

National Unit Specification: general information

UNIT Dance: Scottish (Advanced Higher)

NUMBER D72V 13

COURSE

SUMMARY

This unit is designed to provide candidates with the opportunity to further develop existing Scottish dance skills and techniques (Country, Highland or Step) and perform acquired skills and techniques in choreographed presentations.

OUTCOMES

- 1 Demonstrate superior Scottish dance skills and techniques.
- 2 Demonstrate appreciation of style, performance and musical awareness in Scottish dance.
- 3 Demonstrate understanding of Scottish dance skills and techniques through total body awareness.

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: Scottish (D72V 12) at Higher level or equivalent.

CREDIT VALUE

1 Credit at Advanced Higher.

Administrative Information

Superclass: LB

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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

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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 the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

OUTCOME 1

Demonstrate superior Scottish 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 Scottish dance.

Performance criteria

- a) Composed dances are learnt and recreated accurately.
- b) Projection and style are maintained effectively.
- c) Sympathy and understanding are demonstrated in response to the music.
- d) Dance steps 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 Scottish 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.

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

On completion of this unit candidates should have fundamental technical competence in performing dances in one of the following areas of Scottish Dance:

- Scottish Country dance
- Scottish Highland dance
- Scottish Step dance

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

The skills and techniques required in this unit should include:

Country dance skills and techniques required at Intermediate 2 level:

Show Position of the feet – 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th

Dance Rhythmically and accurately in jig and reel time

- Skip-change of step
- Slipping step
- Step up and down
- Pas de Basque

Formations

- Turn Partner with Right and Left Hand
- Lead down the middle and up
- Crossing and Casting
- Casting Down and Up
- Hands across and back
- Hands Round and Back
- Rights and Lefts
- Figure of Eight Across the set
- Promenade for two couples
- Advance and Retire
- Allemande
- Set and Cross Over
- Set and Cast Off
- Set and Turn Partner with One and Two Hands
- Pousette
- Ladies Chain

National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

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- Promenade for 3 Couples
- Figure of 8 on the side
- Reel of 3
- Set to Corners

Country dance skills and techniques required at Higher Level:

Jig and Reel Time as in Intermediate 2 and

- Strathspey travelling step
- Strathspey setting step

Formations

In addition to enhanced level 2 formations

- Set and turn corners followed by reel of three
- Balance in line
- Turn corners and partners
- Grand chain for three couples
- Grand chain for four couples
- Double triangles

Country dance skills and techniques required at Advanced Higher Level:

To be covered:

Reel and Jig and Strathspey – setting and travelling in all tempos.

In addition to revised skills at Higher

- Reel of three on opposite side, the non own side of dance
- Reel of four
- Allemande for three couples
- Petronella turning
- Set to corner and partners

Highland dance skills and techniques required at intermediate 2 level:

Line of Direction

- First Position
- Second Position
- Second Aerial Position
- Third Position
- Third Aerial Position
- Third Rear Aerial Position
- Third Crossed Position
- Fourth Position
- Fourth Aerial Position
- Fourth Rear Position

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- Fourth Rear Aerial Position
- Fourth Intermediate Position
- Fourth Intermediate Aerial Position
- Fourth Intermediate Rear Aerial Position
- Fourth Opposite Fifth Position
- Fifth Position

Arm Positions

- Grouping of Fingers
- First Position
- Second Position
- Third Position
- Fourth Position
- Fifth Position

Head Positions

- First Position
- Second Position

Basic Movements:

- The Bow
- Hop
- Spring
- Step
- Assemble
- Disassemble

Highland dance skills and techniques required at Higher level:

In addition to enhanced Intermediate 2 technique:

- Change
- Brush
- Shake
- Pas de Basque
- Open Pas De Basque
- High Cut
- Balance
- Travelling Balance
- Rock
- Shedding
- Toe and Heel
- Back Stepping
- Shuffle
- Ho Brush Beat
- Shake Down

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Highland dance skills and techniques required at Advanced Higher level:

In addition to revised skills at Higher

Propelled Pivot turn or reel turn

Progressive Strathspey Movement

Progressive Reel Movement

1. The Highland Fling
2. The Sword Dance
3. Seann Triubhas

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
- Specialist packs

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

BOOKS:

- The Manual of Scottish Country Dancing, Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
- Highland Dancing – The Official Textbook of the Scottish Official Board of Highland Dance
- Book of Graded Scottish Country Dances, Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

VIDEO:

- Jim MacLeod's Non Stop Ceilidh Dancing – 23 Scottish Country, Highland and Step Dances available from Dance Books – see below.

All books and videos available from:

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

Website: www.dancebooks.co.uk

CASSETTES AND CD'S ALSO AVAILABLE FROM:

- The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, 12 Coates Crescent EH3 7AF
- Edinburgh's Telford College,

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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 3 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).