



National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Group Dance Performance (SCQF level 6)

CODE F8LC 12

SUMMARY

This Unit is designed to develop skills and encourage collaboration with others to prepare and present a performance of a group dance. Candidates will have the option to undertake a performing and/or choreographic role. Candidates will have the opportunity to develop skills in communication and working with others in a group context. They will also be required to evaluate their progress and set future targets.

This Unit is suitable for candidates with prior experience of dance and/or choreography.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Prepare a performance of a group dance.
- 2 Participate in the staging and performance of a group dance.
- 3 Evaluate the process and the performance.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would normally be expected to have attained one of the following, or equivalent: *Dance: Choreography* at SCQF level 5 and/or Dance Units at SCQF level 5, eg *Dance: Contemporary*.

CREDIT VALUE

1 credit at SCQF level 6 (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6*).

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Administrative Information

Superclass: LB

Publication date: March 2010

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2010

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 Customer Contact Centre, telephone 0845 279 1000.

National Unit Specification: general information (cont)

UNIT Group Dance Performance (SCQF level 6)

CORE SKILLS

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

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

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

UNIT Group Dance Performance (SCQF level 6)

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.

OUTCOME 1

Prepare a performance of a group dance.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Contribute effectively to planning.
- (b) Contribute effectively to rehearsal as a group member.
- (c) Respond positively to the attitudes, feeling and views of other group members.

OUTCOME 2

Participate in the staging and performance of a group dance.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Carry out effectively the tasks associated with the given role.
- (b) Respond sensitively and safely to other group members.

OUTCOME 3

Evaluate the process and the performance.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify the opportunities and constraints of staging a group dance.
- (b) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of own contribution.
- (c) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the performance.
- (d) Identify action points for future development of own skills.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

UNIT Group Dance Performance (SCQF level 6)

EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

Centres must choose the role which the candidate will fulfil, either:

- ◆ Choreographer
- ◆ Performer
- ◆ Co-choreographer/performer

Outcome 1

Written and/or oral evidence as well as performance evidence is required for this Outcome.

Performance evidence which demonstrates the candidate's contribution and ability to work effectively with others must be supported by an Assessor Observation Checklist.

Written and/or oral evidence is required in the form of a logbook which details planning and rehearsal tasks. Depending on the role the following is required:

- ◆ **Choreographer:**
 - Initial ideas/research for piece showing a clear sense of structure and shape
 - Stimulus for piece
 - Structure and choreographic devices
 - Ideas for sound, lighting and costume
 - Floor plans/diagrams to aid rehearsal
 - Planning and target setting for each rehearsal
- ◆ **Performer:**
 - Attendance at rehearsals called by the choreographer
 - Notes on given tasks and future targets
 - Notes on feedback received from choreographer or peers
 - Personal rehearsal tasks and targets
- ◆ **Co-choreographer/performer:**
 - Collaborative ideas for the piece developed with other co-choreographer/performers showing a clear sense of structure, shape and choreographic devices
 - Notes which define own contribution to the choreography
 - Attendance at rehearsals
 - Notes on feedback from group members
 - Collaborative ideas for sound, lighting, costume
 - Planning and target setting for rehearsals

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

UNIT Group Dance Performance (SCQF level 6)

Outcome 2

Performance evidence supported by video/DVD recording and an Assessor Observation Checklist is required for this Outcome.

The group dance should last a minimum of 3 minutes and a maximum of 8 minutes and contain a minimum of three dancers.

Choreographer

The observation checklist must demonstrate that the candidate has competently put in place all the components required to stage a performance of a dance piece including theme, choreographic devices, structure, lighting and costume, as appropriate.

Performer

The observation checklist must demonstrate that the candidate effectively participates in a group dance adhering to direction given by the choreographer, accurately reproducing the choreography, maintaining the quality and style appropriate to the dance piece and by interacting appropriately, sensitively and maintaining spatial awareness with other performers.

Co-choreographer/performer

The observation checklist must demonstrate that the candidate has collaborated to effectively stage a performance of a group dance, portraying effectively theme and use of structure and devices, maintaining the quality and style appropriate to the dance piece and by interacting appropriately, sensitively and maintaining spatial awareness with other performers.

Outcome 3

Written and/or oral evidence is required to reflect the candidate's learning experience and their participation in the preparation and performance of a group dance. Evidence will reflect the candidate's ability to review the process and the performance and identify future strategies for personal development of skills.

The evidence must be between 750 and 1,000 words and will be gathered in open-book conditions towards the end of the Unit.

National Unit Specification: support notes

UNIT Group Dance Performance (SCQF level 6)

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 40 hours.

GUIDANCE ON THE CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT

The aim of this Unit is to give the candidate the opportunity to participate in the preparation and performance of a group dance. In addition, it gives the candidate opportunities to collaborate with others as part of a team with recognised and agreed goals.

This is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Acting and Theatre Performance (SCQF level 6) and an optional Unit in the National Progression Award in Musical Theatre (SCQF level 6). It can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit can be delivered in conjunction with other dance Units. It may also provide the opportunity for interdisciplinary work. One example may be where candidates studying technical theatre Units such as sound, lighting and costume could work as part of the production team with everyone working on the same theme towards the same performance.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

The main emphasis in this Unit should be placed on the candidate's development and application of their practical skills to enable them to prepare for, rehearse and perform/choreograph a group dance. Time should also be taken to ensure candidates understand the nature and purpose of the Unit.

The venue for the performance is at the discretion of the centre. It could be a studio based performance, site specific or touring. For the performance, an audience (in addition to the assessor) should be present and the selection and suitability of the audience is the responsibility of the centre.

Opportunity should be given at the start of the Unit for improvisation and group activities if the candidates have not previously worked together. Trust exercises and contact improvisation can help group members develop a strong working relationship.

This Unit affords a variety of opportunities for personalisation, choice and specialism. According to the changing nature of centre resources and time, the candidate cohort and assessor expertise, centres may choose from a number of delivery modes:

- ◆ Centres may choose to present all their candidates as performers with a guest choreographer or the tutor or a more advanced student as the choreographer.
- ◆ Candidates being presented as performers or choreographers.
- ◆ Candidates taking on the role of co-choreographer/performer where the whole group work collaboratively on agreed choreographic and performance tasks.

This should be decided by the tutor. In all approaches it is recommended that sufficient time is allocated to planning meetings to highlight and solve any problems which may arise during rehearsal. Sufficient time should also be made available for self, peer and tutor feedback and guidance.

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

UNIT Group Dance Performance (SCQF level 6)

As a potentially valuable learning and teaching tool video/DVD recording could be used for the candidate to reflect on rehearsal and performance and for formative assessment strategies.

Candidates should be made aware that health and safety is the concern of all and should adhere to current legislation.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Candidates will be producing written and/or oral evidence for Outcomes 1 and 3 as part of the assessment. This offers ideal opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Communication*.

Candidates will be collaborating in Outcome 1 during their planning and preparation and will then perform as a group in Outcome 2. These are ideal opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Working with Others*.

GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Opportunities for the use of 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 e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

In this Unit the candidates will be working towards a group performance which will provide the focus for assessment.

The suggested instrument of assessment for Outcome 1 is a practical assignment supported by a logbook and Assessor Observation Checklist.

For Outcome 2 a suitable instrument of assessment is a practical assignment accompanied by an Assessor Observation Checklist.

For Outcome 3 a suitable instrument of assessment is a written or oral assignment.

DISABLED CANDIDATES AND/OR THOSE WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements