



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Dance: Scottish (SCQF level 4)

Unit code: H2W3 10

Superclass: LB

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Summary

In this Unit candidates will be introduced to basic skills and techniques in the style of Scottish dance. They will be introduced to the basic fundamentals of the technique which will incorporate warm up, travelling and sequences. Candidates will also have the opportunity to contextualise their learning by describing a Scottish dance style and briefly summarising a Scottish dance performance.

This Unit is suitable for candidates who are interested in developing Scottish dance technique and for those who wish to continue to study Scottish dance at SCQF level 5.

Outcomes

- 1 Demonstrate basic skills and techniques in Scottish dance.
- 2 Demonstrate basic Scottish dance sequences.
- 3 Apply basic skills and techniques to the performance of a Scottish dance.
- 4 Demonstrate a basic understanding of Scottish dance.

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:

Expressive Arts experiences and outcomes in Dance

National Unit specification: general information (cont)

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Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 4: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4*)

**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

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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 basic skills and techniques in Scottish dance.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Demonstrate posture and alignment.
- (b) Demonstrate the use of parallel and turn out.
- (c) Demonstrate a warm up.

Outcome 2

Demonstrate basic Scottish dance sequences.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Demonstrate on the spot sequences.
- (b) Demonstrate travelling sequences.

Outcome 3

Apply basic skills and techniques to the performance of a Scottish dance.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Learn and recreate a contemporary dance.
- (b) Demonstrate use of space.
- (c) Demonstrate performance qualities and musicality.

Outcome 4

Demonstrate a basic understanding of Scottish dance.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify and describe a Scottish dance style.
- (b) Describe the characteristics of a Scottish dance from that style.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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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 a video/DVD recording and an assessor observation checklist is required for this Outcome. This evidence will be gathered under supervised conditions at appropriate points in the Unit.

Candidates must demonstrate the following:

Posture and alignment

- ◆ Placement of the spine
- ◆ Use of core muscles

Parallel and turn out

- ◆ Pliés
- ◆ Tendus
- ◆ Working from 1st/3rd

Warm Up

- ◆ Springs
- ◆ Calf stretches
- ◆ Runs
- ◆ Bounces
- ◆ Rises

Outcome 2

Performance evidence supported by a video/DVD recording and an assessor observation checklist is required for this Outcome.

Candidates must demonstrate the following:

On the spot sequences

- ◆ Spring points
- ◆ Backstepping
- ◆ Shedding
- ◆ Toe heels

Travelling steps

- ◆ Brushing inwards and outwards
- ◆ Skip change of step
- ◆ Propelled pivot turns
- ◆ Leaps
- ◆ Change of direction/floor patterns

Candidates will demonstrate short tutor-led movement phrases lasting a minimum of 1 minute 30 seconds. This can be made up of short studies that add up to 1 minute 30 second. Evidence will be gathered under supervised conditions at appropriate points in the Unit.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 3

Performance evidence supported by a video/DVD recording and an assessor observation checklist is required for this Outcome.

Candidates will individually demonstrate a tutor taught dance lasting a minimum of 1 minute. This short dance must be in a Scottish dance style. This evidence will be gathered under supervised conditions on one assessment occasion. It should not be a set Scottish dance.

Candidates must demonstrate timing, musicality and performance qualities as well as the following:

Accurate dance steps and movements

- ◆ Dynamics
- ◆ Body placement

Use of space

- ◆ Spatial awareness
- ◆ Direction
- ◆ Floor patterns
- ◆ Entrances and exits

Outcome 4

Written and/or oral evidence is required for this Outcome. The candidate will identify and briefly describe one Scottish dance style.

They will then identify and describe a famous dance from that style which must include the following:

- ◆ Characteristics of the dance
- ◆ Historical influences
- ◆ Music
- ◆ Costume

This evidence must be approximately 300 words or 2 minutes if presented orally and will be gathered in open-book conditions at appropriate points in the Unit.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Dance: Scottish (SCQF level 4)

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 can be taught to a group, working on the same movement material throughout the Unit.

This Unit is designed to introduce candidates to the basics of Scottish dance technique through the practical application of the movement style.

Candidates will develop their dance technique skills whilst also developing an understanding of the context of the technique. Through short tutor-led presentations of the technique, candidates will be able to develop their technical and performance skills.

Outcome 1 introduces the basic elements of a Scottish dance technique class. They will learn the basic demands of a technique class and will experience the use of parallel and turnout, floor work, and posture. The technique class should be progressive and introduce more complex movements gradually whilst repeating and building on previously covered exercises.

Outcome 2 helps to develop the skills learned in Outcome 1 to include on the spot and travelling steps. Candidates will develop skills in coordination, stamina, spatial awareness and control. They will also start to develop timing, phrasing and musicality.

Outcome 3 gives the candidate the opportunity to contextualise their learning and be able to perform a solo lasting 1 minute. The tutor should devise a short solo that combines elements covered in Outcomes 1 and 2. This will give candidates the opportunity to combine movements and phrases into a longer dance. They will be able to express themselves and demonstrate performance qualities.

Outcome 4 requires candidates to further contextualise their learning by demonstrating basic knowledge of one Scottish dance style and a famous dance from that style. The description of the dance should include the basic characteristics of the dance such as the steps or any props involved, the historical influences or setting as well as the music and costume used in performances.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

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, and this should be incorporated as part of class, perhaps as an example of model performance to allow candidates to evaluate themselves.

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, good attendance, appreciation of others' work, etc. Candidates should present themselves in leotard, tights and highland shoes for class and assessments.

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.

Outcome 1 and 2 should be delivered as a series of tutor-led classes, with emphasis on teaching technique. In Outcome 1 candidates should learn how to use correct posture, alignment and turn out and be taught how to execute class work with control and musicality.

In Outcome 2 candidates should be able to apply their understanding of posture, turn out and alignment to their centre practice.

In Outcome 3 candidates should be able to apply their technique to a solo performance. 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.

The Unit provides the opportunity for candidates to place their practical learning in context in Outcome 4. Candidates will identify a Scottish dance style and a famous dance from that style. Centres have the opportunity to present some background/historical context to the style they have been learning. There are a wide range of resources available and it is advised that time is taken for candidates to watch and comment on different styles (eg Highland, National, Step, Scottish Country, Ceilidh).

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Suitable instruments of assessment for Outcomes 1–3 are practical assignments. A written report or oral presentation would be suitable for Outcome 4.

For Outcome 1 candidates will demonstrate a condensed tutor-led dance class which covers all of the skills and technique listed for Outcome 1. Evidence will be gathered under supervised conditions at appropriate points in the Unit.

For Outcome 2 candidates will demonstrate short tutor-led movement phrases lasting a minimum of 1 minute 30 seconds. This can be made up of short studies that add up to 1 minute 30 seconds. Evidence will be gathered under supervised conditions at appropriate points in the Unit.

Outcomes 1 and 2 can be developed concurrently and be delivered as part of the sequence of a whole dance class, eg warm up, centre work, travelling and phrases and sequences. Video/DVD recording can be filmed in groups or as a whole class.

For Outcome 3 candidates should present themselves one at a time and perform the tutor taught solo lasting one minute.

For Outcome 4 candidates should produce a written report/oral presentation in the region of 300 words or 2 minutes in length to include the identification of one Scottish dance style, one famous dance from that style and a short description of a dance piece in a Scottish style.

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)*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Candidates will be producing written and/or oral evidence for Outcome 4, which gives the opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skills of *Communication* and *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 of *Working with Others*.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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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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