



Dance (National 5)

Draft National Course Specification



Valid from August 2013

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Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Course Specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

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Course outline

Course title: Dance (National 5)
SCQF: level 5 (24 SCQF credit points)
Course code: to be advised

Mandatory Units

Dance: Technical Skills (National 5) **9 SCQF credit points**

Choreography (National 5) **9 SCQF credit points**

Course assessment **6 SCQF credit points**

This Course includes six SCQF credit points for 40 additional programmed hours to allow preparation for Course assessment. The Course assessment covers the added value of the Course. Further information on the Course assessment is provided in the Assessment section.

Recommended entry

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills and knowledge required by equivalent experience or qualifications.

In terms of prior learning and experience, relevant experiences and outcomes may also provide an appropriate basis for doing this Course. Further information on relevant experiences and outcomes will be given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Progression

This Course or its components may provide progression to:

- ◆ other SQA qualifications in Dance or related areas
- ◆ further study, employment and/or training

Further details are provided in the Rationale section.

Equality and inclusion

This Course 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. For further information please refer to the *Course Support Notes* and the *Course Assessment Specification*.

Rationale

All new and revised National Courses reflect the Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles. They offer flexibility, provide more time for learning, more focus on skills and applying learning, and scope for personalisation and choice.

In this Course, and its component Units, there will be an emphasis on skills development and the application of those skills. Assessment approaches will be proportionate and fit for purpose and they will promote best practice, enabling learners to achieve the highest standards they can.

This Course provides learners with opportunities to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities as well as skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

All Courses provide opportunities for learners to develop breadth, challenge and application, but the focus and balance of the assessment will be appropriate for the subject area.

Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles

The Course is practical and experiential. Learners will develop a range of technical and choreographic skills in dance to produce creative and imaginative performances. It provides scope for personalisation and choice.

The Course allows learners to broaden and deepen their skills base and to widen their horizons regarding a range of vocations and careers. It provides opportunities to further acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities including creativity, flexibility and adaptability; enthusiasm and a willingness to learn; perseverance, independence and resilience; responsibility and reliability; and confidence, enterprise and leadership.

This Course encourages learners to be creative and to express themselves in different ways. Learning through dance helps learners to develop an appreciation of aesthetic and cultural values, identities and ideas.

Learners will develop important skills, attitudes and attributes. Learning in the Course will include active involvement in creative activities and performance and the creative use of technical and choreographic dance skills.

Purpose and aims of the Course

The Course provides opportunities for learners to be inspired and challenged by creating and appreciating dance. Learners will use basic theoretical knowledge to inform practice and develop understanding of dance techniques and choreographic skills. Learners will also develop skills in appreciating theatre arts and dance practice.

As learners develop their performing skills in dance, they will learn how to use dance techniques and choreography creatively to enhance performance. They will experiment with a range of dance styles, and learn how to apply them to enhance their own performances and the performances of others. Learners will also be encouraged to explore the possibilities of theatre arts and technology.

The aims of the Course are to enable learners to:

- ◆ understand and apply technical skills choreographic skills, devices and processes
- ◆ work imaginatively and develop individual creativity while developing skills in problem solving, critical thinking and reflective practice
- ◆ co-operate with others and communicate thoughts, meaning and ideas when creating dance and investigating a range of theatre arts and technologies
- ◆ develop knowledge, understanding and appreciation of dance practice and safe dance practice in relation to physical well being
- ◆ consider social and cultural influences

The Course provides opportunities for vertical and lateral progression to National Courses and other SQA qualifications in dance and other related fields.

Information about typical learners who might do the Course

This Course is a broad-based qualification, suitable for all learners with an interest in dance. It is suitable for learners with a general interest in the subject, or for those wanting to progress onto higher levels of study. This qualification will allow learners to consolidate and further extend their technical and choreography skills developed through the experiences and outcomes for Dance.

Learners will learn how to develop a range of technical skills in dance and choreography. This will also include the use of theatre arts and technologies. Learners will learn to communicate basic personal thoughts and creative ideas through using a range of dance techniques, choreography and theatre arts to enhance performance. They will reflect through the evaluation of their own performance and that of others. Learners will also learn to explore and develop cultural awareness of different dance styles, techniques and choreographic principles.

On completing the Course, learners will be able to create, present and evaluate basic choreographed dance sequences; understand and use basic choreographic principles, devices and structures; understand and effectively apply different dance styles and techniques; and communicate meaningful thoughts and creative ideas and use them in practice. Learners will also be able to appreciate safe dance practice in relation to physical well being; engage with

successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen, effective contributor

theatre arts and technologies; and evaluate their own performances and the performances of others.

The learning experiences in the Course are flexible and adaptable, with opportunities for personalisation and choice. This makes the qualification highly accessible, as it can be contextualised to suit a diverse range of learners' needs and aspirations. The Course is largely learner-centred, with practical and experiential learning opportunities.

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Course structure and conditions of award

Course structure

The Course has an integrated approach to learning, with a mix of practical learning and knowledge and understanding. As learners develop their technical and choreographic skills, they will also learn how dance practitioners use choreographic devices and will use this knowledge to inform and influence their creative thinking and performance. They will experiment with a range of technical and choreographic skills and learn how to apply them imaginatively in performance. Learners will also develop their understanding of health, physical well being and fitness, and apply this knowledge in safe dance practice.

Reflective skills will also be developed as learners evaluate their own process and performance and that of others. Learners will also learn how to appreciate the impact of theatre arts and the social and cultural influences on choreography and performance.

Units are statements of standards for assessment and not programmes of learning and teaching. They can be delivered in a variety of ways.

The Course consists of two mandatory Units. Each of the component Units of the Course is designed to provide progression to the corresponding Units at Higher.

Dance: Technical Skills (National 5)

This Unit helps learners to develop their technical dance skills for solo and/or group dance performances. Practical dance techniques will be explored and developed in a range of dance styles before being used in choreographed sequences. Learners will develop critical and creative thinking skills and appreciation of dance. They will also consider the cultural and social influences on dance.

Choreography (National 5)

This Unit helps learners to develop and use self-expression and creative problem-solving skills. They will apply their knowledge and understanding of a range of choreographic devices and structures within the creative process. They will learn how to appreciate the impact of theatre arts and social and cultural influences on choreography and performance.

Conditions of award

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all the Units as well as the Course assessment. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

Skills and knowledge

Full skills and knowledge for the Course will be given in the *Course Assessment Specification*. A broad overview of the mandatory subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be covered in the Course includes:

- ◆ understanding and performing a range of dance skills and techniques
- ◆ using basic choreographic principles, devices, and structures to choreograph sequences
- ◆ appreciating and applying safe dance practice in relation to physical well being
- ◆ exploring and understand the social and cultural influences on dance practice and choreography
- ◆ evaluating their own work and that of others
- ◆ responding to basic stimuli using imagination and creativity and work with others to plan and devise choreography
- ◆ using expressive communication skills to convey thoughts, meaning and ideas
- ◆ exploring and gain understanding of a range of theatre arts and technologies

Assessment

Information about assessment for the Course will be included in the *Course Assessment Specification*, which will provide full details including advice on how a learner's overall attainment for the Course will be determined.

Unit assessment

All Units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in the Unit Specification.

They will be assessed pass/fail within centres. SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

The assessment of the Units in this Course will be as follows:

Dance: Technical Skills (National 5)

In this Unit, learners will be required to provide evidence to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a range of technical skills, and apply these within a range of styles using safe dance practice. Learners will evaluate their own work and that of others.

Choreography (National 5)

In this Unit, learners will be required to provide evidence to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of choreographic devices and structures, and apply these when planning and creating a choreographed sequence. Learners will evaluate their own work and that of others.

Exemplification of possible assessment approaches for these Units will be provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.

Course assessment

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of [added value](#)¹. At National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, the added value will be assessed in the Course assessment. The added value for the Course must address the key purposes and aims of the Course as defined in the Course Rationale. It will do this by addressing one or more of breadth, challenge and application.

In this Course, added value will focus on challenge and application.

Learners will draw on, extend and apply the skills they have learned during the Course. This will be assessed through a Dance [project](#)². This will involve creating and evaluating a dance.

¹ Definitions can be found here: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45528.html

² See link above for definition.

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

(Note: The information given below reflects the initial thinking on significant opportunities for development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. These may be subject to change as the development process progresses.)

It is expected that learners will also develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that are likely to be appropriate for this Course are based on SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Course where there are appropriate opportunities.

3 Health and wellbeing

- 3.1 Personal learning
- 3.3 Physical wellbeing

4 Employability, enterprise and citizenship

- 4.3 Working with others

5 Thinking skills

- 5.2 Understanding
- 5.3 Applying
- 5.4 Analysing and evaluating
- 5.5 Creating

Amplification of these is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills will be appropriate to the level of the Course. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work for the Course is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

Administrative information

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Superclass: to be advised

History of changes to National Course Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date

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