

National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Dance: Classical (Advanced Higher)

NUMBER D72P 13

COURSE

SUMMARY

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

OUTCOMES

- 1 Demonstrate superior Classical dance skills and techniques.
- 2 Demonstrate appreciation of style, performance and musical awareness in Classical dance.
- 3 Demonstrate understanding of Classical dance skills and techniques through total body awareness.
- 4 Demonstrate personal progression and development in Classical dance skills and techniques.

RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Access to this unit is at the discretion of the centre, although previous experience in movement or dance would be beneficial. This may be evidenced by the following SQA unit: Dance: Classical (D72P 12) at Higher level or equivalent.

CREDIT VALUE

1 Credit at Advanced Higher.

Administrative Information

Superclass: LB

Publication date: February 2002

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority 2002

Version: 01

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CORE SKILLS

There are no complete core skills or core skills components embedded within this unit.

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).

National Unit Specification: statement of standards

UNIT Dance: Classical (Advanced 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 superior Classical dance skills and techniques.

Performance criteria

- a) Superior concentration and focus are maintained effectively.
- b) Superior use of body demonstrates the qualities required in executing dance skills and techniques.
- c) Superior use of body demonstrates the control required in executing dance skills and techniques.
- d) Superior use of body demonstrates the co-ordination required in executing dance skills and techniques.

Evidence requirements

Practical evidence that the candidate can meet all the performance criteria through accurate physical demonstration.

OUTCOME 2

Demonstrate appreciation of style, performance and musical awareness in Classical dance.

Performance criteria

- a) Composed dances are learned and recreated accurately.
- b) Projection and style are maintained effectively.
- c) Sympathy and understanding are demonstrated in response to the music.
- d) Dance steps, motifs and movements are reproduced accurately.

Evidence requirements

A tutor-taught dance piece lasting a minimum of 3 minutes is learned and reproduced accurately showing the candidate has achieved all performance criteria.

National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

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OUTCOME 3

Demonstrate understanding of Classical dance skills and techniques through total body awareness.

Performance criteria

- a) Skills and techniques are integrated with physical expression to meet the context of the work and reflect total body awareness.
- b) Body awareness reflects understanding of dynamics.
- c) Body awareness reflects understanding of dance style.

Evidence requirements

A tutor-taught dance piece lasting a minimum of 3 minutes is learned and reproduced accurately showing the candidate has achieved all performance criteria.

OUTCOME 4

Demonstrate personal progression and development in Classical dance skills and techniques

Performance criteria

- a) Personal progression and development in the use of **stamina** is demonstrated.
- b) Personal progression and development in the use of **flexibility** is demonstrated.
- c) Personal progression and development in the use of **alignment** is demonstrated.
- d) Personal progression and development in the use of **strength** is demonstrated.
- e) Personal progression and development in the use of **co-ordination** is demonstrated.
- f) Personal progression and development in the **performance** of steps and sequences is demonstrated.

Evidence requirements

A tutor-taught dance piece lasting a minimum of 3 minutes is learned and reproduced accurately showing the candidate has achieved all performance criteria.

National Unit Specification: support notes

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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

Candidates should understand the sequence of a Classical dance class at this level and be able to transfer its components to performance.

The skills and techniques required in this unit may include:

- Barre work
- Centre work
- Reverance
- Precision
- Centredness
- Use of body weight
- Turn out
- Articulation
- Line
- Placement

Positions (including):

- 1st – 5th, (arms and feet)
- Porte de bras
- Pas de bouré
- Plies
- Demi plies
- Demi pointe
- En boîte,
- Entrechat
- Grande jeté
- Arabesque
- Penché
- Fondue
- Ronde de jambe
- Developé
- Petite and grande battement
- Chasse
- Coupe
- Sissone
- Attitude
- Tendué
- Tendué with plies

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

Teacher 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 and videos may be useful in teaching this unit:

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, 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 Kostrovskaya

VIDEO:

- Ballet Class for Beginners, David Howard

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, 3 and 4 may be integrated in the same three 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).