



Group Award Specification for:

National Progression Award in Dance

SCQF level 4

Group Award Code: GG7M 44

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1 Introduction

This document was previously known as the Arrangements document. The purpose of this document is to:

- ◆ assist centres to implement, deliver and manage the qualification.
- ◆ provide a guide for new staff involved in offering the qualification.
- ◆ inform Course managers, teaching staff, assessors, learners, employers and HEIs of the aims and purpose of the qualification.
- ◆ provide details of the range of learners the qualification is suitable for and progression opportunities.

This is the Group Award Specification Document for the new National Progression Award (NPA) in Dance, at SCQF level 4, which was validated in May 2013. This document includes: background information on the development of the Group Award, its aims, guidance on access, details of the Group Award structure, and guidance on delivery.

The NPA in Dance is designed to equip learners with an introduction to knowledge, understanding and skills in Dance. These same skills are required for progression to further qualifications and/or potential career paths within the dance industry. The NPA in Dance at level 4 provides an articulated progressive qualification pathway to existing provision in Dance at SCQF levels 5 and 6: a range of NQ Units and the National 5 Dance Course and the Higher Dance Course.

The award consists of a range of revised NQ Units which meet the needs of learners and offer personalisation, choice and opportunities for specialism. It offers the development of a solid foundation for progression to further study and provides skills and knowledge appropriate to the dance industry as well as fully embracing the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE).

2 Qualification Structure

The NPA in Dance is a 120 hour programme of study in total, which equates to a minimum of 3 credits. There is one mandatory Unit and two other Units will be selected from an optional section. A minimum of 18 SCQF points are required to achieve the award.

All of the Units in the award are at SCQF level 4, therefore the Group Award has been levelled at SCQF level 4.

A mapping of Core Skills development opportunities is available in Section 5.3.

The table in Section 2.1 demonstrates the framework for the NPA Dance at level 4.

2.1 Structure

The table below shows the framework for the NPA in Dance.

Mandatory Unit	Code	SCQF level	SCQF credit points	SQA credit value
Dance: Choreography	H2W5 10	4	6	1
Optional Units — choose two from six				
Dance: Alternative	H2W2 10	4	6	1
Dance: Classical	H2W1 10	4	6	1
Dance: Contemporary	H2W0 10	4	6	1
Dance: Ethnic	H2W4 10	4	6	1
Dance: Jazz	H2W6 10	4	6	1
Dance: Scottish	H2W3 10	4	6	1
Dance: Scottish Step	HJ2W 44	4	6	1

The mandatory Unit *Dance: Choreography*, allows learners to develop basic choreographic skills, creating and developing movement from six dance actions through the application of simple choreographic devices. Learners will then reflect on the effectiveness of choreographic choices. Learners will be introduced to choreographic devices and stimuli and will put these skills into practice through tutor-led tasks and workshops.

The optional Units focus on the development and application of appropriate dance skills both in a technique class and through the performance of tutor-led dance sequences. Learners will also contextualise their learning by understanding and appreciating dance styles and practitioners.

3 Aims of the qualification

The NPA in Dance at level 4 has the potential to improve progression to further study, providing learners with relevant experiences which develop skills of self-discipline, professionalism, commitment, collaboration and creative thinking. The award structure and Unit content provides a coherent and progressive curriculum which creates and promotes effective articulation and transition into further and higher education, whilst simultaneously recognising and supporting skills for potential future employment.

3.1 General aims of the Qualification

The general aims of the National Progression Award in Dance, level 4, are to:

- ◆ enable progression within the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).
- ◆ provide a structured award that will recognise existing skills and competences relating to dance.
- ◆ prepare learners for progression to National Qualifications at SCQF levels 5 and 6 in Dance or the performing arts or progression to further study in alternative qualification pathways if desired and/or initiate entry into employment.
- ◆ provide an award that supports the development of a range of transferable generic employability and essential skills (including Core Skills).
- ◆ provide an award structure which has sufficient flexibility to allow for a number of different modes of delivery.

3.2. Specific aims of the qualification

The principal aims of the National Progression Award in Dance, Level 4, are to provide opportunities for learners to:

- ◆ gain an appropriate learning experience in Dance at a non-advanced level.
- ◆ develop a range of appropriate practical skills, knowledge and understanding relevant to dance technique and dance performance.
- ◆ develop choreographic skills which will allow creative movement to evolve.
- ◆ apply specific choreographic devices through tutor-led tasks and workshops.
- ◆ develop self-evaluation skills.
- ◆ develop critical thinking skills within the context of self-analysis.
- ◆ take charge of their own learning and development.
- ◆ experience live performances in order to broaden their experience of dance.
- ◆ develop communication and interpersonal skills.

4 Recommended entry to the qualification

Entry to this qualification is at the discretion of the centre. The following information on prior knowledge, skills, experience or qualifications that provide suitable preparation for this qualification has been provided as guidance.

Learners would benefit from having attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by one or more of the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ an interest and/or some experience in Dance and performance.
- ◆ experiences and Outcomes in Dance at any appropriate level.

4.1 Core Skills entry profile

Entry and exit levels of Core Skills for the NPA in Dance will be set by individual centres. There is no expectation or requirement for learners to have achieved Core Skills before undertaking this Group Award.

There are opportunities to gather evidence within the Units which can contribute towards Core Skills. The list below highlights where each Unit can be used to generate evidence for Core Skills.

Core Skill	Developed through	SCQF level
Communication	Dance: Alternative Dance: Classical Dance: Contemporary Dance: Choreography Dance: Ethnic Dance: Jazz Dance: Scottish	level 4
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	Dance: Alternative Dance: Classical Dance: Contemporary Dance: Choreography Dance: Ethnic Dance: Jazz Dance: Scottish	level 4
Problem Solving	Dance: Choreography	level 4
Working with Others	Dance: Alternative Dance: Classical Dance: Contemporary Dance: Choreography Dance: Ethnic Dance: Jazz Dance: Scottish	level 4

5 Additional benefits of the qualification in meeting employer needs

This qualification was designed to meet a specific purpose and what follows are details on how that purpose has been met through mapping of the Units to the aims of the qualification. In addition, significant opportunities exist for learners to develop the more generic skills, known as Core Skills through doing this qualification.

5.1 Mapping of qualification aims to Units

Aims	Dance: Choreography (H2W5 10)	Dance: Alternative (H2W2 10)	Dance: Classical (H2W1 10)	Dance: Contemporary (H2W0 10)	Dance: Ethnic (H2W4 10)	Dance: Jazz (H2W6 10)	Dance: Scottish (H2W3 10)
Gain an appropriate dance experience at a non-advanced level	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Develop a range of appropriate practical skills, knowledge and understanding relevant to dance technique and performance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Develop choreographic skills which will allow creative movement to evolve	X						
Apply specific choreographic devices through tutor led tasks and workshops	X						
Develop self-evaluation skills	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Develop critical thinking skills within the context of self-analysis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Take charge of their own learning	X						
Experience live performances in order to broaden their experience of dance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Develop communication and inter-personal skills	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

5.2 Mapping of Core Skills development opportunities across the qualification

Unit code	Unit title	Communication		Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving			Working with Others	
		Written	Oral	Using Number	Using Graphical Information	Accessing Information	Providing/ Creating information	Critical Thinking	Planning and Organising	Reviewing and Evaluating	Working Co-operatively with Others	Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
H2W5 10	Dance: Choreography	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	
H2W2 10	Dance: Alternative	X	X			X	X				X	
H2W1 10	Dance: Classical	X	X			X	X				X	
H2W0 10	Dance: Contemporary	X	X			X	X				X	
H2W4 10	Dance: Ethnic	X	X			X	X				X	
H2W3 10	Dance: Scottish	X	X			X	X				X	
H2W6 10	Dance: Jazz	X	X			X	X				X	

In the above table Core Skills are signposted, which means learners will be developing aspects of Core Skills through teaching and learning approaches.

5.3 Assessment strategy for the qualification(s)

Unit	Assessment			
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4
Dance: Choreography H2W5 10	Demonstrate basic skills and techniques in choreography. Tutor led practical classes Performance evidenced by DVD/Video and Observation Checklist under supervised conditions	Apply basic skills and techniques to create short choreographic studies. Performance evidenced by DVD/Video and Observation Checklist under supervised conditions	Reflect on choreographic studies Written and/or oral evidence is required for this Outcome. Learners will compile a log book/diary	N/A
Dance: Alternative H2W2 10	Demonstrate basic skills and techniques in a chosen dance form. Tutor led practical classes Performance evidenced by DVD/Video and Observation Checklist under supervised conditions	Demonstrate basic dance sequences in a chosen dance form. Performance of dance sequences of a minimum of 1 minute 30 Seconds. Performance evidenced by DVD/Video and Observation Checklist under supervised conditions	Apply basic skills and techniques to the performance of a dance. Application of technique to a Solo Performance lasting a minimum of 1 minute. Performance evidenced by DVD/Video and Observation Checklist under supervised conditions	Demonstrate a basic understanding of a chosen dance form. 300 words written or 2 minutes if presented orally and will be gathered in open-book conditions
Dance: Classical H2W1 10	Demonstrate basic skills and techniques in classical dance. Tutor led practical classes Performance evidenced by DVD/Video and Observation Checklist under supervised conditions	Demonstrate basic classical dance sequences. Performance of dance sequences of a minimum of 1 minute 30 Seconds. Performance evidenced by DVD/Video and Observation Checklist under supervised conditions	Apply basic skills and techniques to the performance of a classical dance. Application of technique to a Solo Performance lasting a minimum of 1 minute. Performance evidenced by DVD/Video and Observation Checklist under supervised conditions	Demonstrate a basic understanding of classical dance. 300 words written or 2 minutes if presented orally and will be gathered in open-book conditions
Dance: Contemporary H2W0 10	Demonstrate basic skills and techniques in contemporary dance. Tutor led practical classes Performance evidenced by DVD/Video and Observation Checklist under supervised conditions	Demonstrate basic contemporary dance sequences. Performance of dance sequences of a minimum of 1 minute 30 Seconds. Performance evidenced by DVD/Video and Observation Checklist under supervised conditions	Apply basic skills and techniques to the performance of a contemporary dance. Application of technique to a Solo Performance lasting a minimum of 1 minute. Performance evidenced by DVD/Video and Observation Checklist under supervised conditions	Demonstrate a basic understanding of contemporary dance. 300 words written or 2 minutes if presented orally and will be gathered in open-book conditions
Dance: Ethnic H2W4 10	Demonstrate basic skills and techniques in ethnic dance. Tutor led practical classes Performance evidenced by DVD/Video and Observation Checklist under supervised conditions	Demonstrate basic ethnic dance sequences. Performance of dance sequences of a minimum of 1 minute 30 Seconds. Performance evidenced by DVD/Video and Observation Checklist under supervised conditions	Apply basic skills and technique to the performance of an ethnic dance. Application of technique to a Solo Performance lasting a minimum of 1 minute. Performance evidenced by DVD/Video and Observation Checklist under supervised conditions	Demonstrate a basic understanding of ethnic dance. 300 words written or 2 minutes if presented orally and will be gathered in open-book conditions
Dance: Jazz H2W6 10	Demonstrate basic skills and techniques in jazz dance. Tutor led practical classes Performance evidenced by DVD/Video and Observation Checklist under supervised conditions	Demonstrate basic jazz dance sequences. Performance of dance sequences of a minimum of 1 minute 30 Seconds. Performance evidenced by DVD/Video and Observation Checklist under supervised conditions	Apply basic skills and techniques to the performance of a jazz dance. Application of technique to a Solo Performance lasting a minimum of 1 minute Performance evidenced by DVD/Video and Observation Checklist under supervised conditions	Demonstrate a basic understanding of jazz dance. 300 words written or 2 minutes if presented orally and will be gathered in open-book conditions
Dance: Scottish H2W3 10	Demonstrate basic skills and techniques in Scottish dance. Tutor led practical classes Performance evidenced by DVD/Video and Observation Checklist under supervised conditions	Demonstrate basic Scottish dance sequences Performance of dance sequences of a minimum of 1 minute 30 Seconds. Performance evidenced by DVD/Video and Observation Checklist under supervised conditions	Apply basic skills and techniques to the performance of a Scottish dance. Application of technique to a Solo Performance lasting a minimum of 1 minute. Performance evidenced by DVD/Video and Observation Checklist under supervised conditions	Demonstrate a basic understanding of Scottish dance. 300 words written or 2 minutes if presented orally and will be gathered in open-book conditions

6 Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment

Content and context

The nature of this award is very flexible and it may be delivered by centres as part of an articulated pathway in Dance qualifications. The NPA in Dance will also offer schools timetabling flexibility, which suits modes of delivery of Curriculum for Excellence.

Delivery and assessment

The flexibility of this award lends itself to a variety of delivery approaches. It is suggested, however, that when considering delivery, award structure and selection of optional Units, centres should take account of:

- ◆ the individual learner
- ◆ prior learning
- ◆ expertise and specialism of those delivering the award
- ◆ resources
- ◆ timetabling
- ◆ duration of the programme of study

This qualification could be delivered in secondary schools, colleges and school/college partnerships, private dance schools or performing arts centres. This may be on a part-time stand-alone basis, or embedded within a broader programme of study.

The delivery of the NPA allows for a variety of teaching and learning approaches:

- ◆ tutor or teacher-led working with groups or individuals.
- ◆ individual tasks in the form of practice and/or choreographic tasks promoting independent learning supported by evaluation of self and others.
- ◆ self-supported study.
- ◆ peer support.

The assessment strategy for the NPA in Dance aims for a balanced approach to assessment as well as complementary and supplementary methods of assessment which reflect the nature of Dance. The majority of assessment is practical based with assignments/tasks, where appropriate, to contextualise learning. There is scope for individuality and creativity throughout this Group Award and evidence for the assignments/tasks could be presented in any of the following formats: written, electronic, audio-visual or spoken; presentation, poster or display material. Please refer to Section 5.3 for Assessment Mapping.

This award is designed to be flexible and accessible to a range of learners. Guidance on reasonable adjustments to the assessment of the individual Units can be sought from SQA.

It is not anticipated that assessment will be integrated across Units. However, there are opportunities for integration of assessment within Units and the Unit Specifications give details of possible approaches.

Unit specifications detail all mandatory Evidence Requirements, providing centres with valuable information relating to assessment procedures and conditions for each assessment event. This will assist with standardisation both in and across centres.

A number of Units in the award have an Assessment Support Pack (ASP) which provides sample assessment material including an instrument of assessment, specified briefs and checklists. Centres wishing to develop their own assessments should refer to the ASPs to ensure a comparable standard.

6.1 Sequencing/integration of Units

If the NPA is being delivered over one year, the Choreography Unit could span the duration of that year and the two optional Units could be delivered either concurrently or consecutively. If the NPA is being delivered over two years, one optional Unit could be delivered in Year 1 and the other optional Unit in Year 2; the *Choreography* Unit could be introduced slightly later and straddle both years.

6.2 Recognition of Prior Learning

SQA recognises that learners gain knowledge and skills acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning contexts.

In some instances, a Group Award may be achieved through the recognition of prior learning. However, it is unlikely that a learner would have the appropriate prior learning and experience to meet all the requirements of a full Group Award.

More information and guidance on the *Recognition of Prior Learning* (RPL) may be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk

6.2.1 Articulation and/or progression

On completion of the NPA level 4, the following are options for progression:

- ◆ NPA in Dance level 5 (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ National 5 Dance Course (SCQF level 5)

6.3 Opportunities for e-assessment

- ◆ e-assessment which is supported by ICT such as e-portfolios and checklists are evolving at present. The majority of evidence is currently oral, written and/or video/DVD

6.4 Support materials

Assessment Support Packs (ASPs) are available for the mandatory Unit of this award and for selected optional Units as follows:

H2W5 10	<i>Dance: Choreography</i>
H252 10	<i>Dance: Alternative</i>
H250 10	<i>Dance: Contemporary</i>
H2W6 10	<i>Dance: Jazz</i>

SQA's secure website provides comprehensive exemplification of standards for the NPA in Dance at level 5, which teachers and assessors would find beneficial as a benchmark of standards.

Learners may develop their learning by reading, researching, watching live or recorded performances, taking part in dance classes and workshops.

6.5 Resource requirements

Classes, workshops and assessments should take place in an appropriate location, such as a dance studio/gym hall/assembly hall/stage, preferably with a wooden/sprung floor. The location should also be equipped with a sound system and audio/visual equipment.

Staff delivering this Group Award should have appropriate dance experience as well as knowledge of safe dance practice, eg appropriate posture, alignment, warm up, cool down, hydration and correct attire (more information on appropriate clothing can be found in the Unit specifications).

7 General information for centres

Equality and inclusion

The Unit Specifications making up this Group Award have been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners will 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** .

Internal and external verification

All instruments of assessment used within this/these qualification(s) should be internally verified, using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in *SQA's Guide to Assessment* (**www.sqa.org.uk/GuideToAssessment**).

8 Glossary of terms

Embedded Core Skills: is where the assessment evidence for the Unit also includes full evidence for complete Core Skill or Core Skill components. A learner successfully completing the Unit will be automatically certificated for the Core Skill. (This depends on the Unit having been successfully audited and validated for Core Skills certification.)

Finish date: The end of a Group Award's lapsing period is known as the finish date. After the finish date, the Group Award will no longer be live and the following applies:

- ◆ learners may not be entered for the Group Award
- ◆ the Group Award will continue to exist only as an archive record on the Awards Processing System (APS)

Lapsing date: When a Group Award is entered into its lapsing period, the following will apply:

- ◆ the Group Award will be deleted from the relevant catalogue
- ◆ the Group Award specification will remain until the qualification reaches its finish date at which point it will be removed from SQA's website and archived
- ◆ no new centres may be approved to offer the Group Award
- ◆ centres should only enter learners whom they expect to complete the Group Award during the defined lapsing period

SQA Credit Value: The credit value allocated to a Unit gives an indication of the contribution the Unit makes to an SQA Group Award. An SQA credit value of 1 given to an SQA Unit represents approximately 40 hours of programmed learning, teaching and assessment.

SCQF: The Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) provides the national common framework for describing all relevant programmes of learning and qualifications in Scotland. SCQF terminology is used throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk

SCQF credit points: SCQF credit points provide a means of describing and comparing the amount of learning that is required to complete a qualification at a given level of the Framework. One National Unit credit is equivalent to 6 SCQF credit points. One National Unit credit at Advanced Higher and one Higher National Unit credit (irrespective of level) is equivalent to 8 SCQF credit points.

SCQF levels: The level a qualification is assigned within the framework is an indication of how hard it is to achieve. The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. HNCs and HNDs are available at SCQF levels 7 and 8 respectively. Higher National Units will normally be at levels 6–9 and Graded Units will be at level 7 and 8. National Qualification Group Awards are available at SCQF levels 2–6 and will normally be made up of National Units which are available from SCQF levels 2–7.

Subject Unit: Subject Units contain vocational/subject content and are designed to test a specific set of knowledge and skills.

Signposted Core Skills: refers to opportunities to develop Core Skills arise in learning and teaching but are not automatically certificated.

9 General information for learners

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

The National Progression Award (NPA) in Dance at SCQF level 4 is a mainly practical based course with elements of theory based work. It offers you the opportunity to develop your skills in Choreography and two different styles/genres of dance selected from the following: Alternative, Classical, Contemporary, Ethnic, Jazz, Scottish. The NPA will focus on developing your skills in the selected dance styles/genres and give you the opportunity to explore choreography and gain an appreciation of the dance skills and techniques you are learning.

You need to successfully complete three Units in order to obtain the award.

There is one mandatory Unit:

Dance: Choreography (SCQF level 4)

There are six optional Units from which you must choose two Units:

Dance: Alternative (SCQF level 4)

Dance: Classical (SCQF level 4)

Dance: Contemporary (SCQF level 4)

Dance: Ethnic (SCQF level 4)

Dance: Jazz (SCQF level 4)

Dance: Scottish (SCQF level 4)

There are no specific entry requirements, however it would be expected that you would have an interest and/or some experience in Dance and performance or you may have undertaken some experiences and Outcomes in Dance previously.

Most of the assessment in the award will be practical — you will demonstrate basic dance technique, sequences, short studies and will also perform short dances and these will be videoed. You will also be assessed on your understanding of the dance forms you are learning and you may present your knowledge in a number of different ways. You will need appropriate clothing for your dance classes and your tutor can give you more information about this.

The NPA in Dance is suitable for you if you are at school or college, have just left school or are an adult learner or returner. The NPA in Dance at level 4 will give you a platform which may allow you to progress into Dance Units/NPA at SCQF level 5 as well as the National 5 Course in Dance. You could then progress on to Dance Units at SCQF level 6 or the Higher Dance and further onto the *HN Dance Artists*, *HN Contemporary Dance Performance* or *HN Professional Stage Dance*.

Successful completion of this NPA has the potential to enhance your employability profile both in dance/performing arts and in general.