

GCSE Dance

Examination Board: AQA

What is GCSE Dance all about?

GCSE Dance is a subject which offers a huge scope to develop you as a person. It is a largely practical subject, suitable for those with vast or little experience. GCSE Dance allows you to develop your skills in creativity and imagination. You will explore different set dances, styles of performance and choreographers. You will develop your skills in physicality, movement technique, communication and group rapport. It is a subject which develops your self-confidence, your ability to work in a team and meet deadlines, as well as promoting a healthy lifestyle. It is a subject which develops leadership skills and your ability to work under pressure. Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creativity, physical and emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever their previous experience.

Year 9

Students will be exposed to a variety of dance practitioners, groups, and styles, in preparation for their formal assessments which begin in year 10. There will be workshops on Rambert, Boy Blue Entertainment, and Phoenix Dance Theatre which will allow students to develop their performance skills and knowledge of Dance theory. They will also develop skills in choreographing dance which will be modelled on Component 1 of the course. Workshops will be challenging, fun and engaging and will have a practical focus in their delivery.

Course Structure and Assessment:

Component 1: Performance and Choreography

Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated, 60% of qualification

Students will be assessed on their performance of:

- 2 solo dances which are set by the exam board (1 minute per solo)
- A duet or trio, which is choreographed by either the teacher, or an outside choreographer (3 minutes).

Students must respond creatively to an externally set stimulus, to choreograph their own complete dance. They will need to:

- Create a dance which must be either
 - a solo dance (2 – 3:30 minutes)
 - a group dance featuring 2 to 5 dancers (3 – 3:30 minutes)

Component 2: Dance appreciation

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of qualification

Section A:

Students must answer on their own performance and choreography through describing, analysing, interpreting, evaluating and reflecting.

Section B:

Students must be able to answer questions, analysing and appreciating the GCSE Dance Anthology.

This is a series of 6 professional performances

- **Artificial Things** – Stopgap Dance Company
- **A Linha Curva** – Rambert Dance Company
- **Infra** – The Royal Ballet
- **Shadows** – Phoenix Dance Theatre
- **Within Her Eyes** – James Cousins Company
- **Emancipation of Expressionism** - Boy Blue Entertainment

What could I do next with GCSE Dance?

Students take GCSE Dance for a variety of reasons. Many are interested in performing arts and want to develop their skills to a high standard. Most students who take the course realise it offers them something different on their CV. It is a course which develops a broad range of skills that employers look for. We not only offer a strong practical course but also numerous extra-curricular opportunities which enhance any personal statement. After GCSE Dance, students can choose to take A Level Theatre Studies if they enjoy the course and want to pursue it further. The Creative Industries in this country are worth £100 billion pounds to the economy and employ over 2.8 million people so there are plenty of job opportunities for people who have a Dance qualification on their CV.