can be submitted as a final Portfolio combining Outcome 1–3. Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ demonstrate performance skills of technical elements on camera, filmed in a studio setting.
- ◆ choose material that highlights the learners' best ability and performance. This material can be footage of performances and sequences that has been previously filmed or learned through other Units.
- ◆ basic video editing including placement of titles and subheadings on the showreel.
- ◆ showreels should last approximately 3 minutes in length.

Outcome 4

Evidence for Outcome 4 should be generated under controlled mock audition conditions. Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ demonstrate performance skills and put these into practice throughout a mock audition in relation to projection to the audience, artistic interpretation of the movement, use of dynamics and sensitivity to the mood of the audition piece.
- ◆ demonstrate professionalism in the audition environment.
- ◆ learn movement material quickly and accurately according to the needs of the choreographer.
- ◆ evidence of the learner's performance should be recorded on an assessment checklist and/or video recording. The taught choreography should last approximately 45 seconds.



Higher National Unit Support Notes

Unit title: Audition and Portfolio for Dance

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 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is primarily designed to prepare learners for the audition experience to gain entry to work in the dance profession. Learners will identify the sources of employment opportunities, prepare a curriculum vitae, photographic portfolio, a showreel and perform in a mock audition.

In Outcome 1 learners will produce a CV appropriate to a theatre dance, commercial dance or stage dance career appropriate to an audition of their choice. Learners will explore the various sources of employment opportunities.

In Outcome 2 learners will produce a photographic portfolio appropriate to a theatre dance, commercial dance or stage dance career. Learners will explore best poses and movement positions and develop an understanding of their own look and style as a selling point for their career. Outcome 2 should help to develop the learner's understanding of how to market themselves.

In Outcome 3 learners will produce a dance showreel appropriate to a theatre dance, commercial dance or stage dance industry. Learners will explore how to film, edit and produce their own showreel developing a basic understanding of good aesthetics in dance performance on film.

In this industry a showreel is a powerful marketing tool and should include dance performances edited tightly around the learner demonstrating performance and technical versatility.

It should include the learner's name and contact details at the beginning and/or end of the showreel but should not include gimmicks or tag-lines.

In Outcome 4, the learner will perform in mock audition. This will enable the learners to combine their technical and performance skills. They will be required to learn unseen tutor taught dance movement material quickly and accurately.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Audition and Portfolio for Dance

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

This Unit has been developed as part of the HNC/HND Professional Dance Performance Group Award. It is recommended that this Unit be delivered in the second year of the HND.

The Unit should guide learners through the process of finding appropriate employment in the dance industry. Lessons could focus on how to recognise genuine audition opportunities and to differentiate between these given the vast number of dance publications available in both print and online.

Through teaching the skills required to create the CV, photographic portfolio and showreel, learners should develop an understanding of how to effectively market themselves for the dance industry.

Practical sessions could focus on the audition process and encourage learners to improve their skills in learning movement quickly and performing that movement without the need for too much direction from the choreographer. The learner should develop the ability to make quick performance decisions.

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.

At the discretion of the delivery staff, Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 may be submitted and assessed holistically at the end of Outcome 3 as a finalised portfolio or individually at appropriate points throughout the Unit.

Learners should be encouraged to prepare a curriculum vitae and photographic portfolio which can be amended and/or revised to suit alternative employment opportunities.

The mock audition in Outcome 4 should be performed to an 'audition panel' of no less than three individuals. The panel does not need to be made up of three assessors. The rationale for this is to ensure the audition experience is as realistic as possible in a controlled environment.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Audition and Portfolio for Dance

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 1

Evidence should be presented as a CV appropriate for the dance position chosen by the learner. Learners should also provide evidence showing all audition advertisements that they have sourced, this can be displayed in a variety of ways set out by the assessor, examples could include; presentation, log book, essay, mood board, etc.

Outcome 2

Evidence should be presented as a photographic portfolio appropriate for the theatre dance, commercial dance or stage dance industry.

Evidence may be presented as a physical portfolio or a digital one.

Please note that there is no requirement for this portfolio to be professionally produced.

Outcome 3

Evidence should be presented as a showreel either on DVD or video file of approximately 3 minutes.

Outcome 4

Evidence should be gathered through the learner's performance in a mock audition.

Learners will be required to learn and replicate unseen choreography from the assessor.

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: Audition and Portfolio for Dance

Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

There may be opportunities to develop Core Skills in *Communication* (Oral Communication) and *Communication* (Writing) in this Unit. It is expected that learners will engage in regular informal and on-going discussion with their tutor throughout this Unit concerning all aspects of preparing marketing material and audition techniques. The portfolio in Outcome 1 and Outcome 2 will allow learners to process, obtain and combine information, while also demonstrating critical self-evaluation specifically in regard to their photographic portfolio.

In Outcome 3 there may also be opportunities to develop learners' Core Skills in *Problem Solving* (Planning and Organising) and *Problem Solving* (Reviewing and Evaluating).

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for learners

Unit title: Audition and Portfolio for Dance

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 prepare you for auditions for professional employment in theatre dance, commercial dance or stage dance, dependent on the focus of your training. You should have the opportunity to learn about and evaluate a variety of different dance audition styles and understand the implications of different auditions for your performance portfolio.

The purpose of this Unit is to prepare you with a professional grade portfolio for your commencement of work within the dance industry. The underpinning knowledge learned from this Unit will serve to enable you to effectively keep your portfolio up to date throughout your career.

The Unit also serves to teach you how to conduct yourself in an audition environment and will serve to improve your 'picking up' skills and your performance decision making. It will enable you to experience the audition process in a controlled environment to allow you to apply the learned skills and knowledge whilst experiencing the pressures of an audition environment.

In Outcome 1 you will learn how to create a performance Curriculum Vitae (CV) suitable for theatre dance, commercial dance or stage dance. You will also learn about different types of auditions and jobs in the industry how to identify genuine auditions within publications, both online and in print.

In Outcome 2 you will produce a photographic portfolio appropriate to a theatre dance, commercial dance or stage dance career. You will explore best poses and movement positions and develop an understanding of your own look and style as an approach to marketing yourself.

Outcome 3 assists you in the production of a dance showreel which will contain both material you have performed and material you film yourself. You will explore how to film, edit and produce your own showreel developing a basic understanding of good aesthetics in dance performance on film.

Finally, in Outcome 4 you will be required to partake in mock auditions to develop your understanding of the audition process and to improve your performance decision making.

To achieve this Unit you must produce:

- ◆ a performance Curriculum Vitae (CV) suitable for theatre dance, commercial dance or stage dance.
- ◆ a Photographic Portfolio including one head shot, one ¾ length shot and one full length movement shot.
- ◆ a Dance Showreel lasting approximately 3 minutes.

In addition to these you must successfully partake in a mock audition in front of a panel of a minimum of three individuals.

General information for learners (cont)

Unit title: Audition and Portfolio for Dance

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 and Problem Solving.*