

Dance A Level



Exam Board: AQA

Entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE Dance (subject to course leader's approval)

Intent

Structure

The A-level Dance specification requires students to develop, demonstrate and articulate practical and theoretical knowledge, understanding and experience of:

- technical and performance skills
- the process and art of choreography
- the interrelationship between the creation, presentation and viewing/appreciation of dance works
- the development of dance placed within an artistic and cultural context
- professional dance works and the significance of these works
- subject specific terminology and its use.

Knowledge, understanding and skills will be developed and demonstrated within performance, choreography and critical engagement with the study of professional repertoire located within specific areas of study. The study of professional dance works, within the areas of study, promotes the integration of theory and practice and underpins students' own approaches to performance and choreography.

Areas of study provide students with the opportunity to investigate the key changes in the development of dance linked to a genre(s) and allow students to demonstrate contextual understanding through written communication and performance.

Implementation

Content & Sequencing

The study of dance enables students to develop socially whilst promoting creativity, fitness and well-being. As students become performers, they'll also develop their confidence, self-esteem and team working skills.

Throughout the dance A Level we challenge students to begin working professionally as expected within the industry to build on their skills acquired at GCSE level.

Assessment includes a combination of practical dance tasks alongside creative extended writing assignments. This equips students with the necessary skills and experience to study dance further, or embark on an exciting career in the arts. We encourage students to participate in first-hand experience of dance, through opportunities such as professional class, seeing live dance and reviewing current work. We integrate this within the curriculum through taught lessons, workshops, visits to performances and residential trips. This can include trips to local and London theatres, workshops with local artists, as well as the possibility of experience packed trips to places such as New York or LA.

Students are encouraged to become independent practitioners, exploring their own ideas and direction within their work. We support this through one to one tutorials within lessons as well as group feedback sessions, enabling students to learn from and inspire each other.

Component 1: Performance and choreography

What's assessed

- Solo performance linked to a specified practitioner within an area of study
- Performance in a quartet
- Group choreography

How it's assessed

- Practical exam
- 80 marks
- 50% of A-level Non-examination assessment (NEA) marked by an external assessor from AQA during a visit to your centre. Visits will normally take place between March and May. Externally set tasks are distributed by 15 September in the academic year of certification.

Component 2: Critical engagement

What's assessed

- Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of two set works.
- One compulsory set work within the compulsory area of study
- One optional set work within the corresponding area of study, from a choice of four.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of A-level

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Question Two sections:

Section A: short answer questions (25 marks) and one essay question (25 marks) on the compulsory set work/ area of study.

Section B: two essay questions on the second set work/ area of study (25 marks for each essay).

Assessment Methods

Assessment objectives (AOs) are set by Ofqual and are the same across all A-level Dance specifications and all exam boards.

The assessments will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives.

- AO1: Perform dance through the application of physical, technical, interpretative and performance skills.
- AO2: Create dance applying choreographic skills to communicate artistic intention.
- AO3: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of performance and choreography from different periods and genres.
- AO4: Critically appreciate and assess performance and choreography through making analytical, interpretative and evaluative judgements.



Impact

Onward Progression

A-level Dance is a dynamic qualification which encourages students to develop their creative and intellectual capacity, alongside transferable skills such as team working, communication and problem solving. All of these are sought after skills by higher education and employers and will help them stand out in the workplace whatever their choice of career.

This specification reflects both historical and current dance practices, making it relevant, and inspiring for a lifelong passion and appreciation for dance. It can be studied alongside the Arts Award course and the 3Fall Youth opportunity at Shoreham Academy, allowing aspiring dancers to become all-round artists, which are industry ready.

This A Level could lead students to apply for vocational schools or Universities in order to work towards a career in the industry. Careers in dance can take place in all kinds of settings hospitals and art centres, backstage, in schools and community centres and even in offices. In fact, you may like to know that of the estimated 30,000 people employed in the dance sector, only 2,500 are performers! 22,500 go into teaching careers and the remaining 5,000 are employed in a variety of 'support' careers such as management, therapy and notation.

Whether you choose to become a teacher, costume designer, dance therapist or a company manager, all of these roles require an understanding of dance in its many forms and all of them have an essential contribution to make to the dance world.

Further information contact

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