



National unit specification

General information

Unit title: Dance: Scottish Step (SCQF level 5)

Unit code: HJ2W 45

Superclass: LB

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Unit purpose

This unit is designed to introduce learners to the form of Scottish Step Dance and its particular technique. Candidates will have the opportunity to contextualise their learning through research and observation. They will develop an understanding of the dance form and learn to demonstrate relevant skills before performing in the chosen style.

This unit is an optional unit in the Scottish Studies Award in Dance at SCQF level 5 and can also be taken as a free-standing unit.

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

Outcomes

On successful completion of the unit the learner will be able to:

- 1 Investigate Scottish Step Dance.
- 2 Demonstrate dance skills and techniques applicable to Scottish Step Dance.
- 3 Apply skills and techniques to the performance of Scottish Step Dance.

Credit points and level

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

National unit specification: General information (cont)

Unit title: Dance: Scottish Step (SCQF level 5)

Recommended entry to the unit

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, learners would normally be expected to have attained the following, or equivalent:

Expressive Arts experiences and outcomes in Dance.

Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the support notes for this unit specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this unit.

Context for delivery

If this unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

Equality and inclusion

This unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

National unit specification: Statement of standards

Unit title: Dance: Scottish Step (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

Investigate Scottish Step Dance.

Performance criteria

- (a) Research and describe the history of a chosen dance style.
- (b) Research and describe the features of the chosen dance style.

Outcome 2

Demonstrate dance skills and techniques applicable to Scottish Step Dance.

Performance criteria

- (a) Demonstrate a relevant warm up.
- (b) Develop and demonstrate short sequences.
- (c) Develop and demonstrate travelling sequences.

Outcome 3

Apply skills and techniques to the performance of Scottish Step Dance.

Performance criteria

- (a) Learn and recreate movement sequences.
- (b) Apply technique acquired to execution of movement.
- (c) Demonstrate performance qualities.

National unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Dance: Scottish Step (SCQF level 5)

Evidence requirements for this unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that learners have achieved all outcomes and performance criteria.

Outcome 1

Written and/or oral evidence is required for Outcome 1. The learner will be able to describe the history and features of Scottish Step dance to include cultural context, costumes and music. The evidence should be in the region of 750 words. Evidence will be gathered under open-book conditions at appropriate points throughout the delivery of the unit.

Outcome 2

Performance evidence supported by an Assessor Observation Checklist and video/DVD recording is required for this outcome. Class work must include warm-up, centre and floor work and travelling sequences, as appropriate and relevant to Scottish Step Dance. This will be tutor led. Candidates must be able to recognise and demonstrate:

- ◆ Posture and alignment appropriate to dance style
- ◆ Dynamic principles of flow, time, weight and space
- ◆ Key movements appropriate to dance style
- ◆ Timing and musicality

Warm Up

- ◆ Movements to raise heart rate
- ◆ Movements to mobilise joints
- ◆ Limbering, as appropriate to Scottish Step Dance

Warm Up could include movements such as the following:

- ◆ Springs
- ◆ Tap Springs
- ◆ Hop Scotch
- ◆ Ankle Rolls
- ◆ Shoulder Rolls
- ◆ Calf Stretches
- ◆ Quad Stretches

On the Spot Sequences could include movements such as the following:

- ◆ Ball and Heel Bats
- ◆ Brushes and Shuffles
- ◆ Shuffle Ball Change/Pas de Bas
- ◆ Toe Taps and Stamps
- ◆ Stamps and Pull Backs
- ◆ three and four Beat Riffs
- ◆ Shuffle Spring Paddles

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Dance: Scottish Step (SCQF level 5)

Travelling Sequences could include movements such as the following:

- ◆ Step Heel/Step
- ◆ Step Heel/Step Tap
- ◆ Step Shuffle Hop Tap Tap
- ◆ The addition of a basic Strathspey and Reel step to the skills above

Outcome 3

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

Candidates will demonstrate a tutor taught dance lasting a minimum of 1.5 minutes which can be a solo or group performance. Appropriate projection and musicality must be displayed.

Evidence will be gathered under supervised conditions on one assessment occasion.



National unit Support Notes

Unit title: Dance: Scottish Step (SCQF level 5)

Unit support notes are offered as guidance and 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 Scottish Studies Award at SCQF level 5 and can also be taken as a free-standing unit.

The aim of this unit is to introduce learners to Scottish Step Dance and enable them to understand the features of the style and its related technique while also acquiring knowledge of its history and cultural context.

In Outcome 1, learners should research the history and cultural context of Scottish Step Dance. This will include, for example, costumes, musical accompaniment, country of origin. They will then collate this information in an appropriate format.

In Outcome 2, learners should be taught the terminology, skills and techniques of the style and be able to recognise and demonstrate the following within Scottish Step Dance:

- ◆ Posture and alignment appropriate to dance style
- ◆ Dynamic principles of flow, time, weight and space
- ◆ Key movements appropriate to dance style
- ◆ Timing and musicality

For Outcome 3 learners should learn and then perform a tutor taught piece in the chosen style. In addition to executing technique and steps correctly, learners should demonstrate an understanding of performance qualities and projection. This will be performed as a solo or as a group performance.

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this unit

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

Outcome 1 involves researching Scottish Step Dance. Candidates should be encouraged to draw on their knowledge acquired through their on-going class work, tutor led discussions and research.

National unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Dance: Scottish Step (SCQF level 5)

Outcome 2 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 3, learners should be able to apply their technique to the set choreography. Working in groups and encouraging peer analysis could be conducive to good practice and beneficial to learners as they gain a thorough understanding of technique and performance.

It is advised that learners are given feedback on their progress 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, using media to self-critique performance, etc.

Tutors should introduce learners to the basics of correct alignment and use of the core muscles. This could be presented to the learners through informal seminars with a focus on very basic anatomy of the spine and the muscles supporting good posture as well as through teacher and peer feedback. Visual media can be used to demonstrate correct alignment and identify postures that are incorrect and have the potential to cause injury.

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 live 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.

Guidance on approaches to assessment of this unit

Evidence can be generated using different types of assessment. The following are suggestions only. There may be other methods that would be more suitable to learners.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of centre-devised assessments would help to ensure that the national standard is being met. Where learners experience a range of assessment methods, this helps them to develop different skills that should be transferable to work or further and higher education.

The suggested instrument of assessment for Outcome 1 is an open-book assessment which could take the form of a folio of around 750 words or an oral presentation lasting between 3-4 minutes.

A suitable instrument of assessment for Outcome 2 is a practical assignment. This may take place in a practical class where learners demonstrate technique and typical movements of the chosen dance style. The video/DVD recording can be filmed in groups or as a whole class.

The suggested instrument of assessment for Outcome 3 is a solo or group dance which should be tutor taught and recorded.

National unit Support Notes (cont)

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It is possible to integrate the assessment of Outcomes 2 and 3.

Time should be allowed for any necessary re-assessment.

Opportunities for 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 social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the evidence requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment.

Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

Candidates will be producing written and/or oral evidence for Outcome 1 which offers an opportunity to develop aspects of the Core Skill *Communication*. Should learners choose to use the internet to carry out their research for this investigation then there will be opportunities to develop the Core Skill *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)*.

Through peer analysis or perhaps working as a group to practise or prepare for the performance in Outcome 3 learners could also develop the Core Skill *Working with Others*.

History of changes to unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for learners

Unit title: Dance: Scottish Step (SCQF level 5)

This section will help you decide whether this is the unit for you by explaining what the unit is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the unit and opportunities for further learning and employment.

This unit is designed to develop your skills, techniques and performance quality in Scottish Step dance whilst enabling you to understand the features of the style by acquiring knowledge of its history and cultural context.

Through classwork, you will research the history and cultural context of Scottish Step Dance. This can include, for example, costumes, musical accompaniment and country of origin. You will be taught the skills, techniques and terminology of the style and will be able to recognise and demonstrate them. You will learn and perform a tutor-choreographed dance and be able to demonstrate an understanding of performance qualities and projection. You will perform as a solo or small group.

The assessments for this unit will be outlined by your tutor/assessor. Assessments may be in the form of an open-book assessment (which could be a folio of around 750 words or an oral presentation lasting between 3–4 minutes), practical performance assessments of observed classwork, sequences and an observed solo/group performance of a tutor-choreographed dance. These will be recorded by your tutor/assessor at varying points throughout the unit.

Completion of Dance: Scottish Step level 4, would be advised before embarking on this unit.

After completing this unit, you could progress onto Dance level 5, in another genre. If you complete this Unit along with other units at level 5, you could progress onto a variety of NQ units at level 6.