

Planned changes to Higher Dance from session 2018-19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from the Higher Dance course from session 2018-19 onwards. We are strengthening the course assessment to ensure that it continues to assess candidates on the full content of the course, and to maintain the current course value of 24 SCQF credit points.

In deciding the appropriate changes for the Higher course assessment, we consulted with our National Qualification Support Team (NQST), which includes teachers and lecturers.

Overview of changes to the Higher course assessment

Current course assessment	Revised course assessment
Performance: 70 marks (50%) Practical activity: 70 marks (50%)	Question paper: 40 marks (30%) Performance: 70 marks (40%) Practical activity: 70 marks (30%)*

**To achieve these weightings, the question paper will be scaled from 40 marks to 30 marks, the performance will be scaled from 70 marks to 40 marks and the practical activity will be scaled from 70 marks to 30 marks.*

New question paper

Question paper from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours • Worth 40 marks (30%) • 2 sections (Section 1 – 24 marks; Section 2 – 16 marks)

As with the National 5 course, a new question paper will be introduced. The question paper will assess candidates on the following assessment standards, which are currently assessed in the units but not in the course assessment:

Technical Skills unit

- 1.1 – Comparing the technical skills and characteristics of two contrasting dance styles
- 1.2 – Analysing the social and cultural influences on one selected dance style
- 2.4 – Analysing and evaluating technical dance skills in own and another's work

Choreography unit

- 1.2 – Analysing the use of theatre arts in choreography
- 1.3 – Evaluating the impact of choreographic principles used in dance

Changes to the practical activity

Current practical activity	Revised practical activity from 2018-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worth 70 marks (50%)• Candidates create a choreographed group dance (35 marks) and produce a written choreography review (35 marks)• Choreography should be 2-3 minutes in length• No word limit for choreography review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worth 70 marks (40%)• Candidates create a choreographed group dance (45 marks) and produce a written choreography review (25 marks)• Choreography should be 2-3 minutes in length• A recommended word count for the choreography review will be introduced

The choreography section of the practical activity will increase by 10 marks to 45 marks, and the choreography review will decrease by 10 marks to 25 marks. This will ensure an appropriate weighting between the practical and written elements of the course assessment, following the introduction of the new question paper.

A recommended word count will be introduced for the choreography review to ensure a consistent standard, and to ensure that candidates do not spend more time on the task than is necessary. The choreography review can still be presented in a variety of formats such as an oral presentation, written report, video or a combination of these approaches.

Performance

There will be no change to the performance, however its weighting will reduce from 50% to 40% following the introduction of the new question paper component.

Documents and assessment support materials

More detail on the requirements for the Higher course assessment will be provided in the revised Higher course specification, which will be published at the end of April 2018. Course support notes will be added to the revised course specification as an appendix by the end of September 2018, to provide additional clarity and guidance.

We will produce a specimen question paper to illustrate the requirements of the new question paper from 2018-19. We will also publish a revised coursework assessment task to reflect the changes to the practical activity. These materials will be published between the end of May and the end of September 2018.

More information

For more information on changes to assessment in National Qualifications, please visit www.sqa.org.uk/nqchanges.

If you have any queries regarding the above changes, please e-mail mycentre@sqa.org.uk