



RSL

Awarding the
Contemporary Arts

Associate Award (Performance)

LEVEL 4

SYLLABUS SPECIFICATION



Acknowledgements

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Introduction

The value of RSL qualifications

RSL advocates an open access approach to qualifications, providing a range of syllabuses, designed to accommodate a wide variety of candidates of different ages, experience and levels of achievement. RSL qualifications are listed on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) in England and are regulated by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual). In Northern Ireland they are regulated by the Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA), in Wales by Qualifications Wales and in Scotland by the Scottish Qualifications Authority Accreditation. RSL is committed to maintaining and improving its reputation for excellence by providing high quality education and training through its syllabuses, examinations, music and resources.

Purpose of this syllabus specification

This specification guide serves the following purposes:

- To provide regulatory information surrounding the qualification
- To provide an overview of qualification structure and content
- To provide content and assessment specification relevant to the qualification

Period of operation

This syllabus specification is valid from April 2023

This syllabus guide outlines the following qualification:

RSL Level 4 Associate Award (Performance)

For detailed information on all aspects of RSL qualifications visit [rslawards.com](https://www.rslawards.com).

Qualification at a glance

Qualification title	Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	Total Qualification Time (TQT)	Credit Value
RSL Level 4 Associate Award (Performance)	10	100	10

Assessment

Form of assessment	All assessments are carried out by external examiners. Candidates are required to carry out a performance.
Unit format	The unit specification contains the title, unit code, level, GLH, TQT and credit value, unit aim and content, learning outcomes (what has to be learnt), grading criteria (how the evidence of learning will be graded), and types of evidence required for the unit.
Assessment bands	There are three bands of assessment (Pass, Merit and Distinction) as well as an Unclassified band for the unit. Overall grades for the qualification are also banded Pass, Merit, Distinction and Unclassified.
Evidence Limits	Candidates may exceed the stated duration by 10%. Assessors will watch and assess performance footage that is up to 10% over the duration stated in the unit specification. Any footage that exceeds this will not be considered by the assessor.
Quality Assurance	Objective sampling and re-assessment of candidates' work ensures that all assessments are carried out to the same standard. A team of external examiners is appointed, trained and standardised by RSL.

1. Qualification summary

1.1 Qualification aim and broad objectives

The aims of the Associate Award qualifications at levels 4 and 6 are:

- To provide progression from the graded examinations progressive mastery framework
- To provide opportunities for learners to develop skills, knowledge and understanding of working in the creative industries
- To provide progression within the Associate Award pathway for higher level technical and professional skills, knowledge and understanding

1.2 Qualification rationale

RSL's Level 4 Associate Award Syllabus 2023 has been designed to build upon RSL's graded examinations in both Music and Performing Arts. It is aimed at candidates intending to work in the music and performing arts industry.

RSL's Level 4 Associate Award continues to provide a progressive mastery approach to music and performing arts and an enjoyable experience for all learners.

1.3 Certification title

The qualification will be shown on the certificate as follows:

RSL Level 4 Associate Award (Performance)

1.4 Post nominals

Achievement of this qualification entitles you to use the following post nominal letters after your name:

PRSL (Practitioner of RSL)

1.5 Entry requirements and progression

Entry requirements

There are no entry requirements for these qualifications. However, candidates should be aware that there will be an expectation of technical proficiency covered in previous qualifications.

Progression routes

RSL's Level 4 and 6 Associate Awards provide a flexible progression route for candidates. They are a positive means of determining progress and enable candidates to learn the necessary techniques to gain entry to industry.

1.6 Candidate profile

Level 4 qualifications are broadly equivalent in terms of demand, but **not** in terms of size, to the first year of a university degree. This qualification is designed for those who have previously completed Grade 8, or equivalent, in their chosen discipline. While the prior completion of a Grade 8 qualification is not compulsory, candidates should already possess the skills, knowledge and experience in line with the standard of a relevant Grade 8 or Level 3 qualification before undertaking this qualification.

Indicative repertoire lists are available for a range of disciplines. In addition to providing repertoire suggestions, these are also a useful resource to gain further insight into the level of skill required for these qualifications.

2. Unit summary

2.1 Unit Overview

Code	Unit title	GLH	TQT	Credit Value
AP401	Repertoire and Technical Skills (Performance)	10	100	10

3. Assessment information

3.1 Assessment methodology

The Level 4 Associate Award is assessed remotely and assessment evidence must be submitted digitally.

All assessment of these qualifications is external and is undertaken by RSL Examiners.

The grade awarded to each learner will depend in practice upon whether the learner has met the grading criteria overall.

All assessment is criterion referenced, based on the achievement of the specified learning outcome (LO). The grading criteria will be used to grade work submitted.

The Level 4 Associate Award contains only one unit and so the grade awarded for the unit is the grade awarded for the qualification.

3.2 Grading criteria

Summary

Grading criteria are specific to the unit and a detailed specification accompanies the unit, outlining what is expected to achieve each grade (Pass, Merit and Distinction). In order to achieve the minimum of a Pass grade, learners must pass the learning outcome within the unit.

Unclassified grades

If work pertaining to the learning outcome is Unclassified, the grade for the unit is also Unclassified.

3.3 Retaking unit assessments

On receipt of summative assessment results, learners are permitted one further attempt (at an additional charge). This is uncapped and is available to any learner, regardless of the original grade awarded. We recommend that applications to retake the unit assessment are made within two weeks of receipt of original grades as this ensures that retakes are completed while the work is still familiar to the learner. Learners have three months to complete and submit any work from the point of application for a retake.

3.4 Evidence limits

Candidates may exceed the stated duration by 10%. Assessors will watch and assess performance footage that is up to 10% over the duration stated in the unit specification. Any footage that exceeds this will not be considered by the assessor.

3.5 Quality assurance

Objective sampling and re-assessment of candidates' work ensures that all assessments are carried out to the same standard. A team of external examiners is appointed, trained and standardised by RSL.

All RSL qualifications are standardised in accordance with the processes and procedures laid down by RSL.

4. Candidate Access and Registration

4.3 Expectations of Knowledge, Skills and Understanding

The Level 4 Associate Award contains assessment outcomes at Level 4 which is broadly equivalent to the first year of an undergraduate degree. Learners will need to ensure that they can access the appropriate training or learning opportunities to gain the skills, knowledge and understanding required for this level.

It is recommended that learners contact a suitable trainer or mentor who will be able to provide them with opportunities for learning and practical application of skills.

4.1 Access and registration

This qualification will:

- Be available to everyone who is capable of reaching the required standards
- Be free from any barriers that restrict access and progression
- Offer equal opportunities for all wishing to access the qualification

RSL publishes information about the requirements and demands of the qualification.

All evidence is submitted online for external assessment by RSL by individual candidates. Each learner will have their own personal log-in and password through which their submission will be made and through which a grade will be awarded.

RSL does not offer a course of study leading to the award of this qualification or any formative guidance throughout; it assesses submissions from learners who have studied and prepared externally. Where teachers and centres are mentoring learners, RSL has no quality assurance of these teachers and centres and, as such, has no liability for provision.

Where bulk uploads of registrations are made by centres, the same rules apply as above and RSL's communication will remain directly with the individual learner.

Candidates should complete the qualification in 1 year from the date of registration. Extensions to this time can be applied for by directly contacting RSL awards at info@rslawards.com.

4.2 Accessing data and information

Learners will be able to review the progress of their study through the learner pages. These are learner specific and can be accessed through a personal password system, which will allow a learner to view their own records of registration and achievement but not those of any other learner.

5. Further Information and Contact

5.1 Repertoire approval

Repertoire for this qualification must be approved in advance.

All repertoire should be agreed at least 6 weeks in advance of the submission of the video with RSL, using the repertoire approval form. The approval form can be viewed in the downloadable resources for the qualification, which can be found on your RSL account after registration, or by signing into your account and following the link below:

<https://cloud.rslawards.com/secure/diplomas/download-resources>

Chosen repertoire will be checked to ensure that it is comparable to the standard of the indicative repertoire lists and approval will be given once this check is complete.

You must submit complete programmes and may send in only one complete programme for approval at any time. We are unable to consider approval of individual pieces. RSL will aim to approve programmes within 15 working days. If RSL is unable to approve programmes within this time you will be notified accordingly.

If the proposed repertoire is agreed, RSL will issue a permission statement, which will remain valid for twelve months. You should submit the evidence for this unit within this timescale. If the proposed repertoire is not agreed, RSL will contact the learner by email. The learner should then change piece(s) as necessary and re-submit the whole programme (or replace the whole programme with pieces from the relevant repertoire list).

In approving programme proposals, we do not consider either timing or balance. The approval is simply in terms of technical and/or musical difficulty, and it is the learner's responsibility to design an appropriate and balanced programme that complies with the stipulated timings.

RSL cannot accept responsibility if you submit evidence for this unit before requesting approval for your programme. RSL's decision on approval of any item or programme is final.

The indicative repertoire can be viewed here: <https://www.rslawards.com/associate-award-performance/>

5.2 Complaints and appeals

All procedures related to complaints and appeals can be found on the RSL website www.rslawards.com

5.3 Equal opportunities

RSL's Equal Opportunities policy can be found on the RSL website www.rslawards.com

5.4 Contact for help and support

All email correspondence about this qualification should be directed to:

info@rslawards.com

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Unit Specification

Repertoire and Technical Skills (Performance)

Unit code: AP401

Level 4

TQT: 100

GLH: 10

Unit aim

This unit follows the progressive mastery framework of graded examinations at Grades 1-8 and vocational graded examinations in dance at Intermediate and Advanced Foundation. The aim of this unit is to further develop advanced technical skills beyond the standard required for Grade 8/Advanced Foundation and present these through a practical performance.

Learning outcomes

Through completion of this unit, you will:

1. Demonstrate an advanced level of technical and interpretative skill through performance

Grading criteria

Pass	The performance demonstrated mostly secure control of repertoire including complex elements and reflecting a suitable theme. Structural features were clearly grasped but there may have been a little hesitation and/or some minor slips. A sound and secure understanding of interpretation, and a developing awareness of the subtleties of performance and engagement with the audience, were demonstrated.
Merit	The performance demonstrated secure and confident control of repertoire including complex elements and reflecting a suitable theme. Structural features were clearly and authoritatively grasped but there may have been some very minor hesitation and/or the occasional slip at times. A secure and confident understanding of interpretation, and a solid understanding of the subtleties of performance and engagement with the audience, were demonstrated.
Distinction	The performance demonstrated highly assured control of repertoire including complex elements and reflecting a suitable theme. Structural features were secure and sustained throughout the performance. Any hesitation or slips were negligible and did not materially affect the success of the overall performance. A mature and confident understanding of interpretation, and a highly developed understanding of the subtleties of performance and engagement with the audience, were demonstrated.

Assessment Evidence

This unit will be assessed through the demonstration of performance. You should provide:

- A video of the **continuous performance** to a **live audience**, lasting **35 minutes**

The recording needs to be continuous with **no editing** or **post-production** or **alteration** permitted, including pitch correction.

The audience must be visible or clearly audible in the recording before, after and/or during the performance.

The **theme** for the performance **must be clearly stated** on the **repertoire approval form**.

Unit Content

What are advanced technical skills?

At Level 4, candidates are required to demonstrate their ability to identify, adapt and use appropriate skills to inform actions and address problems that are complex and non-routine while normally fairly well-defined. In the context of this unit this means that candidates should select performance material that includes complex elements, in advance of those normally demonstrated for Grade 8, Intermediate or Advanced Foundation, and their performance will need to clearly meet the demands of such repertoire.

For further guidance, please see the indicative repertoire list for your chosen discipline, available at <https://www.rslawards.com/associate-award-performance/>

Broadly speaking, these skills include:

- The ability to show technical mastery and personal style in performance
- The use of an extensive vocabulary of musical skills and/or dance movements and/or acting skills
- Assured musicality and/or artistry
- The ability to demonstrate a performance as a coherent entity in a confident and assured manner through:
 - Integrating personal knowledge and experience with the repertoire required in your chosen discipline/instrument
 - Appropriate subtleties of performance
 - Evidence of varied and challenging work being undertaken
 - The ability to communicate subtleties of interpretation effectively
 - The ability to interpret the repertoire for your chosen discipline/instrument with a developing sense of individuality and style
- An adaptable, self-confident approach to performance skills

The content of the performance is dictated by the complexity of the repertoire chosen for an individual discipline/instrument. You may choose one of the following disciplines/instruments which is offered by RSL:

Music – Any discipline that RSL currently offers at Grade 8

Dance – Street, Jazz

Performing Arts – Musical Theatre (Acting and/or Singing and/or Dancing)/Acting disciplines

You will be expected to perform a programme of own choice pieces with a duration of **35 minutes**.

Live performance to an audience

The pieces chosen for this unit can be performed either as solo or accompanied. The accompaniment can be live or via a backing track. If a backing track is used, another person can be present to operate any technical equipment.

The audience for the performance should be **a minimum of two people** who are at the performance for the purpose of viewing it. The audience should not include others involved in the production of the performance, including the teacher/tutor.

Choosing appropriate repertoire

You should compile/create/choreograph and perform a varied and contrasting programme around a theme of your own choosing. The programme should be of the required duration and result in a balanced performance.

Content can be drawn from the indicative repertoire lists; however this is not a requirement. Innovative and creative approaches to programme building, which reflect the candidate's strengths and interests as a performer, are encouraged; this may include for example repertoire composed or created by the candidate, and/or repertoire which requires significant improvised elements. Programmes which are varied in terms of style, mood, genre, technique etc. are more likely to fulfil the assessment criteria.

Please note that repertoire chosen should be suitable for a particular discipline or instrument and that a performance on multiple instruments or disciplines is not appropriate for this unit.

Theme

Candidates must build their programme around a theme to ensure that the performance given is cohesive and coherent. The choice of theme is down to the candidate; however this is likely to include a specific topic or idea which is explored within the performance material. Suggestions for themes and guidance on choosing a theme can be found in the submission guidance, which can be found on your RSL account after registration, or by signing into your account and following the link below:

<https://cloud.rslawards.com/secure/diplomas/download-resources>

Candidates must state their theme on the repertoire approval form.

Approval of repertoire

Repertoire for this unit must be approved prior to submission.

Please see page 8 of this specification for information about RSL's process for the approval of repertoire.

Indicative repertoire lists are available for a range of disciplines. In addition to providing repertoire suggestions, these are also a useful resource to gain further insight into the level of skill required for these qualifications.

Use of notes during the performance

You may refer to choreographic/musical/performance notes during the performance if you wish. These may include prompts or notes regarding the set list or programme. Musicians may perform using scores, lead sheets and/or charts. However, these must not interfere with the performance or the level of audience engagement, and no additional credit will be given in the assessment for the use (or non-use) of such material.