

Graded Qualifications Alliance

Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) Levels 3 - 5

Graded Vocational Examinations in Theatre Dance

**based on programmes devised by
the
British Theatre Dance Association**

Syllabus/Specification

**Endorsed
Classical Ballet
Tap and Modern Jazz**

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1. Rationale

Dance transforms images, ideas and feelings into movement sequences that are emotionally and socially significant. It provides a context for understanding the world and contributes to cultural and personal development in both applied and expressive contexts. Dance offers opportunities for the exploration, discovery and development of natural instincts for movement and offers many benefits for candidates by encouraging aesthetic and emotional development as well as enhancing motor skills.

GQAL is committed to ensuring access to all candidates who have the capacity to safely participate in its examinations. GQAL Graded Vocational Examinations in Theatre Dance make a distinctive contribution to education, training and employment in the expressive and performing arts. This is because they:

- encourage individual candidates to select vocational pathways that provide for the development of expressive and/or applied abilities and interests;
- enable candidates to work towards qualifications that meet their aspirations for a range of careers (e.g. as performers, professional dancers, teachers or physiotherapists);
- place an emphasis on performance, especially in vocationally oriented contexts;
- provide all candidates with opportunities to experience, understand, and value the language and art of dance enabling them to develop a broad base of skills and abilities in different disciplines.

This specification offers candidates the scope to study several dance disciplines in order to make progress through performance, thereby developing their knowledge, skills and understanding of dance. This encourages a broad and continuing interest and participation in dance as an expressive medium, and appropriate progression for those who aspire to careers as theatre dance professionals or in related occupations. The specification aims and objectives emphasise the breadth of study and the development of practical abilities. There is an explicit requirement and emphasis upon performance and an expectation that candidates will be able to demonstrate the critical and contextual knowledge necessary for an understanding, skill and enjoyment of dance.

The content of the specification, the structure of the examination, and the method of assessment place a clear emphasis on making progress and acquiring transferable skills, through the performance of the skills and artistry of dance and related disciplines. These include opportunities for the development of:

- creative expression;
- aesthetic perception, i.e. communicating emotions and feelings through movement;
- kinaesthetic sense;
- cultural understanding;
- work related skills including co-operation and teamwork; self-expression and self-esteem; organisation and problem solving; critical thinking and analytical skills.

2. Specification Aims

A course of study based on this specification aims to:

- promote the progression of performance in dance as a medium for personal expression and enjoyment within a vocational context;
- encourage the acquisition and development of personal, social, emotional, creative and physical abilities, and work related skills;
- provide opportunities for active and discriminating participation both as a performer and viewer within a vocational context;
- encourage the acquisition of aesthetic and critical understanding;

- develop increasing awareness of the cultural contribution of dance.

3. Specification Objectives

The content is intended to enable the following objectives to be met through a course of study which provides opportunities for:

- interpretation and choice of styles and dance disciplines within a coherent and structured context;
- developing the knowledge, skills and understanding of the disciplines and concepts of dance in a vocational and professional context;
- demonstrating increasing levels of self confidence, esteem and interpersonal skills;
- practical work based on sound principles that pay due regard to the health, safety and well being of those involved;
- gaining knowledge and understanding of dance as an art form in relation to different cultural and vocational contexts;
- acquiring knowledge and understanding of the demands and requirements placed upon dance professionals in vocational and professional contexts.

The purpose of the specification may be summarised as fostering intuitive, aesthetic and imaginative thinking expressed through dance and encouraging active and continuing participation in the performing arts, particularly in vocational and professional contexts.

4. Progression

Progression is achieved through the Graded Examination structure, with each of the grades being progressively differentiated by content and shown through performance. Progression through the vocational grades may lead to dance teaching qualifications, higher education courses, or employment within the wider dance context, e.g. (i) performers within musical theatre and as a dancer or entertainer, (ii) professionals as a director, choreographer, producer, or within promotion/marketing/advertising.

The opportunities for progression underline the contribution of this specification to the national provision of training and qualifications for dancers in the theatre and allied professions. Candidates are able to select pathways that provide for the development of expressive and/or applied abilities and interests, and to work towards qualifications that meet their aspirations for a range of careers as outlined above.

5. Target Groups

The specification provides opportunities for students who are preparing for careers as professional dancers and in related occupations. Because of the physical demands posed by the specification the minimum age for entry is twelve years. The minimum requirement for entry to courses teaching this specification is at the General Graded Examination in Theatre Dance at Grade 5 or equivalent. The typical age for starting this Vocational Graded Examination is 14 years and a candidate completing all five grades could expect to do this in about 5 years. Many candidates will complete grades in several disciplines during this time.

Mature students who are considering following this specification are encouraged to contact GQAL for a list of teachers in their area and for advice on what is appropriate for them.

Minimum Age	Grades	RQF Level
12	Intermediate Advanced Foundation	3
12	Advanced 1 Advanced 2	4
15	Professional Development in Theatre Dance	5

6. Specification Overview

The vocational grades progress through **Intermediate** (Level 3), **Advanced Foundation** (Level 3), **Advanced 1** (Level 4), **Advanced 2** (Level 4), and **Diploma in Professional Development** (Level 5) examinations. Progression through the Grades is provided through a **Programme of Study** based on this specification. Each grade requires the practical demonstration of the minimum levels of achievement set out in the **Level Descriptions**.

7. Subject Content

Throughout the specification subject content is comprised of three interrelated compulsory Examination Components (areas of study):

- Performance Skills and Technique;
- Choreography, Direction and Teaching;
- Cultural and Physiological Aspects of Dance.

Performance Skills and Technique is based upon the ability to:

- show technique, physical strength, stamina, the ability to perform creatively and with expression and musicality.
- recognise, reflect and understand the attributes which contribute and enhance a personal performance.

Choreography is based upon how feelings and concepts are translated into movement in various styles, rhythms and patterns and the way these are applied creatively. Direction is about receiving and interpreting direction in a theatrical environment, whilst Teaching is about acquiring the ability to understand and teach the principles of sound technique in ways that are appropriate to task and ability.

Cultural and Physiological Aspects of Dance is understanding (i) that dance takes different forms in different cultures and that these result in different traditions, styles and purposes, (ii) the career opportunities available to dance professionals and what it is like to live and work as a dancer, (iii) the importance to dancers of developing and maintaining physical and mental well being and safe working practices.

8. Examination Components

The three Examination Components are summarised in the table below:

Examination Components	Intermediate Level 3	Advanced Foundation Level 3	Advanced 1 Level 4	Advanced 2 Level 4	Professional Development Level 5
Performance Skills	Management of self	Working with others	Exploring performance styles	Working as a Professional.	Working as a Professional
	Personal Style	Accepting direction, criticism and responsibility	Adaptability	Critical thought.	Relationships
Technique (Barre, Centre & Dance)	Self discipline	Responding to others	Self-evaluation	Strengths and weaknesses.	Research
	Grooming	Working with rules	Motivation		Movement sequences their purpose, contribution
	Time keeping				Prepare own programme
	Responsibility				
	Content is determined by the repertoire set for each Grade and discipline and is differentiated by demand and outcome. All candidates are expected to show evidence that they have achieved this repertoire in Barre, Centre and Dance.				
Choreography	Investigate the meaning of choreography	Investigate a chosen piece	Investigate and analyse performance structures	Investigate Male and Female roles	Prepared choreographed solo by candidate
	Study a choreographed piece	Discuss tempos and mood		Difference. Implementation	
Direction	Interpret instructions	Interpret directions	Interpret directions	Interpret directions	Differing creative interpretation.
	Technical direction	Technical direction	Technical direction	Technical direction	Ability to adapt from receiving to giving direction
	Amalgamation set by examiner	Amalgamation set by examiner	Amalgamation set by examiner	Amalgamation set by examiner	Following examiners instructions adapt a movement sequence (e.g. change of style & tempo)
	Take & respond	Take & respond	Recognise different time signatures Take & respond	Take & respond Recognise tempo change Improvisation	
Teaching	Understanding of basic technique and correct stance	Investigate teaching of basic steps	Constructing a sequence for a particular level of ability	Constructing a sequence for 2 different levels of ability	Teaching a sequence, building blocks, and explanations
	Development of technical skills	Breathing techniques			
Cultural	Investigate the origin of the dance discipline	Investigate a major influence on the dance discipline	Dance in other cultures	The role of the dance professional	Living and working as a dance professional
Physiological	Personal responsibility	Health in performance	Physiology for dancers	Health & Safety for dancers	Maintaining Professional levels of fitness
	Emergency procedures	Recording injury and accidents			

9. Total Qualification Time

Each Graded Vocational Examination follows the same pattern and will require the following minimum amount of study hours.

Grade	Guided Learning Hours	Other learning Hours: eg practice	Total Qualification Time	Current Credit Value
Intermediate	150	125	275	28
Advanced Foundation	150	125	275	28
Advanced 1	150	175	325	33
Advanced 2	150	225	375	38
Professional Development	150	230	380	38

10. Availability of Examinations and Entry Details

These examinations are available to anyone who:

- is 12 years of age or over at the time of entry for Intermediate to Advanced 2 and 15 years of age or over at the time of entry for the Professional Development Level;
- has the physical capacity to safely reach the required standard;
- has GQAL General Graded Examination Grade 5 or its equivalent.

All candidates must enter at the Vocational Graded Examination Intermediate Grade in each discipline selected. Entry to the Advanced Foundation through to the Professional Development Grades requires the candidate to have obtained a Pass at the previous Grade in each discipline, before being entered for the next Grade in that discipline.

GQAL entry requirements are intended to ensure that there are no barriers to restrict access and progression and that equal opportunities exist for all candidates.

Centres and teachers are required to provide applicants with information and advice on the Programme of Study, the level of demand and associated physical requirements, and the expectations of performance at the Grade sought. GQAL reserves the right to decline entry to an examination where previous qualifications, experience and level of physical fitness give rise to concerns about the safety and well being of the candidate during an examination performance.

Examinations are available through the teacher with a minimum notice period, further details are available from GQAL.

There are no entry restrictions placed on candidates who are studying for other qualifications in Dance with other Awarding Organisations.

The examination will be conducted by either a Visiting Examiner, or a Remote Examiner. The option of a remote examination is at the discretion of GQAL, Centres/Teachers wishing to have the examination conducted remotely should make a request to GQAL. GQAL reserves the right to insist on remote examining in certain circumstances.

11. Duration of Examinations

All examinations are performance based and are structured so that the duration of each examination provides opportunities for all candidates to demonstrate achievement in the chosen discipline whilst ensuring comparability of demand across the disciplines. The duration of examinations is set out in the following table.

	Intermediate	Advanced Foundation	Advanced 1 and 2	Professional Development
Maximum duration of the Examination in minutes	70	90	90	90

At each level and between some grades there is an increase in the time required to ensure that multiple candidates have adequate opportunities to demonstrate the necessary levels of performance.

12. Scheme of Assessment

Assessment is by external examination.

The marking scheme comprises a balanced and interrelated structure of **Examination Components** and **Assessment Categories**. Taken together they form a matrix that enables the performance of each candidate to be systematically assessed and marked in order to produce both a final score and a profile of achievement.

There are **three Examination Components**, (i) Performance Skills & Technique (PST) - Barre, Centre, Dance, Performance Understanding, (ii) Choreography, Direction & Teaching (CDT) and (iii) Cultural & Physiological aspects of Dance (CPD).

The **six Assessment Categories** are, (i) Technique, (ii) Musicality, (iii) Appearance, (iv) Performance Skills, (v) Knowledge & Understanding (K & U), (vi) Professional Practice.

During the examination candidates will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate performance in the **six** Assessment Categories.

1. **Technique** that is correct, secure, safe and controlled.
2. **Musicality** that shows awareness of appropriate timing, speed, interpretation, feeling and expression.
3. **Appearance** that shows personal discipline, confidence, and responsiveness.
4. **Performance Skills** that are projected with flair and individuality

5. **Knowledge and Understanding** by responding to the examiner’s instructions with knowledge of the responses required and delivery that is confident and responsive.
6. **Professional Practice** shown through systematic preparation, understanding of professional requirements and delivery that is confident and responsive.

Candidates are required to produce a personal ‘journal’ or ‘project’ as a working document which captures their personal research, critical reflection and their broad dance related curriculum. This will not be formally assessed but will contribute towards the discussions between them and the examiner that forms part of the ‘Viva’ or ‘Questions’ used to assess the candidate.

Mark Allocation Tables

Level 3 & 4 Examination Components and Assessment Categories ~ Intermediate / Advanced Foundation / Advanced 1 / Advanced 2 ~														
	Technique			Mus	App	Performance Skills		K & U	Professional Practice					
	Tech A	Tech B	Tech C			PS A	PS B		PP A	PP B	PP C			
Barre	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5						
Centre	5	5	5	5			5	5						
Dance	5	5	5	5			5	5						
P Skills										5	5	5		
CDT	5	5	5	5					5	5	5	5		
CPD										5	5	5		

Level 5 Examination Components and Assessment Categories ~ Professional Development ~												
		Tech	Mus	P Skill	K & U	App	Professional Practice					
							A	B	C			
Barre	B1	5	5	5	5	5						
	B2	5	5	5	5					5	5	5
	B3	5	5	5	5							
Centre	C1	5	5	5	5							
	C2	5	5	5	5							
	C3	5	5	5	5							
Dance	D1	5	5	5	5							
	D2	5	5	5	5							
	D3	5	5	5	5							
PS						5				5	5	

CDT	Own Solo	5	5	5	5		5	5	5
	Direction						5	5	5
	Teaching						5	5	5
CPD	Cultural						5	5	5
	Physical		5	5	5				

Candidates will be asked questions during any examination component and during time allocated as a 'Viva' within the time allocated for the examination. Marks are awarded for Professional Practice A~Preparation; B~Understanding; C~Delivery. Examples of questions and tasks for each grade are given in the Programme of Study.

WEIGHTINGS OF ASSESSMENT CATEGORIES							
		Tech %	Mus %	App %	P. Skills %	K&U %	Prof Practice %
L3	Intermediate. Advanced Foundation.	45	10	5	15	15	10
L4	Advanced 1. Advanced 2.	30	10	5	15	10	30
L5	Professional Practice.	15	10	5	15	5	50

The description of what is required at each Level for each Assessment Category is termed **Assessment Criteria**. Each **Assessment Criteria** is exemplified by reference to a list of terms that describe how it is to be understood and applied. These lists of terms are provided to guide and direct examiners as a means of ensuring common levels of understanding and expectation.

13. Level 3 (RQF) Assessment Criteria

Level 3 Vocational Dance examinations provide evidence that dance students have an increasing awareness of the demands of the dance profession and demonstrate SOUND AND ESTABLISHED dance skills, understanding and artistry in the Assessment Criteria. Differentiation between Intermediate and Advanced Foundation is defined by the progressive requirements, and expectations prescribed in the Practical and Professional Practice Programmes of Study for each grade. These Programmes of Study provide a framework for the teaching and learning of the vocabulary and SOUND AND ESTABLISHED skills, understanding, artistry and professional development.

LEVEL 3 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA		
Assessment Category	Assessment Criteria	
Technique	Tech A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • placement • stance • alignment 	Precise foot/ankle placement is demonstrated. Body posture, leg and arm position and alignment is fully coordinated and established .
	Tech B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance • strength • control 	Secure balance is maintained . Core strength, technical accuracy and control of the body and limbs are demonstrated with assurance in response to the demands of the required sequences and combinations. (Quality of tone in tap)
	Tech C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flexibility • elevation • stamina 	Suppleness and agility is demonstrated . Elevation and energy where appropriate consistently sustained in the delivery of the required sequences.
Musicality	Musicality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • timing • interpretation • feeling 	Work is demonstrated with correct timing and an ability to interpret a range of musical expression and styles .
Appearance	Appearance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as required in the programme of study 	Ballet – Modern Jazz - Tap
Performance Skills	PS A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • personality • flair • projection 	The communication of emotion/expression to an audience is fully integrated into the performance . Flair and individuality and an understanding of the relationship between performer and an audience is evident .
	PS B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attitude • responsiveness • spatial awareness 	The dance space is fully utilised as a part of dance expression. A positive and confident attitude and responsiveness to the examiner is evident throughout .
Knowledge and Understanding	K & U <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • understanding 	Thorough knowledge and understanding of the movement vocabulary and requirements of the programme of study.
Professional Practice	PP A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparation 	The candidate must be able to discuss, reflect and show evidence of preparation and research .
	PP B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understanding 	Candidates must show, and be able to communicate, their knowledge and understanding of the requirements.
	PP C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivery 	Confident and articulate responses required.

14. Level 4 (RQF) Assessment Criteria

Level 4 Vocational Dance examinations provide evidence that dance students have a clear and focussed awareness of the demands of the dance profession and demonstrate HIGHLY DEVELOPED dance skills, understanding and artistry in the Assessment Criteria. Differentiation between Advanced 1 and Advanced 2 is defined by the progressive requirements, and expectations prescribed in the Practical and Professional Practice Programmes of Study for each grade. These Programmes of Study provide a framework for the teaching and learning of the vocabulary and HIGHLY DEVELOPED skills, understanding, artistry and professional development.

LEVEL 4 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA		
Assessment Category	Assessment Criteria	
Technique	Tech A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • placement • stance • alignment 	Precise foot/ankle placement is sustained . Correct body posture and alignment is fully coordinated and consistently established .
	Tech B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance • strength • control 	Core strength, balance, technical accuracy and control of the body and limbs are sustained in response to the demands of the required sequences and combinations. (Quality of tone in tap)
	Tech C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flexibility • elevation • stamina 	Suppleness and agility, elevation and where appropriate are consistently sustained throughout in the delivery of the required sequences.
Musicality	Musicality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • timing • interpretation • feeling 	Consistently demonstrate understanding and musical interpretation of the mood and style of the musical phrasing and dynamics.
Appearance	Appearance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as required in the programme of study 	Ballet – Modern Jazz - Tap
Performance Skills	PS A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • personality • flair • projection 	The performer shows flair and individuality and effectively engages with the audience . The communication of emotion and expression is fully integrated .
	PS B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attitude • responsiveness • spatial awareness 	The dance space is fully utilised as a part of dance expression. A positive and confident attitude is consistently demonstrated in response to the examiner.
Knowledge and Understanding	K & U <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge • understanding 	Thorough knowledge and understanding of the movement vocabulary and requirements of the programme of study.
Professional Practice	PP A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparation 	The candidate must show evidence of research and preparation , be able to discuss and reflect .
	PP B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understanding 	Candidates must show and be able to communicate a thorough knowledge and understanding of the requirements
	PP C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivery 	The delivery should be articulate, clear and confident with an ability to demonstrate purposefully the subject matter with a positive attitude .

15. Level 5 (RQF) Assessment Criteria

Level 5 Vocational Dance examinations provides evidence that the dance student can **INDEPENDENTLY APPLY** their knowledge, skills and the techniques required both in theory and in practice. That they understand the demands made on a working dance professional and are able to maintain the personal levels of health, fitness and stamina that this requires. That they show a **CREATIVE AND INDIVIDUAL APPROACH** to their choreography, direction and teaching and the enthusiasm to communicate this with others in order to motivate and encourage them, and they project the performance skills necessary to dance with the **FLAIR, CONFIDENCE AND INDIVIDUALITY** needed to **ENGAGE AN AUDIENCE**.

LEVEL 5 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA		
Assessment Category	Assessment Criteria	
Technique		
<i>Set</i>	TECHNIQUE ~ placement, stance, alignment, balance, strength, control, flexibility, elevation, stamina, (Quality of tone in tap)	Technique is established and sustained with technical accuracy and precision .
<i>Candidate</i>		Technique is established and sustaining showing the appropriate relationship between the chosen steps and the music .
<i>Examiner</i>		Technique is established and sustained with technical accuracy and precision .
Musicality		
<i>Set</i>	MUSICALITY ~ timing, interpretation, feeling	Correct timing showing musical interpretation, understanding of musical phrasing and dynamics . Awareness of different time signatures.
<i>Candidate</i>		Demonstrate artistic quality using a mixed range of musical choices to enhance the interpretation of the appropriate content.
<i>Examiner</i>		Demonstrate an understanding and ability to interpret the music provided showing the appropriate artistic quality .
Appearance	APPEARANCE ~ as required in the programme of study	Ballet – Modern Jazz - Tap
Performance Skills	PERFORMANCE SKILLS ~ personality, flair, projection, attitude, responsiveness, spatial awareness.	Projection of performance skill necessary to dance with flair and individuality . The ability to reflect and evaluate choices made in self-initiated work The dance space is fully utilised as a part of dance expression. A positive and confident attitude is consistently demonstrated in response to the examiner.

Knowledge and Understanding		
<i>Set</i>	K & U ~ knowledge, understanding.	Competent knowledge and understanding of the Programme of Study requirements.
<i>Candidate</i>		Sound knowledge and understanding of the chosen movement vocabulary and appropriate use of both time signatures and musical expression.
<i>Examiner</i>		Competent knowledge and understanding of the requested movement vocabulary .
Professional Practice		
	PP A ~ preparation	The candidate must show evidence of research and preparation and be able to discuss and reflect .
	PP B ~ understanding	Candidates must show, and be able to communicate a thorough knowledge and understanding of the requirements.
	PP C ~ delivery	The delivery should be articulate, clear and confident with an ability to demonstrate purposefully the subject matter with a positive attitude and approach.

16. Marking

Marks are awarded for the extent to which the performance of a candidate matches each of the six **Assessment Categories and Criteria** for the **Examination Components** as shown in the **Mark Allocation Tables** (See Section 12 Scheme of Assessment).

For each of the **Assessment Criteria** within each **Assessment Category**, a mark between 0 and 5 will be awarded indicating the degree to which the candidate has met the **Required Standard** as defined in the **Marking Grid** below.

MARKING GRID					
0	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Required standard not demonstrated</i>	<i>Required standard demonstrated in a very limited way</i>	<i>Required standard demonstrated in a way that is sometimes limited and sometimes partial</i>	<i>Required standard demonstrated in a way that is sometimes partial and sometimes of the required standard</i>	<i>Required standard demonstrated</i>	<i>Required standard exceeded</i>

The descriptions in the **Assessment Criteria** are to be used in conjunction with the requirements of the **Programme of Study** for each Grade. The judgement is made by the examiner in relation to the appropriate **Level Description**.

The total number of marks awarded for each Level is given below:

Level	Mark
Level 3	175
Level 4	175
Level 5	335

17. Level Descriptions

Level Descriptions provide a guide to the qualities and extent of the level of performance that candidates achieving a particular grade are expected to demonstrate. Strength in one area of performance may compensate for weakness in another. The overall achievement necessary to match these descriptions will have been demonstrated by a candidate awarded a Pass. Candidates achieving a Pass with Merit, or a Pass with Distinction, will have matched and exceeded the qualities of performance described. The Level Descriptions form a context for the examiner judgement and when taken as a whole, are indicative of expectations; they are assessed through the Assessment Components and Assessment Criteria.

Level 3 Assessment Criteria (see section 13) cover the **Intermediate and Advanced Foundation** grades.

Level 4 Assessment Criteria (see section 14) cover the **Advanced 1 and Advanced 2** grades.

Level 5 Assessment Criteria (see section 15) cover the **Professional Development** grades.

The candidate's performance of the progressively challenging programmes of study within each level description determines the grade within that level range.

18. National Standards

Comparability across different dance awarding organisations against national level descriptors were established as set out in the table below and on page 16 and 17.

The awarding organisations developed a national set of level descriptors for Graded Examinations in Dance for the original accreditation of these qualifications. The recognised awarding organisations for dance qualifications under the auspices of the Council for Dance Education and Training (CDET), now known as CDMT, came together to collectively review the original set of descriptors. The resulting descriptors aim to deliver two functions (i) to provide a set of benchmarks to which future graded dance qualifications will be developed and (ii) to provide benchmarks which will provide a basis for ongoing comparability and maintenance of standards within and between awarding organisations. On reviewing the original set of descriptors, the awarding organisations feel that these remain an accurate reflection of level for any new qualifications developed .

Level descriptors for Vocational Graded Examinations in Dance

General descriptor	Knowledge statement (the holder ...)	Skills statement (the holder can....)
Achievement at Level 3 reflects the ways in which candidates make the transition from expressive and personal motivation for dance to a disciplined attitude necessary for aspiring to work as a dance professional. Candidates build upon	Demonstrates a sound and established knowledge and understanding of the technique and vocabulary required within the chosen dance genre. Will be able to apply a broad knowledge	Demonstrate consolidated technical skills through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fluent use of the dance movement vocabulary • the acquisition of an increased range of movements in sequences of increased length and complexity • an ability to sustain an appropriate sense of style throughout more complex sequences • those additional elements of movement vocabulary and/or technique required for progression to professional work

<p>a range of skills, knowledge and understanding in relation to an increasingly refined vocabulary of movement and artistic interpretation showing an increased confidence, assurance and sensitivity.</p> <p>In addition an increasing understanding of professional contexts will be demonstrated and applied in performance and practice.</p>	<p>and understanding of their genre to their own work and demonstrate knowledge of the role of a dance professional and the need for safe and healthy working practices and the professional context for dance.</p>	<p>Demonstrate enhanced musical and artistic qualities through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • greater understanding of mood, dynamics and rhythm • a sensitive personal interpretation of musical mood <p>Demonstrate performance through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the execution of appropriately demanding pre-set steps, movements and sequences • expression and fluidity of movement involving dynamics and use of space • the confidence and ability to individually interpret directions within their chosen dance discipline/genre and use the performance skills necessary to engage an audience.
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General descriptor	Knowledge statement (the holder ...)	Skills statement (the holder can....)
<p>Achievement at Level 4 reflects the ways in which candidates build upon a range of skills, knowledge and understanding to demonstrate the disciplined attitude necessary for aspiring to work as a dance professional. Candidates will demonstrate an increasingly sophisticated vocabulary of movement and artistry showing confidence, assurance and professional awareness in application. In addition, a thorough understanding of professional contexts will be demonstrated and applied in performance and practice.</p>	<p>Demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge of the repertoire and vocabulary of their chosen dance genre.</p> <p>Demonstrates the ability to comment critically on others' work with reference to the broader context of dance provision.</p> <p>Demonstrates knowledge of the world of dance and its relationship to the aspects of choreography and direction that underpin professional development as a dancer and the ability to relate this to working in professional contexts.</p>	<p>Demonstrate evidence of personal style and technical mastery through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a wide range of movements performed with stamina and safely developed technical strength • the use of an extensive dance movement vocabulary <p>Demonstrate assured musicality and artistry through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a highly developed understanding of mood, dynamics and rhythm • an increasingly mature interpretation of the music <p>Demonstrate a performance as a coherent entity in a confident and assured manner through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ability to integrate personal knowledge and experience with the repertoire required in their chosen dance discipline/genre, using this as the basis for improvisation in their work. • subtleties of performance • evidence of more varied and challenging work being undertaken • the ability to communicate subtleties of interpretation effectively (both solo and/or ensemble) • the ability to interpret the repertoire for their chosen dance discipline/genre with a developing sense of individuality and style • an adaptable, self-confident approach to performance skills.

General descriptor	Knowledge statement (the holder ...)	Skills statement (the holder can....)
<p>Achievement at Level 5 shows practical and theoretical knowledge and understanding of the discipline or field of work to find ways forward in broadly defined, complex contexts. Can analyse, interpret and evaluate relevant information, concepts and ideas. Is aware of the nature and scope of the area of study or work. Understands different perspectives, approaches or schools of thought and the reasoning behind them.</p>	<p>Determine, adapt and use appropriate methods, cognitive and practical skills to address broadly defined, complex problems. Use relevant research or development to inform actions. Evaluate actions, methods and results.</p>	<p>Demonstrate a high level of knowledge and understanding in the chosen dance genre including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed knowledge of the repertoire • Detailed understanding of the repertoire <p>Perform complex movement sequences showing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high level of technical skill • Appropriate physical awareness, strength and stamina • A high level of understanding of musical interpretation and complex rhythmical sounds, accents and timings • The ability to engage with an audience and an understanding of the subtleties of performance <p>Choreograph a performance piece which demonstrates a high level of knowledge and understanding of the chosen dance genre and an appropriate range of technical and creative skills</p> <p>Adapt and improvise movement sequences and performances in response to direction and independently as appropriate</p> <p>Demonstrate an informed and in depth understanding of the requirements of living and working as a dance professional</p> <p>Demonstrate an understanding of and the ability to maintain professional levels of fitness</p>

19. Candidates with Additional Needs

Information on assessment, examination and entry requirements for candidates with additional needs are published on the GQAL Website and are also provided in the Teachers Handbook. In addition you can contact GQAL Head Office.

20. Examination Results

Results and certificates will normally be issued within six weeks after the date of the examination. This time is necessary to ensure that all results are properly standardised and checked by GQAL.

21. Awards of Pass, Pass with Merit, or Pass with Distinction

Depending on the level of performance demonstrated during the examination a candidate may be awarded either a Pass, or a Pass with Merit, or a Pass with Distinction. Each award broadly corresponds with the following descriptions of achievement and requires that the candidate obtains or exceeds the minimum number of marks set as the boundary for the award.

Award	Description of Achievement	Mark Boundary
Pass	<p>To achieve the award of a Pass the performance of a candidate must reach or partially reach the required standard of dance skills in most but not necessarily all of the assessment criteria.</p> <p>The performance of some candidates may have exceeded the required standard in one or more aspects of the examination and this reflects the fact that strength in one aspect may compensate for weakness in another.</p> <p>A defining characteristic of the overall performance of a candidate awarded a Pass is that it reaches or partially reaches the required standard of dance skills indicated in the Level Descriptions, and the repertoire defined in the Programme of Study.</p>	44%
Merit	<p>To achieve the award of a Pass with Merit the performance of a candidate must reach the required standard of dance skills in the majority of assessment criteria.</p> <p>The performance of some candidates may have exceeded the required standard in one or more aspects of the examination and this reflects the fact that strength in one aspect may compensate for weakness in another.</p> <p>A defining characteristic of the overall performance of a candidate awarded a Pass with Merit is that it consistently matches and occasionally may exceed the required standard of dance skills indicated in the Level Descriptions, and the repertoire defined in the Programme of Study.</p>	59%
Distinction	<p>To achieve the award of a Pass with Distinction the performance of a candidate must reach and exceed the required standard of dance skills in the majority of assessment criteria.</p> <p>The performance of some candidates may have exceeded the required standard by a considerable margin in one or more aspects of the examination and this reflects the fact that strength in one aspect may compensate for weakness in another.</p> <p>A defining characteristic of the overall performance of a candidate awarded a Pass with Distinction is that it consistently exceeds the required standard of dance skills indicated in the Level Descriptions, and the repertoire defined in the Programme of Study.</p>	77%

22. Repeats of Examinations

Where a candidate is not able to reach the minimum standard for a pass in an examination, application for re-examination at that Grade is permitted. All examination components must be completed on re-examination. Marks from examination components may not be carried forward or credited.

23. Language and Bias

Every effort has been made to ensure that this specification and associated mark schemes, procedures and materials are free from any form of bias and have no hidden requirements for entry or assessment. Care has been taken to ensure that the specification, grade and level descriptions and examination requirements make appropriate demands on candidates both in terms of their physical safety, wellbeing, and expectations of physical and cognitive performance in relation to their age and level of ability.

24. Statutory Requirements

It is a requirement that all centres, teachers of this qualification and examiners make themselves aware of and comply with the relevant current legislation, relating to Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Data Protection and Equality.

25. Validity of Specification

This specification is valid from the 1st September 2020 until 31st August 2025