

GCSE Dance Qualification Outline



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Introduction

This document provides a high-level overview of the WJEC GCSE Dance Qualification.

It is based on Qualifications Wales's Approval Criteria ([gcse-dance-approval-criteria.pdf](#)). Our qualification **must** meet these requirements.

The qualification outline will provide a guide for the development of the Specification and Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs).

Qualification Overview

The GCSE Dance qualification will support the Curriculum for Wales by:

- Supporting the statements of what matters¹ by giving learners the opportunity to:
 - explore their own creative work and other people's, to engage them with genres, techniques, tools, materials and practices and enable them to become curious and creative individuals
 - explore their own cultural heritage and that of other people, places and times, and through this discover how the expressive arts can be used to shape and express personal, social and cultural identities
 - learn how the important skills of refinement and analysis can contribute to their creative development.
- Supporting the principles of progression² by encouraging learners to:
 - explore, experience, interpret, create and respond through dance within a safe environment
 - evaluate their own and others' work
 - learn and refine different types of knowledge and skills including the techniques, processes and skills required to create and interpret
 - demonstrate more sophisticated use of relevant skills and the ability to transfer existing skills and knowledge into new contexts.
- Supporting the subject specific considerations for this area³ by giving learners the opportunity to:
 - explore, respond to stimuli and create and reflect on their own work while engaging in rich, authentic experiences
 - build understanding of performing, choreography and appreciation across a range of styles.

¹ [Expressive Arts: Statements of what matters - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

² [Expressive Arts: Principles of progression - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

³ [Expressive Arts: Designing your curriculum - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

Qualification Structure

Unit 1: Choreography

Practical assessment and reflective log

40% of qualification

Marked by centre and moderated by WJEC

Unit 2: Performance

Practical assessment

30% of qualification

Marked by centre and moderated by WJEC

Unit 3: Interpreting Dance

30% of qualification

Digital only examination, marked by WJEC

These are the percentages for the 4 assessment objectives:

AO1	Demonstrate and apply knowledge and understanding of performances and choreographic processes.	20%
AO2	Develop and apply technical and performance skills.	30%
AO3	Reflect on, analyse, and evaluate their own work and the work of others.	15%
AO4	Create and develop ideas to communicate meaning in choreography.	35%

This will be a linear qualification. Unit 1 could be completed any time during the two years after the required teaching and learning has taken place and submitted to WJEC in the final year of the course. Both Unit 2 and Unit 3 would be completed in the final year of the course.

The qualification will have 120-140 Guided Learning Hours.

Unit Information

Unit 1 – Choreography

The purpose of this unit is to:

- develop an awareness of the choreographic process of creating dance
- develop learners' skills in self-evaluation, refinement and development of their own work
- develop a sense of choreographing for a specific purpose
- inspire learners to explore choreography from various styles/genres, periods/contexts and linked to different cultures in Wales and the world.

This unit will focus on:

- **exploring** – learners will have the opportunity to explore dance created and performed by other people and develop their own choreography skills in dance.
- **creating** – learners will create their own original dance in a style of their choosing, in response to a brief specified by WJEC. Learners will have the opportunity to develop creative skills through experimenting and investigating choreography, in response to a broad range of stimuli to communicate meaning.
- **responding and reflecting** – learners will be able to evaluate and refine their work through reflection and feedback from others to create a finished product.

The unit will be assessed via practical non-examination assessment and a reflective log, submitted in the final year of the course. The non-examination assessment must be submitted digitally. The mix of tasks for this unit will target AO3 and AO4. AO4 will have a higher weighting, followed by AO3. The stimuli for the non-examination assessment will be set by WJEC. Learners will have choice in the selection of the stimulus set by WJEC and can choose whether they perform in their own choreographed piece. It is envisaged that the stimuli will be available in September at the beginning of the course. The unit will be marked by the centre and moderated by WJEC. The practical assessment will be conducted under a high level of control and the reflective log under a low level of control.

The performance time is likely to be as follows:

- Solo: 1 minute – 1 minute 30 seconds
- Group of 2-5 dancers: 2-4 minutes

Unit 2 – Performance

The purpose of this unit is to:

- inspire learners to explore a range of dance repertoire and provide opportunities to select pieces they wish to perform from various styles/genres, periods/contexts and linked to different cultures in Wales and the world
- allow learners to develop their technical and performing skills by reflecting on their work in an ongoing cycle of practice and improvement
- provide opportunities for learners to perform individually and as part of a group, and develop the skills required to become proficient
- provide an opportunity for learners to develop personal skills of self-evaluation, resilience, determination and confidence.

This unit will focus on:

- **exploring** – learners will have the opportunity to explore dance created and performed by other people and develop their own skills in dance.
- **performing** – learners will develop physical, technical, and expressive skills to interpret and communicate choreographic intention and demonstrate control.

The unit will be assessed via practical non-examination assessment. This unit must be taken in the final year of the course. Due to the practical nature of this unit, the tasks for this unit will target AO2. The non-examination assessment will be marked by the centre and moderated by WJEC.

Learners will select and perform two different pieces. Learners will have choice and flexibility in the selection of their performance pieces for this unit, however learners must not perform an extract from the set works chosen by the centre for Unit 3. One performance must be a solo and the second performance can be solo or group. The performance time is likely to be as follows:

- Solo: 1 minute – 1 minute 30 seconds
- Group of 2-5 dancers: 2-4 minutes

When performing in a group, each dancer must actively perform for a minimum of one minute.

Unit 3 – Interpreting Dance

The purpose of this unit is to:

- demonstrate and apply knowledge and understanding of how dance is developed, choreographed and performed through the context of set works and unseen work
- explore professional dance from various style/genres, periods/contexts and linked to different cultures in Wales and the world
- develop the language of describing and analysing dance
- develop an understanding and appreciation of how meaning is communicated through dance.

This unit will focus on:

- **exploring** – learners will have the opportunity to explore dance created and performed by other people
- **responding to and reflecting** – learners will be able to consider others' dance work and evaluate the effectiveness of ideas and techniques used to communicate meaning. Learners will gain an understanding of a range of forms, genres, styles, techniques, contexts and means of presenting dance.

The unit will be assessed via a digital examination available in the summer series of the final year of study, with a mix of question types that will target AO1 and AO3. AO1 will have the higher weighting, followed by AO3. There will be a choice of set works and an unseen work set by WJEC. Centres will study three set works. The set works will include works: of contrasting styles/genres; from contrasting periods; created in or inspired by Wales; written by a diverse range of writers including those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds. The duration of the examination is likely to be approximately 1 hour 45 minutes, but this will need further exploration regarding permitting learners to replay extracts to answer the questions which is relevant to manageability for both learners and centres. Some questions will incorporate visual examples.