



## Course Report 2014

Subject	Dance
Level	National 5

The statistics used in this report have been compiled before the completion of any Post Results Services.

This report provides information on the performance of candidates which it is hoped will be useful to teachers/lecturers in their preparation of candidates for future examinations. It is intended to be constructive and informative and to promote better understanding. It would be helpful to read this report in conjunction with the published assessment and marking instructions for the examination.

# Section 1: Comments on the Assessment

## Summary of the Course assessment

### Component 1: Performance

- ◆ In the new collaborative marking model of a sample of 12 candidates assessment standards were clear and well received.
- ◆ Many centres noted the positivity generated from meetings with SQA Visiting Assessors (VA) and felt it afforded an excellent development opportunity
- ◆ Candidates were well presented and appropriately attired
- ◆ Generally, the VA assessment day was well organised by centres and dialogue between the VA and staff was relaxed and informative.
- ◆ Where centres struggled to meet the correct performance standard at National 5 Dance, clear advice and guidance was available. It was generally felt that in its first year the assessment of practical performance was very positive.

### Component 2: Practical Activity

- ◆ Choreography and Choreography Review afforded candidates the opportunity to access good marks for their skills and abilities.
- ◆ Candidates were generally well prepared for Choreography and Choreography Review and presented clear and concise reports.
- ◆ A number of candidates would benefit from the inclusion of discussion and oral presentation throughout the Practical Activity learning journey. This would ensure they are able to answer questions, which could help them to access additional marks in the assessment.

## **Section 2: Comments on candidate performance**

### **Summary of Candidate Performance**

#### **Component 1: Performance**

- ◆ There was evidence of a clear understanding of required performance standards at National 5
- ◆ The majority of candidates were well prepared for their one chosen solo performance
- ◆ The majority of candidates were able to perform at the required technical level for National 5
- ◆ Some candidates benefited from marks gained for self-expression and sense of performance while others could benefit from a greater consideration for performance quality

#### **Component 2: Practical Activity**

##### **Choreography**

- ◆ There was evidence of some excellent choices of themes that were translated well into the piece
- ◆ Some candidates chose music that suited their theme and demonstrated a sophisticated use of music within their pieces
- ◆ Some candidates used their use of movement and choreographic devices to great effect, creating work that was insightful and creative
- ◆ Some candidates demonstrated an understanding of the use of structure as appropriate to National 5 standards
- ◆ When used well, the use of space complimented and supported creativity throughout choreography
- ◆ There was evidence that some candidates benefited from exploring a variety of music genres to compliment choreography

##### **Choreography Review**

- ◆ Some candidates were able to present their review in a variety of formats, which really afforded maximum opportunities to gain marks

- ◆ Some candidates who were able to respond positively to questioning after the presentation of their Choreography were able to gain more marks
- ◆ The majority of candidates provided a written report as their review, some were then able to discuss this demonstrating an understanding of what was written
- ◆ Some candidates provided great depth in their written discussions about devices, use of space and choice of music/sound. This allowed them to access the full range of marks
- ◆ A number of candidates were able to review in detail strengths and areas for improvement in their choreography. This allowed them to access the full range of marks.

### **Section 3: Areas in which candidates performed well**

#### **Component 1: Performance**

- ◆ Candidates were generally well prepared for their chosen solo performance.
- ◆ Candidates were, in general, able to demonstrate the requisite technical skills required for National 5 level.
- ◆ There was evidence that some candidates were able to excel and gain marks in the application of performance skills.
- ◆ Some candidates also demonstrated an excellent grasp of technical skills in terms of alignment, strength and flexibility.
- ◆ A large number of candidates presented Jazz as their chosen genre and this proved to be a good and appropriate choice, reflected in the marks awarded.

#### **Component 2: Practical Activity**

- ◆ There was evidence in a few centres that themes were explored and researched and then translated into initial movement prior to candidates embarking on Choreography. This enriched the Choreographic process and outcome.
- ◆ Some candidates choose music that enriched their Choreography.
- ◆ Some candidates demonstrated a clear understanding of the use of effective structure and choreographic devices within the limitations of a 1 minute 30 second choreography. Some candidates benefited from limiting their chosen stimulus to suit.
- ◆ In the main, the review essays were well written in a cohesive and structured way.
- ◆ There was evidence of a good level of knowledge of choreographic processes and use of structures in some reports.

## **Section 4: Areas which candidates found demanding**

### **Component 1: Performance**

- ◆ Some candidates struggled to meet the technical demands of their chosen genre
- ◆ Some candidates struggled with centring and alignment and this impacted on performance quality
- ◆ The majority of candidates could benefit from an improved sense of performance quality. This will give them the opportunity to access more marks.

### **Component 2: Practical Activity**

- ◆ Some candidates struggled to discuss their own choreographic work. The opportunity to do this after the presentation of the Choreography affords an opportunity to gain marks through supportive questioning
- ◆ Some candidates lacked depth in their answers, which resulted in them only being able to access some of the available marks
- ◆ Many candidates chose a stimulus/theme which was too challenging for the choreographic task. Candidates would benefit from selecting one aspect of a theme and developing movement from this.

## **Section 5: Advice to centres for preparation of future candidates**

### **Component 1: Performance**

- ◆ Some centres would benefit from gaining a more secure understanding of technical standards at National 5
- ◆ Some centres should guide candidates towards their most secure technical genre for assessment purposes

### **Component 2: Practical Activity**

- ◆ Centres should guide candidates towards a choice of stimulus which is appropriate for choreography with a duration of 1 minute 30 seconds.
- ◆ Centres should ensure that the foundations for developing movement are in place prior to candidates embarking on their own choreography
- ◆ Centres should encourage the learning journey to include discussion and presentation. This will ensure candidates are prepared for the final examination and can access the full range of marks if questioned.

- ◆ Centres should consider the depth of answers being given from candidates. To access the full range of marks, candidates must give an in depth answer.

## Statistical information: update on Courses

Number of resulted entries in 2013	0
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Number of resulted entries in 2014	361
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## Statistical information: Performance of candidates

### Distribution of Course awards including grade boundaries

Distribution of Course awards	%	Cum. %	Number of candidates	Lowest mark
Maximum Mark 100				
A	45.2%	45.2%	163	70
B	25.8%	70.9%	93	60
C	18.0%	88.9%	65	50
D	4.2%	93.1%	15	45
No award	6.9%	-	25	-