



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Dance: Classical (SCQF Level 5)

Unit code: FH5W 11

Superclass: LB

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Summary

This Unit is designed as a further introduction for candidates to the fundamentals of classical ballet technique. They will have the opportunity to gain an understanding of the technique by experiencing barre and centre work. They will then apply this technique in a short performance. Candidates will also contextualise their learning through the analysis of a classical dance piece.

The Unit also provides the opportunity for candidates to gain knowledge of classical dance terminology.

This Unit is an optional Unit in the National Progression Award in Dance at SCQF level 5 and can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit is suitable for candidates who would like to develop classical dance technique skills and for those who wish to continue to study at Higher level. The Unit can be studied as part of an NPA, or as an introduction to classical dance for vocational or leisure reasons.

Outcomes

- 1 Demonstrate classical barre and centre work.
- 2 Perform enchainments incorporating basic skills and technique.
- 3 Analyse a classical dance piece.

National Unit specification: general information (cont)

Unit title: Dance: Classical (SCQF Level 5)

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:

- ◆ E8XJ 10 Introduction to Dance
- ◆ E8XK 10 Dance: Classical 1
- ◆ E8XP 10 Dance: Alternative Option 1
- ◆ E8XI 10 Dance: Contemporary 1

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 5: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5*)

**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.*

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 component in this Unit.

National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Dance: Classical (SCQF Level 5)

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

Demonstrate classical barre and centre work.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Develop and demonstrate posture and alignment.
- (b) Develop and demonstrate ports de bras.
- (c) Develop and demonstrate pliés and tendus.
- (d) Develop and demonstrate control and balance throughout barre and centre work.
- (e) Demonstrate knowledge of basic French dance terms.

Outcome 2

Perform enchainments incorporating basic skills and technique.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Learn set enchainments using floor patterns and dynamics.
- (b) Develop and demonstrate enchainments.

Outcome 3

Analyse a classical dance piece.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify structure, devices and motifs in choreography.
- (b) Identify narrative structure and characterisation in the selected choreography.
- (c) Describe music, costumes, lighting and stage setting.
- (d) Identify the historical context of the choreography.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Dance: Classical (SCQF level 5)

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Outcome 1

Performance evidence supported by an Assessor Observation Checklist and video/DVD recording is required for this Outcome. Candidates must be able to adequately execute the following:

- ◆ Positions 1st – 5th (arms/feet/alignment)
- ◆ Ports de bras
- ◆ Demi pliés (1st – 3rd position)
- ◆ Footwork – tendus, glissés, frappés, développés en croix
- ◆ Relevé
- ◆ Grands battements
- ◆ Preparation for pirouettes
- ◆ Adage – including 1st and 2nd arabesque
- ◆ Sautés – petit jetés, assemblés, springs
- ◆ Allegro

Candidates must also demonstrate knowledge of dance terminology.

This evidence will be generated through on-going practical class work under supervised conditions at appropriate points in the Unit

Outcome 2

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

Candidates will demonstrate centre-devised enchainments lasting a minimum of 1.5 minutes. This will be performed as a solo. Candidates must display adequate technique and perform with projection and musicality.

This evidence will be gathered under supervised conditions on one assessment occasion towards the end of the Unit.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Dance: Classical (SCQF level 5)

Outcome 3

Written and/or oral evidence is required to demonstrate candidates have covered all PCs.

The dance piece studied by the candidate must be a piece of choreography by an established choreographer.

The candidate must identify the following:

- ◆ the ballet's narrative and characterisation
- ◆ choreographic devices, motif and structure
- ◆ spatial patterns
- ◆ the historical context

and describe the:

- ◆ music, costumes, lighting and stage setting

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

This Assessment Support Pack (ASP) for this Unit provides sample assessment material including an instrument of assessment, briefs and checklists. Centres wishing to develop their own assessments should refer to their Assessment Support Pack to ensure a comparable standard.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Dance: Classical (SCQF level 5)

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

This Unit is an optional Unit within the National Progression Award in Dance at SCQF level 5 and can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

The aim of this Unit is to introduce candidates to basic classical dance skills, technique and terminology and enable them to demonstrate enchainments by applying the skills they have learned. Candidates should develop an understanding of the sequence of a classical dance class.

In Outcome 1, the skills for barre and centre work should be acquired on an on-going basis as well as the basic body positions and underlying principles of classical dance. Particular attention should be given to posture, balance, rhythm and breathing. Candidates should be learning and applying French terminology on an on-going basis in the context of their class work.

In Outcome 2, candidates should learn and then demonstrate enchainments set by the centre, applying the skills acquired in Outcome 1. Candidates should combine performance skills with their acquired technical skills.

Outcome 3 gives candidates opportunities to contextualise their learning by researching an established piece of classical choreography. They should be able to describe the piece within its historical context. They should also be able to identify the narrative of the piece, characterisation, choreographic devices and describe music, costumes, lighting and stage setting.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Dance: Classical (SCQF level 5)

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

Outcome 1 should be delivered as a series of tutor-led classes, with emphasis on teaching technique. Candidates should learn correct posture and alignment and be taught how to execute class work with control and musicality.

In Outcome 2 candidates should be able to apply their technique to a solo performance of set enchainments. Working in groups and encouraging peer analysis would be conducive to good practice and beneficial to candidates as they gain a thorough understanding of technique and performance.

Outcome 3 involves a research assignment where candidates should be encouraged to draw on their knowledge acquired through their on-going class work.

Outcomes 1 and 2 should be approached in sequential order to allow effective development through the Unit. The skills for Outcome 3 should be developed throughout class work and assessed near the end of the Unit.

It is advised that candidates are given feedback on their performance throughout the learning process. This can take the form of general and individual technique corrections in class time, one to one feedback at key points during the Unit, peer assessment or using different media to assess their own performance.

Candidates should be encouraged to see live performances, watch dance pieces on DVD or online in order to broaden their experience of dance.

Candidates should also be introduced to the concept of professionalism and how they can apply this to their own work and be able to recognise this in others, eg how they present themselves (clothing, hair) concentration and focus, appreciation of others' work, etc.

Candidates will benefit from workshops, visits to performances, specialist lectures/ demonstrations, DVDs and handouts. This is a good opportunity for partnership working with external organisations either for specialist delivery or to enhance the learners' experience.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Candidates will be producing written and/or oral evidence for Outcome 3. This offers an opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skill *Communication*.

Should candidates choose to use the internet to undertake research for Outcome 3 then this provides good opportunities to develop the Core Skill *Information and Communication Technology*.

Through peer analysis or perhaps working on tasks in pairs or small groups candidates will have opportunities to develop aspects of the Core Skill *Working with Others*.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

A suitable instrument of assessment for Outcome 1 is a practical assignment. This may take place in a practical class where candidates demonstrate barre and centre work. The video/DVD recording can be filmed in groups or as a whole class.

Assessment of French dance terminology could be carried out through oral questioning and practical demonstration of the terms.

The suggested instrument of assessment for Outcome 2 is a practical assignment. Candidates will perform a solo of set enchainments lasting a minimum of 1.5 minutes.

It is possible to integrate the practical elements of Outcomes 1 and 2.

The suggested instrument of assessment for Outcome 3 is a folio of around 750 words or an oral presentation lasting 3-4 minutes.

Time should be allowed for any necessary re-assessment.

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)*.

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

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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