



**National Qualifications 2012
Internal Assessment Report
Dance Practice**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject.

National Qualifications (NQ) Units

Titles/levels of NQ Units verified:

D72R 12 Dance: Contemporary

D646 12 Dance: Choreography

D72V 12 Dance: Scottish

D72T 12 Dance: Jazz

D72N 12 Dance: Alternative

D72S 12 Dance: Ethnic

D72P 12 Dance: Classical

General comments

There appeared to be a mixed picture across the centres visited. In some cases, assessment evidence was clearly presented. In others there was a lack of clarity regarding the evidence required for external verification purposes. Some centres demonstrated a sound understanding of national standards, while others were less sure.

Some centres had pitched their assessments and judgements at the appropriate levels while others had not and needed help and guidance.

There was also inconsistency regarding internal verification procedures.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Teaching staff were using the correct documentation and most centres appeared familiar with Unit specifications and NABs.

In most cases instruments of assessment followed SQA guidelines provided in Unit specifications and the NAB documents.

It was evident that in some centres assessors were very familiar with the above while others needed further support and guidance.

There was a degree of inconsistency in the application of assessment instructions across the centres visited.

Evidence Requirements

Again, there was inconsistency across centres in demonstrating a clear understanding of the Evidence Requirements for the Units as detailed in the Unit specifications.

Administration of assessments

Some centres were pitching their assessments and judgements at appropriate levels while others required further support and guidance.

All centres used the marking schemes and assessment advice contained in the NABs.

Some centres had devised their own detailed observation checklists for practical activities.

Some centres had clearly laid out internal verification procedures, which in small departments often involved cross-marking as well as sampling. In other centres, internal verification procedures were not well established.

Areas of good practice

Good practice was observed in most centres and this included:

- ◆ good quality feedback to candidates
- ◆ students being encouraged to present themselves in a manner that is in keeping with the industry both in their dress and through their demeanour
- ◆ well-structured class teaching for the technique Units
- ◆ soloists clearly identified in video evidence
- ◆ teachers visiting other presenting centres in order to better understand standards and undertake CPD activities

Live candidate performance during the verification visits was in most cases of a good standard.

Specific areas for improvement

There needs to be more attention given to assessment requirements detailed in the NABs and Unit specifications.

Assessment checklists in the published NABs should be used more consistently.

Internal verification procedures should be developed and practised in all centres.

Centres should record more practical work.