



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Dance: Choreography (SCQF level 4)

Unit code: H2W5 10

Superclass: LB

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Summary

In this Unit candidates will be introduced to basic skills of choreography. They will be introduced to the fundamentals of the six dance actions. Candidates will also have the opportunity to contextualise their learning by keeping a log book.

This Unit is suitable for candidates who are interested in developing choreographic skills and for those who wish to continue to study choreography at SCQF level 5.

Outcomes

- 1 Demonstrate basic skills and techniques in choreography.
- 2 Apply basic skills and techniques to create short choreographic studies.
- 3 Reflect on choreographic studies.

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

Unit title: Dance: Choreography (SCQF level 4)

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 choreography.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Demonstrate the six dance actions.
- (b) Demonstrate the use of improvisation to create the six dance actions.
- (c) Demonstrate the use of basic choreographic devices.

Outcome 2

Apply basic skills and techniques to create short choreographic studies.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Create short choreographic studies using the six dance actions.

Outcome 3

Reflect on choreographic studies.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify the actions and devices used in choreographic studies.
- (b) Reflect on the effectiveness of choreographic choices.
- (c) Record suggestions for future development.

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 six dance actions:

- ◆ Travelling
- ◆ Elevation
- ◆ Turning
- ◆ Gesture
- ◆ Stillness
- ◆ Falling

Candidates are required to demonstrate that they can use improvisation to create the above six dance actions. They must demonstrate the use of levels, pathways, speed and dynamics.

Outcome 2

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 create at least two short choreographic studies that combine at least three of the six dance actions into each of the studies (eg Study 1 — travelling, elevation and turning; Study 2 — gesture, stillness and falling).

Candidates will also apply the following simple choreographic devices to their short studies:

- ◆ change of direction
- ◆ pathways
- ◆ levels
- ◆ speed

Each study should be a maximum of one minute. One study must be choreographed for another person. Candidates should present their choreography one at a time for assessment.

Outcome 3

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

Candidates will compile a log book/diary which must include the following information:

- ◆ identification of the dance actions and devices used
- ◆ reflection on the effectiveness of choreographic choices
- ◆ suggestions for future development

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Dance: Choreography (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 choreography by helping them to understand the basic dance actions and how they can create their own movement.

Candidates will develop their choreographic skills whilst also developing an understanding of how to create their own movement rather than reproducing dance 'steps'. Through short tutor-led tasks candidates will develop their improvisation and choreographic skills.

Outcome 1 introduces the basic elements of the six dance actions. Candidates will then incorporate these actions into the development of short phrases using improvisation.

In Outcome 2 candidates will then produce at least two short choreographic studies combining the six dance actions. One study will be choreographed for another person and it is expected that the other study will be choreographed for the candidate themselves.

It is important that candidates are encouraged to develop phrases and not just produce single movements. Basic choreographic devices should be applied to the dance actions to enhance the presentation of their work and provide more choreographic choices.

Outcome 3 enables the candidate to log and reflect on the choreographic process they will undertake when creating the short choreographic studies. It introduces them to the process of evaluation and making recommendations for their future work. The log book can be a simple table that candidates complete and can include a selection of the following:

- ◆ date, time and location of session
- ◆ purpose of session
- ◆ detail of tasks
- ◆ identification of task/dance action
- ◆ reflection on activity — enjoyment, effectiveness of participation, performance, how to improve, feedback
- ◆ recommendations for future development

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

The structure of the Unit enables candidates to take part in weekly classes which will introduce, develop and consolidate skills as they progress through the Unit.

Candidates should be given the opportunity to gain feedback throughout the Unit. This can take a number of forms, for example:

- ◆ general class suggestions
- ◆ individual guidance
- ◆ peer feedback — through informal sharing of work
- ◆ one-to-one feedback with a tutor outwith class time
- ◆ self-reflection/observation (could be watching themselves back on video/digital media)

Candidates could be encouraged to record any feedback in their log.

Candidates can be introduced to the concept of professionalism in the choreographic workshop, which in turn will help candidates understand the importance of the following:

- ◆ punctuality
- ◆ attendance
- ◆ concentration and focus
- ◆ appreciation of others
- ◆ behaviour
- ◆ attire
- ◆ self-presentation

Candidates should be reminded throughout the Unit to adhere to simple safety considerations while taking part in choreographic workshops. For example, warming up and cooling down, being aware of movements that could cause injury and wearing appropriate clothing, hair and footwear for the activity.

Partnerships with local choreographers/companies are to be encouraged. This would give candidates an opportunity to experience first-hand the movement of the choreographer, or a dancer in an established piece.

Candidates should be encouraged to watch examples of different types of choreography, take part in group discussions and be able to identify the actions they are experiencing in classes. Watching dances on video/digital media and seeing live performances are a great opportunity for candidates to appreciate the work of others in a professional context.

While this Unit is introducing candidates to basic choreographic skills, it is important to develop their sense of self and creativity. They should be steered away from reproducing work in a particular style and be encouraged to develop the beginning of their own 'choreographic voice'.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Dance: Choreography (SCQF level 4)

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Suitable instruments of assessment for Outcomes 1 and 2 are practical assignments.

For Outcome 1 candidates will demonstrate tutor-led choreographic tasks.

For Outcome 2 candidates will create 2 short choreographic studies incorporating the six dance actions and basic choreographic devices. Each study should last around a minute.

For Outcome 3 candidates should produce a log book/diary which records their reflections on the process they undertake to create their short choreographic studies.

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 3, 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*.

Candidates will have opportunities to develop aspects of *Problem Solving* during task based work. This may include developing a basic motif through choreographic devices or when improvising with the basic dance actions or stimulus to create short studies.

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
02	Opportunities for developing Core Skills section on page 9 updated to include reference to Problem Solving aspects covered within the unit.	15/04/2013

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