

National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Dance: Alternative (Higher)

NUMBER D72N 12

COURSE Dance Practice (Higher)

SUMMARY

This unit is designed to provide candidates with the opportunity to develop existing dance skills and techniques in an alternative dance form and perform acquired skills and techniques in choreographed presentations.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Demonstrate dance skills and techniques applicable to a chosen dance form.
- 2 Demonstrate tutor-taught choreographed dance sequences that incorporate dance skills and techniques of the chosen dance form.
- 3 Apply acquired skills and techniques to the presentation and performance of the chosen dance form.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Access to this unit is at the discretion of the centre, although candidates should have previous experience in movement or dance. This may be evidenced by the following SQA unit: Dance: Alternative (D72N 11) at Intermediate 2 level or equivalent.

CREDIT VALUE

0.5 Credit at Higher.

Administrative Information

Superclass: LB

Publication date: February 2002

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority 2002

Version: 01

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2002

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. The cost for each unit specification is £2.50 (minimum order £5.00).

CORE SKILLS

Information on the automatic certification of any core skills in this unit is published in *Automatic Certification of Core Skills in National Qualifications* (SQA, 1999).

There is no automatic certification of core skills or core skills components for this unit.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

UNIT Dance: Alternative (Higher)

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 the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

OUTCOME 1

Demonstrate dance skills and techniques applicable to a chosen dance form.

Performance criteria

- a) Concentration and focus are maintained effectively.
- b) The qualities required in executing dance skills and techniques are demonstrated effectively through use of the body.
- c) The control required in executing dance skills and techniques is demonstrated accurately through use of the body.
- d) The co-ordination required in executing dance skills and techniques is demonstrated accurately through use of the body.
- e) Skills and techniques are demonstrated in directed classes.
- f) Skills and techniques are shown in designated tasks.

Evidence requirements

Practical evidence that the candidate has achieved all the performance criteria through accurate physical demonstration.

OUTCOME 2

Demonstrate tutor-taught choreographed dance sequences that incorporate dance skills and techniques of the chosen dance form.

Performance criteria

- a) A composed dance is learned and recreated accurately.
- b) Projection and style are maintained effectively.
- c) Sympathy and understanding are demonstrated effectively in response to the music/accompaniment.
- d) Dance steps and movements are reproduced accurately.

Evidence requirements

A tutor taught dance piece lasting a minimum of 2 minutes is learned and reproduced accurately showing that the candidate has achieved all performance criteria.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

UNIT Dance: Alternative (Higher)

OUTCOME 3

Apply acquired skills and techniques to the presentation and performance of the chosen dance form.

Performance criteria

- a) Skills and techniques are integrated with expression to communicate the context of the work.
- b) Spatial awareness is demonstrated clearly.
- c) Projection and style are maintained effectively.

Evidence requirements

A set Technical Study lasting a minimum of 2 minutes is learned and reproduced accurately showing that the candidate has achieved all performance criteria.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Dance: Alternative (Higher)

This part of the unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 20 hours.

GUIDANCE ON THE CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT

The flexible nature of this unit may give scope for particular specialisation in any type of dance which has recognised and structured techniques.

The skills and techniques required in this unit should include:

- Classical ballet techniques (Russian, French, English)
- Jazz dance techniques (Mattox, Luigi, etc.)
- Contemporary dance techniques (Graham, Cunningham, Limon, Horton, Hawkins etc)
- Tap dance techniques
- Modern stage dance techniques
- Scottish dance techniques
- Ethnic dance techniques
- Folk or social dance techniques

Note: The dance techniques studied in this unit must not replicate those studied in other National Dance units. For example, candidates undertaking Dance: Contemporary at Higher level (D72R 12) could study the Graham technique but Dance: Alternative unit (D72N 12) could give the opportunity to specialise in the Limon technique.

Skills and techniques

Although terminology and skills and techniques will differ between the various dance styles. On completion of the unit candidates should be able to recognise the following within the chosen technique:

- Combined body movements, muscular extension and strength that demonstrate freedom from unnecessary tension
- Combined body movement showing a range of dynamics
- Combined body movements showing clear interpretation of rhythm
- Combined body movements showing clear use of force and motion
- Musical awareness
- Positive relationships with other dancers and choreographer
- Patterns, shapes, choreographed sequences, motifs and combinations (where appropriate)
- Spatial awareness
- Rhythmic Response (where appropriate – ie in Tap Dance)

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Dance: Alternative (Higher)

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Teachers and lecturers may find the following helpful in teaching this unit:

- Classes
- Workshops
- Visits to performances
- Specialist lectures/demonstrations
- Videos
- Handouts

Reference to the following books may be useful in teaching this unit:

BOOKS:

- Basic Tap Dancing, Diana Washbourn, 1979
- Inside Tap, Anita Feldman, 1995
- Christy Lanes complete book of Line Dancing, Christy Lane, 1994
- Rock and Roll Dancing, Derek Young, 1991
- This Thing Called Swing, Christian Batchelor
- Waltz: Step by Step instruction, Paul Baltomer, 1997
- Teach Yourself Ballroom, Dancing I.S.T.D. 1977

The resources listed for the National Units in Classical, Contemporary and Jazz dance may also be useful:

CLASSICAL DANCE

BOOKS:

- The Art of Teaching Ballet, Gretchen Ward, 1996
- Ballet Barre and Centre Combinations, Linda Crist, 2000
- The Art of Teaching Classical Ballet, Woytek Lowski, 1998
- Basic Principles of Classical Ballet, Woytek Lowski, 1998
- Basic Principles of Classical Ballet, Agrippina Vaganova, 1969
- Beginning Ballet, Joan Lawson, 1994
- Dictionary of Classical Ballet Terminology: RAD Method, Rhoda Ryman, 1998
- One Hundred Lessons In Classical Ballet, Vera Kostroviskaya

VIDEO:

- Ballet Class for Beginners, David Howard

CONTEMPORARY DANCE

BOOKS:

- The Dance Workshop, Robert Cohen, 1997
- Modern Dance Fundamentals, Schurman/Clark, 1972
- Modern Dance Terminology, Paul Love, 1996

VIDEO:

- Guidelines in Contemporary Dance Training Volume 1, Phyllis Gutelias

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Dance: Alternative (Higher)

JAZZ DANCE

BOOKS:

- Frank Hatchetts Jazz Dance, Hatchett/Gillin, 2000
- Jazz Dance Training, Dorte Wessel Therhorn, 1998
- Jump Into Jazz, Mind Goodman/Esther Kan, 1996

VIDEO:

- Have Fun and Dance “Burning Up”, Bryan Rogers.

All books and videos available from:

Dance Books Ltd, The Old Bakery, 4 Lenten St, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1HG

Website: www.dancebooks.co.uk

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

In order to achieve this unit candidates are required to present sufficient evidence that they have met all the performance criteria for each outcome within the range specified. Details of these requirements are given for each outcome. An integrative approach to assessment is encouraged.

For example: Outcomes 2 and 3 may be integrated in the same 2 minute dance piece. Accurate records should be kept of the candidate’s performance in each outcome.

Video evidence should be supported by checklists and/or marking schemes. These records should be kept and made available for external verification.

SPECIAL NEEDS

This unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering special alternative outcomes for units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment and Certification Arrangements for Candidates with Special Needs/Candidates whose First Language is not English* (SQA, 1998).