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Jazz Dance

PREMIERE – GRADE 8
SYLLABUS SPECIFICATION (SQA)





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Jazz Dance – Syllabus Specification Acknowledgements

PREMIERE – GRADE 8

Revised: January 2025

Candidates and teachers are advised to refer to the Revision History.

Full details can be found in the grade-by grade content pages.

All supporting material can be downloaded from stageschool.io

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Welcome

Welcome to STAGESCHOOL by RSL Awards!

We're delighted to welcome you to STAGESCHOOL, a globally recognised leader in performing arts education. Our mission is to celebrate excellence and innovation, offering aspiring learners of all ages a platform to showcase their talent and achieve their goals. With internationally recognised qualifications, STAGESCHOOL equips performers with the skills, confidence, and versatility needed to thrive in the vibrant world of the performing arts.

At STAGESCHOOL, we believe that every performer's journey is unique and deserving of careful nurturing. Our thoughtfully designed syllabuses and graded exams, ranging from beginner to advanced levels, provide clear benchmarks for progress. These assessments not only develop technical and artistic skills but also inspire creativity, resilience, and ignite a lifelong passion for the performing arts.

Taking a STAGESCHOOL exam is more than just a challenge; it's an opportunity to grow as a performer. From building stage presence and refining techniques to exploring dynamic repertoire, our exams are tailored to prepare you for auditions, performances, and beyond. We are committed to making the experience positive and rewarding, empowering learners with valuable feedback and a well-earned sense of achievement.

Our team of expert examiners and dedicated educators work tirelessly to uphold the highest standards of fairness, consistency, and support. Every candidate who passes receives a beautifully designed certificate as a testament to their hard work and talent, celebrating a significant milestone on their journey to artistic excellence.

Whether you dream of gracing the stage, growing as a well-rounded performer, or simply enjoying the thrill of performing your favourite pieces, STAGESCHOOL is here to guide and inspire you every step of the way.

We wish you every success and hope you find joy and fulfilment in your exam experience. Let's continue to bring the magic of performing arts to life together!

Your Performance. Your Moment. Your Stage.

Introduction

Jazz Dance has long been one of the most popular styles of dance among students, professional dancers, and choreographers alike. RSL's Dance Qualification provides candidates with the opportunity to earn a recognised, quality-assured qualification while pursuing something they enjoy.

Candidates will prepare a series of technical exercises that showcase a range of skills within the Jazz Dance genre. These exercises are designed to foster strong dance technique while embedding essential performance skills. As candidates progress through the grades, the technical demands will increase, ensuring the continuous development of well-rounded dancers.

STAGESCHOOL gives the teachers the freedom to create inspiring work that stretches and challenges every student. The teacher is encouraged to apply stylistic features, dynamics and energy to all exercises. STAGESCHOOL examinations in Jazz Dance are designed to develop the skills necessary to communicate through dance and movement to an audience. Candidates who prepare themselves appropriately will develop relevant skills by exploring a range of Jazz Dance styles and techniques.

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 Northern Ireland, by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), and Qualifications Wales. RSL is committed to maintaining and improving its reputation for excellence by providing high-quality education and training through its syllabuses, examinations and resources.

Safeguarding (including Health & Safety)

RSL takes the Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults extremely seriously and has put in place as many preventative measures as possible within its assessment structure and processes. An outline of these is provided on the website: www.rslawards.com/about-us/safeguarding

A staff member must be on hand to support the organisation of candidates and to chaperone candidates on the day of the examination.

RSL and UCAS

All STAGESCHOOL graded exams are recognised and accredited in Scotland by SQA accreditation.

RSL Grades 6, 7 & 8 carry allocated points on the UCAS (Universities & Colleges Admissions Service) tariff. Many students find these highly beneficial for university applications and entrance interviews.

For full details relating to the allocation of points for our qualifications, please visit:

www.rslawards.com/about-us/ucas-points/

Period of Operation

This syllabus specification covers Jazz Dance Graded Examinations from September 2018..

Estimated Examination Time

- **PREMIERE:** 20 minutes
- **DEBUT:** 20 minutes
- **GRADE 1:** 25 minutes
- **GRADE 2:** 25 minutes
- **GRADE 3:** 25 minutes
- **GRADE 4:** 35 minutes
- **GRADE 5:** 35 minutes
- **GRADE 6:** 45 minutes
- **GRADE 7:** 45 minutes
- **GRADE 8:** 45 minutes

Please note: Estimated examination times may vary according to the number of candidates and grades selected in the group.

Examination Grades

STAGESCHOOL Jazz Dance examinations are offered from Premiere to Grade 8.

Recommended Ages for STAGESCHOOL Examinations

Although RSL imposes no minimum or maximum age limit, teachers should ensure candidates are fully prepared for all aspects of the examination. It is advisable for candidates to enter for a suitable and attainable level for their individual age, overall maturity and ability to meet the Assessment Criteria published in this syllabus specification. The following age recommendations are a suggestion only:

Grade Qualification	Suggested Entry Age
Premiere	4–5 years
Debut	5–6 years
1	7–8 years
2	9–10 years
3	11–12 years
4	13–14 years
5	15–16 years
6	16+
7	16+
8	16+

Uniform for STAGESCHOOL Examinations

A uniform for the examination is not prescribed but should be appropriate to the style and genre. Candidates must present themselves appropriately for an examination and adhere to health and safety regulations. Teachers must ensure the following:

- Hair does not obscure the face
- Dance wear is appropriate and allows examiners to see the body, line and form clearly
- The choice of dance shoes is appropriate to the style
- All jewellery is removed
- Any costume or props used during the performance are carefully considered

Qualification at a Glance

Qualification Title	GA Code	Unit Code
RSL Graded Examination in Jazz Dance - Entry 2	R732 04	UQ69 04
RSL Graded Examination in Jazz Dance - Entry 3	R733 04	UQ70 04
RSL Graded Examination in Jazz Dance - Grade 1	R734 04	UQ71 04
RSL Graded Examination in Jazz Dance - Grade 2	R735 04	UQ72 04
RSL Graded Examination in Jazz Dance - Grade 3	R736 04	UQ73 04
RSL Graded Examination in Jazz Dance - Grade 4	R737 04	UQ74 04
RSL Graded Examination in Jazz Dance - Grade 5	R738 04	UQ75 04
RSL Certificate in Graded Examination in Jazz Dance - Grade 6	R739 04	UQ76 04
RSL Certificate in Graded Examination in Jazz Dance - Grade 7	R740 04	UQ77 04
RSL Certificate in Graded Examination in Jazz Dance - Grade 8	R741 04	UQ78 04

Assessment Summary

Form of Assessment	All assessments are carried out by external examiners. Candidates are required to carry out a combination of practical tasks underpinning the technical and performance assessment.
Unit format	Unit specifications contain the Title, Unit Code, GA Code, Learning Outcomes, Assessment Criteria, Grade Descriptors, and types of evidence required for the unit.
Bands of Attainment	There are four bands of attainment (Distinction, Merit, Pass and Unclassified) for the qualification as a whole.
Quality Assurance	Quality Assurance ensures that all assessments are carried out to the same standard by objective sampling and reassessment of candidates' work. A team of external examiners is appointed, trained and standardised by RSL.

1 - Qualification Summary

1.1 Qualification Aim and Broad Objectives

The aim of the Jazz Dance qualification is to provide a flexible, progressive mastery approach to the knowledge, skills and understanding required for Jazz Dance.

The purpose of RSL's graded qualifications is to motivate and encourage candidates of all ages and levels through a system of progressive mastery to develop and enhance skills, knowledge and understanding in a safe and consistent way.

The qualifications are beneficial for learners wishing to progress at their own pace through smaller steps of achievement.

These qualifications are suitable for learners in all age groups.

1.2 Progression

Graded qualifications provide a flexible progression route for learners. They are a positive means of determining progress and enable learners to learn the necessary techniques to gain entry to FE and HE courses. Graded qualifications operate according to a well-established methodology of 'progressive mastery'. They tend to be more rigorous than other types of exams and for that reason industry professionals are confident that achievement at the highest level gained by candidates of graded qualifications will have the skills necessary to work in other areas of the business.

1.3 Qualification Structure

A graded qualification consists of a range of both practical and knowledge-based tasks which are based on detailed requirements outlined in the relevant syllabus.

Therefore, requirements for each grade will be set out in detail in the Unit Specifications and the Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria for each unit will require knowledge, skills and understanding of these syllabus requirements to be demonstrated at the grade entered.

1.4 Entry Requirements

There are no entry requirements for these qualifications. However, learners should be aware that the content at the higher grades will require a level of knowledge and understanding covered in previous qualifications.

For further details on exam dates and fees and to apply for your Jazz Dance grades please visit the STAGESCHOOL website at stageschool.io

2 – Assessment Information

2.1 Assessment Methodology

The graded examinations in Jazz Dance are assessed as follows:

Premiere - Grade 3

Technical Skills 60 marks

Performance 40 marks

Grades 4-8

Technical Skills
(including improvisation) 60 marks

Performance 40 marks

2.2 Expectations of Knowledge Skills and Understanding

The graded examination system is one based on the principle of 'progressive mastery'; each step in the exam chain demonstrates learning, progression and skills in incremental steps.

Successful learning is characterised by a mastery of the fundamental skills demanded in each grade.

Learners will be able to complete a set of practical tasks and be tested on their underpinning knowledge (the complexity and variety of tasks are determined by which qualification is being attempted), which allow them to demonstrate Jazz Dance knowledge, skills and understanding relevant to the grade. These technical skills set a firm platform for further technical and creative development by the learner.

3 – Candidate Access and Registration

3.1 Access and Registration

The qualifications 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 qualifications.

At the point of application, RSL will ensure that all candidates are fully informed about the requirements and demands of the qualification.

Candidates may enter online for any of the qualifications at various points in the calendar year in territories throughout the world.

3.2 Recommended Prior Learning

Learners are not required to have any prior learning for these qualifications. However, learners should ensure that they are aware of the requirements and expectations of each grade prior to entering for an assessment.

4 – Further Information

4.1 International Learners

Information and guidance on using a translator or interpreter is available at: www.rslawards.com/about-us/policies-regulations/

4.2 Complaints and Appeals

All procedural complaints and appeals, including malpractice and requests for reasonable adjustments / special considerations, can be found on the RSL website www.rslawards.com

4.3 Equal Opportunities and Policy

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

4.4 – Contact for Help and Support

All correspondence about this qualification should be directed to: stageschool@rslawards.com

or, RSL Harlequin House
7 High Street Teddington,
Middlesex, TW11 8EE
+44 (0)345 460 4747

OVERVIEW

Marking schemes and attainment bands

The examination is marked with credits awarded through:

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Section 1 (LO1+LO2) / 60

PERFORMANCE

Section 2 (LO3) / 40

TOTAL: out of 100

The attainment bands for Jazz Dance graded examinations are as follows:

Attainment Bands	
Unclassified	0-49%
Pass	50-64%
Merit	65-84%
Distinction	85% and above

Exam Structure

1 Technical Skills

Teacher's may arrange their own Technical Skills Exercises but must ensure that all exercises are at an appropriate level for each grade. The minimum technical requirement for each grade is listed at the relevant grade. This minimum requirement must be met.

The set Jazz dance music may be used for the technical skills exercises, or teachers may use their own choice of music.

If own choice music is used for the technical exercises, it should be selected carefully to ensure that the music provides sufficient opportunity for candidates to demonstrate the necessary technical competence for the grade and achieve the relevant assessment criteria. Simplification or reduction in demand can occur through changes to tempo, duration, rhythm etc. If a piece of free choice music is judged by the examiner to reduce the level of demand required for the grade, this may impact on the level of achievement possible within the examination and may be reflected in the marks. Teachers/candidates are advised to refer to the RSL set music for the relevant exercise, using it as an indication of appropriate tempo/rhythm/duration. In addition, RSL has provided a list of suggested 'free choice music' for each grade and exercise.

To view the full list please visit: stageschool.io

Arm Sequence (Grades 1-4): Note that there are two music options for the Arm Sequence, called 'Option 1' and 'Option 2'. Teachers may select either option for all candidates, or they may split candidates into two groups, with one group performing to Option 1 and the other to Option 2.

The technical exercises are demonstrated as a group, but each candidate must always be visible to the examiner.

A maximum of **four** candidates can be assessed at any one time.

Candidates can only be assessed with others at the **same grade**; mixed-grade assessments are not allowed.

Props and costumes are **not permitted**.

An audience is **not permitted**.

Suggested Arrangement

Teachers can use a Suggested Arrangement of Technical Skills Exercises provided by RSL if they wish. This is available, along with a video demonstration, as a separate resource and can be accessed at stageschool.io

Barre work: Some exercises require the use of a barre. Schools/organisations may decide to use an alternative, for example if a barre is not available, but please note that no special consideration would be made for not using barres, or using an alternative, and candidates would be assessed in the normal way.

Please note: In the interest of health and safety, Technical Skills Exercises **must always** begin with a thorough warm up which sufficiently prepares candidates for all Technical Skills Exercises, Improvisation (Grade 4-8 only) and the Performance. Warming up of the legs, ankles and feet must take place before commencing any impact work.

RSL Awards assumes no liability for damage to property or injury sustained by any candidate or staff member while participating in examinations.

Improvisation (Grade 4-8 Only)

The Improvisation section of the examination gives candidates from Grades 4–8 only the opportunity to demonstrate their technical ability, musicality, creativity and individual style without restrictions.

Candidates will be required to interpret the given music through any Jazz Dance style and moves of the candidate's choice for the duration specified per grade.

Candidates may draw upon the technical moves provided for the Technical Skills Exercises in their improvisation if they wish but this is not a requirement. However, the improvisation must not wholly consist of technical moves that have been provided by RSL.

Candidates will improvise in small groups.

The music for the improvisation will be chosen by the examiner on the exam day. To view the full list of example music tracks that may be chosen by the examiner, please visit: stageschool.io

Props and costumes are **not permitted**.

An audience is **not permitted**.

2 The Performance

The Performance consists of a group dance routine which can include any style or variation of Jazz Dance. Teachers have creative control over the concept, content and choreography of the group performance but must adhere to the allocated performance duration boundaries.

Teachers can refer to the minimum requirements for the Technical Skills Exercises per grade as well as the Suggested Technical Skills Exercises resource (available on stageschool.io) for guidance regarding the level of difficulty expected for the Performance choreography at each grade.

Choreography should allow candidates the opportunity to demonstrate as much expression as possible, creating a performance that fulfils requirements for technique, musicality and communication.

A **maximum of four candidates** can be assessed at any one time.

The school's uniform is sufficient; however, costumes and props are permitted.

An audience is **not permitted**.

Teachers and candidates are encouraged to closely consider the Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria for the specific qualification level they are entering.

Choosing music for Performance

The selection of music is the teacher's choice and should allow the candidates the best opportunity to respond to phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere. The style and the mood of the music should allow for as much expression as possible.

Notes for the Examination

- All candidates must wear their allocated candidate number on the front and back of their clothing throughout
- A member of staff must be present for the examination in order to operate music playback equipment
- Staff must be on hand to chaperone students from the examination once completed.

General Notes

On the day of the examination, the Principal must meet with the examiner to discuss any absences or changes to the schedule. Additionally, the examiner will take a register prior to the start of each examination.

Centres must provide examiners with an adequate table, chair, lighting and refreshments.

The nature of each performance will be unique to your school; however, certain criteria must be met to ensure candidates are assessed successfully. Teachers are responsible for familiarising themselves with the Learning Outcomes, Assessment Criteria, and Grading Descriptors for each grade. Additionally, teachers must ensure that candidates are actively engaged throughout the examination and perform an adequate amount of material to demonstrate their skills effectively.

Staff must not lead, direct, or influence the candidates during any component of the examination. In cases where this occurs, the examiner reserves the right to stop the examination.

Teachers must organise candidates into grade-specific groups before the examination day. For assistance with candidate grouping, please contact stageschool@rslawards.com.

If an examination candidate requires a Reasonable Adjustment or Special Consideration, please reach out to RSL Head Office for guidance and support.

Unit Specifications

Content:

The skills and understanding required at each grade.

The Jazz Dance content is divided into the following examined components.

- Technical Skills
- Improvisation (grades 4 - 8 only)
- Performance

Assessment Criteria:

Criteria against which the candidate is assessed

Learning Outcome:

A statement of what has been demonstrated as a result of the successful completion of the assessment criteria

Grade Descriptor:

An indication of the level of attainment required for each attainment band

(Unclassified, Pass, Merit or Distinction) at each grade.

Premiere I Content

Teachers arranging their own Technical Skills Exercises are free to create their own exercises but must include the following steps as a minimum. For a demonstration of these steps, please see the Jazz Dance Premiere video at stageschool.io

Set Jazz Dance music may be used for the technical skills exercises; alternatively, teachers may select their own music. For music suggestions, please visit stageschool.io

1 - TECHNICAL SKILLS

A. THE WARM UP	B. LIMBERING AND MOBILISING	C. FLOOR STRENGTHENING
<p>Simple warm up exercise, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Runs on the balls of feet • Knee bounces in parallel 1st and 2nd 	<p>Simple exercise focusing on the flexibility of the hips, hamstring and spine, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoulder rolls forward and back with knee bends • Preliminary stretches of the legs 	<p>Simple exercise to develop strength and control, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish turnout position • Leg raises forwards and side aiming for 45 degrees <p>(these may be done lying on the floor if younger candidates do not yet have the core strength required)</p>
D. ISOLATIONS	E. PREPARATION FOR PIROUÉTTE AT THE BARRE	F. ELEVATION AND TRAVEL: DANCE COMBINATION
<p>Simple isolations exercise, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoulder isolations • Knee isolation 	<p>Simple preparation exercise to build strength and accuracy, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a basic preparation of jazz 4th into retiré • Demonstrate on both sides 	<p>Penultimate dance combination; an opportunity to bring greater creativity and sense of showmanship in preparation for the final dance performance, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skips and gallops on a range of pathways • Demonstrate on both sides

2 - THE PERFORMANCE

The group performance must be a **minimum** duration of **one minute** and a **maximum** duration of **two minutes**.

A maximum of **four candidates** can be assessed at any one time.

Premiere | Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcome – The learner will:		Assessment Criteria – The learner can:	
1	Be able to perform basic movement sequences showing an awareness of technique in Jazz Dance	1.1	Demonstrate basic knowledge of Jazz Dance vocabulary
		1.2	Demonstrate basic technical skills
2	Be able to perform basic movement sequences showing an awareness of musicality in Jazz Dance	2.1	Demonstrate basic timing and rhythm
		2.2	Demonstrate basic responsiveness to music
3	Be able to show a basic awareness of performance in Jazz Dance	3.1	Demonstrate basic use of expression
		3.2	Demonstrate an awareness of an audience

Premiere | Grade Descriptors

1 LEARNING OUTCOME 1 (Technical Skills)

The learner will be able to perform basic movement sequences showing an awareness of technique in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>Inability to demonstrate technique. An insecure ability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Knowledge of vocabulary

2 LEARNING OUTCOME 2 (Technical Skills)

The learner will be able to perform basic movement sequences showing an awareness of musicality in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>Insecure evidence of musicality. An inability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical response 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical response 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical response 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical response

3 LEARNING OUTCOME 3 (The Performance)

The learner will be able to show a basic awareness of performance in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>An inability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique 	<p>Demonstrate awareness of the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique 	<p>Demonstrate awareness of the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique 	<p>Demonstrate awareness of the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique

Debut | Content

Teachers arranging their own Technical Skills Exercises are free to create their own exercises but must include the following steps as a minimum. For a demonstration of these steps, please see the Jazz Dance Debut video at stageschool.io

Set Jazz Dance music may be used for the technical skills exercises; alternatively, teachers may select their own music. For music suggestions, please visit stageschool.io

1 - TECHNICAL SKILLS

A. THE WARM UP	B. LIMBERING AND MOBILISING	C. FLOOR STRENGTHENING
Basic warm up exercise, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jumps in parallel 1st and 2nd • Step turn step ending on a jump or dig with arm sequence 	Simple exercise focusing on the flexibility of the hips, hamstring and spine, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexion and extension of the ankle, rippling through the foot to point • Stretches sitting in 2nd position 	Basic exercise to develop strength and control, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish turnout position • Leg kicks forward and side aiming for 45 degrees with full extension of the leg
D. ISOLATIONS	E. PREPARATION FOR PIROUÉTTE AT THE BARRE	F. ELEVATION AND TRAVEL: DANCE COMBINATION
Basic isolations exercise, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head isolations • Inverted knee isolations 	Basic preparation exercise to build strength and accuracy, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a basic preparation of jazz 4th into retiré • Use of relevé • Demonstrate on both sides 	Penultimate dance combination; an opportunity to bring greater creativity and sense of showmanship in preparation for the final dance performance, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skips and gallops on a range of pathways • Jumps and bounces with change of direction • Demonstrate on both sides

2 - THE PERFORMANCE

The group performance must be a **minimum** duration of **one minute** and a **maximum** duration of **two minutes**.

A maximum of **four candidates** can be assessed at any one time.

Debut | Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcome – The learner will:		Assessment Criteria – The learner can:	
1	Be able to perform basic movement sequences showing an awareness of technique in Jazz Dance	1.1	Demonstrate basic knowledge of Jazz Dance vocabulary
		1.2	Demonstrate basic technical skills
2	Be able to perform basic movement sequences showing an awareness of musicality in Jazz Dance	2.1	Demonstrate basic timing and rhythm
		2.2	Demonstrate basic responsiveness to music
3	Be able to show a basic awareness of performance in Jazz Dance	3.1	Demonstrate basic use of expression
		3.2	Demonstrate an awareness of an audience

Debut | Grade Descriptors

1 LEARNING OUTCOME 1 (Technical Skills)

The learner will be able to perform basic movement sequences showing an awareness of technique in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>Inability to demonstrate technique. An insecure ability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Knowledge of vocabulary

2 LEARNING OUTCOME 2 (Technical Skills)

The learner will be able to perform basic movement sequences showing an awareness of musicality in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>Insecure evidence of musicality. An inability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical response 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical response 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical response 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical response

3 LEARNING OUTCOME 3 (The Performance)

The learner will be able to show a basic awareness of performance in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>An inability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique 	<p>Demonstrate awareness of the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique 	<p>Demonstrate awareness of the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique 	<p>Demonstrate awareness of the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique

Grade 1 | Content

Teachers arranging their own Technical Skills Exercises are free to create their own exercises but must include the following steps as a minimum. For a demonstration of these steps, please see the Jazz Dance Grade 1 video at stageschool.io

Set Jazz Dance music may be used for the technical skills exercises; alternatively, teachers may select their own music. For music suggestions, please visit stageschool.io

1 - TECHNICAL SKILLS

A. THE WARM UP	B. LIMBERING AND MOBILISING	C. FLOOR STRENGTHENING	D. ISOLATIONS
Warm up exercise, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knee bounces in parallel 1st and 2 building into jumps in parallel 1st and 2nd with arm sequence • Step turn step ending on a jump or dig with arm sequence (open 2nd, close 1st, open 2nd, place side) 	Exercise focusing on the flexibility of the hips, hamstring and spine, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing stretches, dynamic stretches • Pliés in parallel 2nd 	Basic Exercise to develop strength and control, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lay on back, knee into chest and extend leg into full stretch • Upper body lifts, lying on front 	Exercise to develop isolations, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knee isolation layered with head isolation • Rib isolations, side to side • Demonstrate on both sides

E. PREPARATION FOR PIROUÉTTE AT THE BARRE	F. ARM SEQUENCE	G. ELEVATION AND TRAVEL: DANCE COMBINATION
<p>Preparation exercise to build strength and accuracy sideways to the barre, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure placement of jazz 4th position into retiré • Use of relevé • Half turn to other side, use of spotting • Demonstrate on both sides 	<p>Arm exercise, lyrical in style, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of travelling steps layered with arm sequence • Demonstrate on both sides 	<p>Penultimate dance combination, an opportunity to bring greater creativity and sense of showmanship, in preparation for the final dance performance, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step ball change step with arms in opposition • Jumps or leaps aiming for extended legs • Demonstrate on both sides

2 - THE PERFORMANCE

The group performance must be a **minimum** duration of **one minute 30 seconds** and a **maximum** duration of **two minutes 30 seconds**.

A maximum of **four candidates** can be assessed at any one time.

Grade 1 | Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcome – The learner will:		Assessment Criteria – The learner can:	
1	Be able to perform movement sequences showing an awareness of technique in Jazz Dance	1.1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Jazz Dance vocabulary
		1.2	Demonstrate basic technical skills
2	Be able to perform movement sequences showing an awareness of musicality in Jazz Dance	2.1	Demonstrate appropriate timing and rhythm
		2.2	Demonstrate responsiveness to music
3	Be able to show an awareness of performance in Jazz Dance	3.1	Demonstrate use of expression as appropriate
		3.2	Demonstrate an awareness of an audience

Grade 1 | Grade Descriptors

1 LEARNING OUTCOME 1 (Technical Skills)

The learner will be able to perform movement sequences showing an awareness of technique in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Inability to demonstrate technique. An insecure ability to demonstrate awareness of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Knowledge of vocabulary 	Evidence of technique. To include the following some of the time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Knowledge of vocabulary 	Evidence of technique. To include the following for the majority of the time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Knowledge of vocabulary 	Evidence of technique. To include the following throughout: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Knowledge of vocabulary

2 LEARNING OUTCOME 2 (Technical Skills)

The learner will be able to perform movement sequences showing an awareness of musicality in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Insecure evidence of musicality. An inability to demonstrate awareness of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical response 	Evidence of musicality. To include the following some of the time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical response 	Evidence of musicality. To include the following for the majority of the time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical response 	Evidence of musicality. To include the following throughout: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical response

3 LEARNING OUTCOME 3 (The Performance)

The learner will be able to show an awareness of performance in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
An inability to demonstrate awareness of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique • Projection 	Demonstrate awareness of the following some of the time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique • Projection 	Demonstrate awareness of the following for the majority of the time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique • Projection 	Demonstrate awareness of the following throughout: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique • Projection

Grade 2 | Content

Teachers arranging their own Technical Skills Exercises are free to create their own exercises but must include the following steps as a minimum. For a demonstration of these steps, please see the Jazz Dance Grade 2 video at stageschool.io

Set Jazz Dance music may be used for the technical skills exercises; alternatively, teachers may select their own music. For music suggestions, please visit stageschool.io

1 - TECHNICAL SKILLS

A. THE WARM UP	B. LIMBERING AND MOBILISING	C. FLOOR STRENGTHENING	D. ISOLATIONS
Warm up exercise, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole body swings in parallel 1st with easy knee bounces, arms circling • Preliminary stretches 	Exercise focusing on the flexibility of the hips, hamstring and spine, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sitting in frog position, relaxing over the legs • Sitting down, upwards and forwards stretch over straight legs 	Exercise to develop strength and control, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coccyx balance • Leg kicks any direction 	Exercise to develop isolations, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arm sequence added with use of splayed hands or positions • Rib isolations, forwards, side, back and circular • Demonstrate on both sides

E. PREPARATION FOR PIROUÉTTE AT THE BARRE	F. PREPARATION FOR LEG TILTS AT THE BARRE	G. ARM SEQUENCE	H. ELEVATION AND TRAVEL: DANCE COMBINATION
<p>Preparation exercise to build strength and accuracy sideways to the barre, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sideways to the barre • Use of Jazz 4th, relevé and retiré • Single pirouette at the barre • Demonstrate on both sides 	<p>Exercise facing the barre preparing for full leg extension tilt, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tendu, articulating the ankle and foot • Lift and lower leg to 2nd position • Demonstrate on both sides 	<p>Arm exercise, lyrical in style, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of travelling steps layered with arm sequence • Demonstrate on both sides 	<p>Penultimate dance combination; an opportunity to bring greater creativity and sense of showmanship in preparation for the final dance performance, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drag runs or accented runs on any pathway • Jumps or leaps with extended legs • Demonstrate on both sides

2 - THE PERFORMANCE

The group performance must be a **minimum** duration of **one minute 30 seconds** and a **maximum** duration of **two minutes 30 seconds**.

A maximum of **four candidates** can be assessed at any one time.

Grade 2 | Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcome – The learner will:		Assessment Criteria – The learner can:	
1	Be able to perform movement sequences showing an awareness of techniques in Jazz Dance	1.1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Jazz Dance vocabulary
		1.2	Demonstrate basic technical skills
2	Be able to perform movement sequences showing an awareness of musicality in Jazz Dance	2.1	Demonstrate appropriate timing and rhythm
		2.2	Demonstrate responsiveness to music
3	Be able to show an awareness of performance in Jazz Dance	3.1	Demonstrate use of expression as appropriate
		3.2	Demonstrate an awareness of an audience

Grade 2 | Grade Descriptors

1 LEARNING OUTCOME 1 (Technical Skills)

The learner will be able to perform movement sequences showing an awareness of technique in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Inability to demonstrate technique. An insecure ability to demonstrate awareness of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Knowledge of vocabulary 	Evidence of technique. To include the following some of the time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Knowledge of vocabulary 	Evidence of technique. To include the following for the majority of the time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Knowledge of vocabulary 	Evidence of technique. To include the following throughout: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Knowledge of vocabulary

2 LEARNING OUTCOME 2 (Technical Skills)

The learner will be able to perform movement sequences showing an awareness of musicality in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Insecure evidence of musicality. An inability to demonstrate awareness of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical response 	Evidence of musicality. To include the following some of the time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical response 	Evidence of musicality. To include the following for the majority of the time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical response 	Evidence of musicality. To include the following throughout: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical response

3 LEARNING OUTCOME 3 (The Performance)

The learner will be able to show an awareness of performance in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
An inability to demonstrate awareness of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique • Projection 	Demonstrate awareness of the following some of the time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique • Projection 	Demonstrate awareness of the following for the majority of the time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique • Projection 	Demonstrate awareness of the following throughout: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique • Projection

Grade 3 | Content

Teachers arranging their own Technical Skills Exercises are free to create their own exercises but must include the following steps as a minimum. For a demonstration of these steps, please see the Jazz Dance Grade 3 video at stageschool.io

Set Jazz Dance music may be used for the technical skills exercises; alternatively, teachers may select their own music. For music suggestions, please visit stageschool.io

1 - TECHNICAL SKILLS

A. THE WARM UP	B. LIMBERING AND MOBILISING	C. FLOOR STRENGTHENING	D. ISOLATIONS
Warm up exercise, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travelling steps with change of direction • High release recovering through forward stretch position 	Exercise focusing on the flexibility of the hips, hamstring and spine, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing parallel 2nd, forward stretch • Deep plié in 2nd 	Exercise to develop strength and control, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coccyx and Jack Knife position • Front and side kicks 	Exercise to develop isolations, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hip roll or isolation • Inverted knee isolation layered with arm and head isolation • Demonstrate on both sides

E. PIROUÉTTE	F. PREPARATION FOR LEG TILTS AT THE BARRE	G. ARM SEQUENCE	H. ELEVATION AND TRAVEL: DANCE COMBINATION
Pirouette exercise in the centre, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of jazz 4th, relevé and retiré • Single pirouette • Demonstrate on both sides 	Exercise facing the barre preparing for full leg extension tilt, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lift and lower leg to 2nd position • Developpé to second from retiré 45 degrees or above • Demonstrate on both sides 	Arm exercise, lyrical in style, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of travelling steps layered with arm sequence • Use of creative and various arm pathways • Demonstrate on both sides 	Penultimate dance combination; an opportunity to bring greater creativity and sense of showmanship in preparation for the final dance performance, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front leap • Single pirouette • Demonstrate on both sides

2 - THE PERFORMANCE

The group performance must be a **minimum** duration of **one minute 30 seconds** and a **maximum** duration of **two minutes 30 seconds**.

A maximum of **four candidates** can be assessed at any one time.

Grade 3 | Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcome – The learner will:		Assessment Criteria – The learner can:	
1	Be able to perform movement sequences showing an awareness of techniques in Jazz Dance	1.1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Jazz Dance vocabulary
		1.2	Demonstrate technical skills
2	Be able to perform movement sequences showing an awareness of musicality in Jazz Dance	2.1	Demonstrate appropriate timing and rhythm
		2.2	Demonstrate responsiveness to music
3	Be able to show an awareness of performance in Jazz Dance	3.1	Demonstrate use of expression as appropriate
		3.2	Demonstrate an awareness of an audience

Grade 3 | Grade Descriptors

1 LEARNING OUTCOME 1 (Technical Skills)

The learner will be able to perform movement sequences showing an awareness of technique in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Inability to demonstrate technique. An insecure ability to demonstrate awareness of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Knowledge of vocabulary 	Evidence of technique. To include the following some of the time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Knowledge of vocabulary 	Evidence of technique. To include the following for the majority of the time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Knowledge of vocabulary 	Evidence of technique. To include the following throughout: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Knowledge of vocabulary

2 LEARNING OUTCOME 2 (Technical Skills)

The learner will be able to perform movement sequences showing an awareness of musicality in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Insecure evidence of musicality. An inability to demonstrate awareness of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical response 	Evidence of musicality. To include the following some of the time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical response 	Evidence of musicality. To include the following for the majority of the time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical response 	Evidence of musicality. To include the following throughout: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical response

3 LEARNING OUTCOME 3 (The Performance)

The learner will be able to show an awareness of performance in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
An inability to demonstrate awareness of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique • Projection 	Demonstrate awareness of the following some of the time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique • Projection 	Demonstrate awareness of the following for the majority of the time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique • Projection 	Demonstrate awareness of the following throughout: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique • Projection

Grade 4 | Content

Teachers arranging their own Technical Skills Exercises are free to create their own exercises but must include the following steps as a minimum. For a demonstration of these steps, please see the Jazz Dance Grade 4 video at stageschool.io

Set Jazz Dance music may be used for the technical skills exercises; alternatively, teachers may select their own music. For music suggestions, please visit stageschool.io

1 - TECHNICAL SKILLS

A. THE WARM UP	B. LIMBERING AND MOBILISING	C. FLOOR STRENGTHENING	D. ISOLATIONS
<p>Warm up exercise appropriate for an intermediate dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variety of preliminary stretches including forward stretch • Full plié in 2nd position 	<p>Exercise appropriate for an intermediate dancer focusing on the flexibility of the hips, hamstring and spine, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Side bends or side stretch • Forward stretch transitioning from side to forward 	<p>Exercise to develop strength and control appropriate for an intermediate dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leg kicks with catch, hold stretch • Controlled abdominal strengthening exercise including Jack Knife and Coccyx balance 	<p>Exercise to develop isolations appropriate for an intermediate dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Layering of isolations • Body ripple • Demonstrate on both sides

E. PIROUÉTTE	F. PREPARATION FOR LEG TILTS AT THE BARRE	G. ARM SEQUENCE	H. ELEVATION AND TRAVEL: DANCE COMBINATION
Pirouette exercise in the centre appropriate for an intermediate dancer, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Jazz 4th, relevé and retiré • Single and double pirouette • Demonstrate on both sides 	Exercise facing the barre preparing for full leg extension tilt appropriate for an intermediate dancer, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working leg through retiré to tilt position • Demonstrate on both sides 	Arm exercise, lyrical in style appropriate for an intermediate dancer, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of rise and fall quality • Use of travelling steps layered with arm sequence • Use of creative and various arm pathways • Demonstrate on both sides 	Penultimate dance combination, an opportunity to bring greater creativity and sense of showmanship, in preparation for the final dance performance, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front split leap • Side kicks • Single and double pirouette • Demonstrate on both sides

IMPROVISATION

Candidates will be given a piece of music (provided by the examiner and played by the music operator in the exam). To view the full list of example music tracks that may be chosen by the examiner, please visit: stageschool.io

Candidates have one minute to familiarise themselves with the music before the improvisation commences.

Candidates will improvise in **small groups** facing the examiner for approximately **45 seconds**.

The candidate will dance freely, choosing any Jazz moves or Jazz style to perform.

2 - THE PERFORMANCE

The performance consists of one dance routine which must be a **minimum** duration of **two minutes** and a **maximum** of **three minutes**.

A maximum of **four candidates** can be assessed at any one time.

Grade 4 | Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcome – The learner will:		Assessment Criteria – The learner can:	
1	Be able to perform movement sequences showing an awareness of technique in Jazz Dance	1.1	Demonstrate a clear knowledge and understanding of Jazz Dance vocabulary
		1.2	Demonstrate secure technical skills at an intermediate level
2	Be able to perform movement sequences demonstrating musicality in Jazz Dance	2.1	Demonstrate an understanding of a range of rhythmical sounds, accents and timings
		2.2	Demonstrate an understanding of musical interpretation including: a. Phrasing b. Dynamics c. Atmosphere
3	Be able to show a sense of performance in Jazz Dance	3.1	Demonstrate the use of expression and performance skills appropriately at an intermediate level
		3.2	Communicate appropriately with the audience

Grade 4 | Grade Descriptors

1 LEARNING OUTCOME 1 (Technical Skills)

The learner will be able to perform movement sequences showing an awareness of technique in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>Inability to demonstrate technique. An insecure ability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Fluency • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Fluency • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Fluency • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Fluency • Knowledge of vocabulary

2 LEARNING OUTCOME 2 (Technical Skills)

The learner will be able to perform movement sequences demonstrating musicality in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>Insecure evidence of musicality. An inability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical Interpretation (through phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere) 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical Interpretation (through phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere) 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical Interpretation (through phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere) 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical Interpretation (through phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere)

3 LEARNING OUTCOME 3 (The Performance)

The learner will be able to show a sense of performance in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>An inability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique • Projection • Interpretation 	<p>Demonstrate awareness of the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique • Projection • Interpretation 	<p>Demonstrate awareness of the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique • Projection • Interpretation 	<p>Demonstrate awareness of the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique • Projection • Interpretation

Grade 5 | Content

Teachers arranging their own Technical Skills Exercises are free to create their own exercises but must include the following steps as a minimum. For a demonstration of these steps, please see the Jazz Dance Grade 5 video at stageschool.io

Set Jazz Dance music may be used for the technical skills exercises; alternatively, teachers may select their own music. For music suggestions, please visit stageschool.io

1 - TECHNICAL SKILLS

A. THE WARM UP	B. LIMBERING AND MOBILISING	C. FLOOR STRENGTHENING	D. ISOLATIONS
<p>Warm up exercise appropriate for an intermediate dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accented hop and jumps in 1st and 2nd with fully stretched feet • High release into preliminary stretches 	<p>Exercise appropriate for an intermediate dancer focusing on the flexibility of the hips, hamstring and spine, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep pli� in 2nd position whilst maintaining forward stretch • Standing stretches, dynamic stretches 	<p>Exercise to develop strength and control appropriate for an intermediate dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plank and or press-up • A variety of controlled abdominal strengthening exercises 	<p>Exercise to develop isolations appropriate for an intermediate dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Layering of isolations including change of direction • Use of connecting or travelling steps

E. PIROUÉTTE	F. PREPARATION FOR LEG TILTS AT THE BARRE	G. ARM SEQUENCE	H. ELEVATION AND TRAVEL: DANCE COMBINATION
<p>Pirouette exercise in the centre appropriate for an intermediate dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Jazz 4th, relevé and retiré • Single and double pirouette • Travelling turns • Demonstrate on both sides 	<p>Exercise sideways to the barre preparing for full leg extension tilt appropriate for an intermediate dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working leg through retiré to tilt position • Demonstrate on both sides 	<p>Kick amalgamation appropriate for an intermediate dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of forward, side and circular kicks • Demonstrate on both sides 	<p>Penultimate dance combination, an opportunity to bring greater creativity and sense of showmanship, in preparation for the final dance performance, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front and side split leap • Single and double pirouette • Travelling turns • Demonstrate on both sides

IMPROVISATION

Candidates will be given a piece of music (provided by the examiner and played by the music operator in the exam). To view the full list of example music tracks that may be chosen by the examiner, please visit: stageschool.io

Candidates have one minute to familiarise themselves with the music before the improvisation commences.

Candidates will improvise in **small groups** facing the examiner for approximately **45 seconds**.

The candidate will dance freely, choosing any Jazz moves or Jazz style to perform.

2 - THE PERFORMANCE

The performance consists of one dance routine which must be a **minimum** duration of **two minutes** and a **maximum** of **three minutes**.

A maximum of **four candidates** can be assessed at any one time.

Grade 5 | Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcome – The learner will:		Assessment Criteria – The learner can:	
1	Be able to perform movement sequences showing an awareness of technique in Jazz Dance	1.1	Demonstrate a clear knowledge and understanding of Jazz Dance vocabulary
		1.2	Demonstrate secure technical skills at an intermediate level
2	Be able to perform movement sequences demonstrating musicality in Jazz Dance	2.1	Demonstrate an understanding of a range of rhythmical sounds, accents and timings
		2.2	Demonstrate an understanding of musical interpretation including: a. Phrasing b. Dynamics c. Atmosphere
3	Be able to show a sense of performance in Jazz Dance	3.1	Demonstrate the use of expression and performance skills appropriately at an intermediate level
		3.2	Communicate appropriately with the audience

Grade 5 | Grade Descriptors

1 LEARNING OUTCOME 1 (Technical Skills)

The learner will be able to perform movement sequences showing an awareness of technique in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>Inability to demonstrate technique. An insecure ability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Fluency • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Fluency • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Fluency • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Fluency • Knowledge of vocabulary

2 LEARNING OUTCOME 2 (Technical Skills)

The learner will be able to perform movement sequences demonstrating musicality in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>Insecure evidence of musicality. An inability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical Interpretation (through phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere) 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical Interpretation (through phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere) 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical Interpretation (through phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere) 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical Interpretation (through phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere)

3 LEARNING OUTCOME 3 (The Performance)

The learner will be able to show a sense of performance in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>An inability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique • Projection • Interpretation 	<p>Demonstrate awareness of the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique • Projection • Interpretation 	<p>Demonstrate awareness of the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique • Projection • Interpretation 	<p>Demonstrate awareness of the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication to audience • Technique • Projection • Interpretation

Grade 6 | Content

Teachers arranging their own Technical Skills Exercises are free to create their own exercises but must include the following steps as a minimum. For a demonstration of these steps, please see the Jazz Dance Grade 6 video at stageschool.io

Set Jazz Dance music may be used for the technical skills exercises; alternatively, teachers may select their own music. For music suggestions, please visit stageschool.io

1 - TECHNICAL SKILLS

A. THE WARM UP	B. FLOOR STRENGTHENING	C. PLIÉS	D. ISOLATIONS
<p>Warm up exercise appropriate for an advanced dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward stretch into contraction and recover • Plié in 2nd, push onto demi point 	<p>Exercise to develop strength and control appropriate for an advanced dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Knife position, beat legs • Lying on front, lift the upper spine and lower legs 	<p>Exercise in the Centre continuing the development of core strength and overall control appropriate for an advanced dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demi and full plié in parallel 1st and 2nd in the Centre • Use of rise and lower 	<p>Exercise to develop isolations appropriate for an advanced dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Layering of isolations including change of direction • Creative use of the music • Demonstrate on both sides

E. PIROUÉTTE	F. LEG TILTS	G. KICK SEQUENCE	H. ELEVATION AND TRAVEL
Pirouette exercise in the Centre appropriate for an advanced dancer, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of jazz 4th, relevé and retiré • Single and double pirouette • Travelling and elevated turns • Demonstrate on both sides 	Exercise in the Centre to demonstrate tilt appropriate for an advanced dancer, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working leg through retiré to tilt position • Demonstrate on both sides 	Kick amalgamation appropriate for an advanced dancer, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward, side and circular kicks • Demonstrate on both sides 	Penultimate dance combination, an opportunity to bring greater creativity and sense of showmanship, in preparation for the final dance performance, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calypso leap • Circular Spring • Double or triple pirouette • Demonstrate on both sides

IMPROVISATION

Candidates will be given a piece of music (provided by the examiner and played by the music operator in the exam). To view the full list of example music tracks that may be chosen by the examiner, please visit: stageschool.io

Candidates have one minute to familiarise themselves with the music before the improvisation commences.

Candidates will improvise in **small groups** facing the examiner for approximately **one minute**.

The candidate will dance freely, choosing any Jazz moves or Jazz style to perform.

2 - THE PERFORMANCE

The performance consists of one dance routine which must be a **minimum** duration of **two minutes** and a **maximum** of **three minutes**.

A maximum of **four candidates** can be assessed at any one time.

Grade 6 | Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcome – The learner will:		Assessment Criteria – The learner can:	
1	Be able to perform complex movement sequences showing an understanding and secure use of technique in Jazz Dance	1.1	Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and understanding of Jazz Dance vocabulary
		1.2	Demonstrate secure technical skills at an advanced level
2	Be able to perform complex movement sequences showing an understanding of musicality in Jazz Dance	2.1	Demonstrate a clear understanding of a range of complex rhythmical sounds, accents and timings
		2.2	Demonstrate an understanding of musical interpretation including: a. Phrasing b. Dynamics c. Atmosphere
3	Be able to present an assured performance in Jazz Dance	3.1	Demonstrate the use of expression and performance skills appropriately at an advanced level
		3.2	Use varied expression and a range of performance skills with appropriate engagement with the audience

Grade 6 | Grade Descriptors

1 LEARNING OUTCOME 1 (Technical Skills)

The learner will be able to perform complex movement sequences showing an understanding and secure use of technique in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>Inability to demonstrate technique. An insecure ability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Fluency • Style • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Fluency • Style • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Fluency • Style • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Fluency • Style • Knowledge of vocabulary

2 LEARNING OUTCOME 2 (Technical Skills)

The learner will be able to perform complex movement sequences showing an understanding of musicality in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>Insecure evidence of musicality. An inability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical Interpretation (through phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere) 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical Interpretation (through phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere) 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical Interpretation (through phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere) 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical Interpretation (through phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere)

3 LEARNING OUTCOME 3 (The Performance)

The learner will be able to present an assured performance in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>An inability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication/ engagement with audience • Technique • Projection • Interpretation • Style 	<p>Evidence of the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication/ engagement with audience • Technique • Projection • Interpretation • Style 	<p>Evidence of the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication/ engagement with audience • Technique • Projection • Interpretation • Style 	<p>Evidence of the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication/ engagement with audience • Technique • Projection • Interpretation • Style

Grade 7 | Content

Teachers arranging their own Technical Skills Exercises are free to create their own exercises but must include the following steps as a minimum. For a demonstration of these steps, please see the Jazz Dance Grade 7 video at stageschool.io

Set Jazz Dance music may be used for the technical skills exercises; alternatively, teachers may select their own music. For music suggestions, please visit stageschool.io

1 - TECHNICAL SKILLS

A. THE WARM UP	B. FLOOR STRENGTHENING	C. PLIÉS	D. ISOLATIONS
<p>Warm up exercise appropriate for an advanced dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stretching sequence to mobilises the limbs and joints • High energy exercise with layered steps warming up the whole body 	<p>Exercise to develop strength and control appropriate for an advanced dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled back and core strengthening exercises • Balances engaging the whole body 	<p>Exercise in the Centre continuing the development of core strength and overall control appropriate for an advanced dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demi and full plié in the Centre parallel and turned out • Use of rise and lower 	<p>Exercise to develop isolations appropriate for an advanced dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Layering of isolations including change of direction • Creative use of the music

E. PIROUÉTTE	F. KICK SEQUENCE	G. ELEVATION AND TRAVEL
<p>Pirouette exercise in the Centre appropriate for an advanced dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double or triple pirouette • Travelling and elevated turns • Demonstrate on both sides 	<p>Kick amalgamation appropriate for an advanced dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward kick on relevé and on a flat foot • Side and circular kicks • Demonstrate on both sides 	<p>Penultimate dance combination, an opportunity to bring greater creativity and sense of showmanship, in preparation for the final dance performance, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward and side leaps • Front, side and circular kicks • Double or triple pirouette and travelling turns • Demonstrate on both sides

IMPROVISATION

Candidates will be given a piece of music (provided by the examiner and played by the music operator in the exam). To view the full list of example music tracks that may be chosen by the examiner, please visit: stageschool.io

Candidates have one minute to familiarise themselves with the music before the improvisation commences.

Candidates will improvise in **small groups** facing the examiner for approximately **one minute**.

The candidate will dance freely, choosing any Jazz moves or Jazz style to perform.

2 - THE PERFORMANCE

The performance consists of one dance routine which must be a **minimum** duration of **two minutes** and a **maximum** of **three minutes**.

A maximum of **four candidates** can be assessed at any one time.

Grade 7 | Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcome – The learner will:		Assessment Criteria – The learner can:	
1	Be able to perform complex movement sequences showing an understanding and secure use of technique in Jazz Dance	1.1	Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and understanding of Jazz Dance vocabulary
		1.2	Demonstrate secure technical skills at an advanced level
2	Be able to perform complex movement sequences showing an understanding of musicality in Jazz Dance	2.1	Demonstrate a clear understanding of a range of complex rhythmical sounds, accents and timings
		2.2	Demonstrate an understanding of musical interpretation including: a. Phrasing b. Dynamics c. Atmosphere
3	Be able to present an assured performance in Jazz Dance	3.1	Demonstrate the use of expression and performance skills appropriately at an advanced level
		3.2	Use varied expression and a range of performance skills with appropriate engagement with the audience

Grade 7 | Grade Descriptors

1 LEARNING OUTCOME 1 (Technical Skills)

The learner will be able to perform complex movement sequences showing an understanding and secure use of technique in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>Inability to demonstrate technique. An insecure ability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Fluency • Style • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Fluency • Style • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Fluency • Style • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Fluency • Style • Knowledge of vocabulary

2 LEARNING OUTCOME 2 (Technical Skills)

The learner will be able to perform complex movement sequences showing an understanding of musicality in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>Insecure evidence of musicality. An inability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical Interpretation (through phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere) 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical Interpretation (through phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere) 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical Interpretation (through phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere) 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical Interpretation (through phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere)

3 LEARNING OUTCOME 3 (The Performance)

The learner will be able to present an assured performance in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>An inability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication / engagement with audience • Technique • Projection • Interpretation • Style 	<p>Evidence of the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication / engagement with audience • Technique • Projection • Interpretation • Style 	<p>Evidence of the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication / engagement with audience • Technique • Projection • Interpretation • Style 	<p>Evidence of the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication / engagement with audience • Technique • Projection • Interpretation • Style

Grade 8 | Content

Teachers arranging their own Technical Skills Exercises are free to create their own exercises but must include the following steps as a minimum. For a demonstration of these steps, please see the Jazz Dance Grade 8 video at stageschool.io

Set Jazz Dance music may be used for the technical skills exercises; alternatively, teachers may select their own music. For music suggestions, please visit stageschool.io

1 - TECHNICAL SKILLS

A. THE WARM UP	B. FLOOR STRENGTHENING	C. PLIÉS	D. ISOLATIONS
Warm up exercise appropriate for an advanced dancer, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained and controlled stretches • Floor work 	Exercise to develop strength and control appropriate for an advanced dancer, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled back and core strengthening exercises • Balances engaging the whole body 	Exercise in the Centre continuing the development of core strength and overall control appropriate for an advanced dancer, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demi and full in parallel 1st and 2nd position in the Centre parallel and turned out • Use of rise and lower 	Exercise to develop isolations appropriate for an advanced dancer, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Layering of isolations including change of direction • Creative use of the music • Demonstrate on both sides

E. PIROUÉTTE	F. KICK SQUENCE	G. ELEVATION AND TRAVEL
<p>Pirouette exercise in the Centre appropriate for an advanced dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double or triple pirouette • Travelling and elevated turns • Stylised pirouette • Demonstrate on both sides 	<p>Kick amalgamation appropriate for an advanced dancer, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward kick on relevé and on a flat foot • Side and circular kicks • Stylised kicks • Demonstrate on both sides 	<p>Penultimate dance combination, an opportunity to bring greater creativity and sense of showmanship, in preparation for the final dance performance, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Box jump • Forward, side or circular kicks • Double or triple pirouette • Demonstrate on both sides

IMPROVISATION

Candidates will be given a piece of music (provided by the examiner and played by the music operator in the exam). To view the full list of example music tracks that may be chosen by the examiner, please visit: stageschool.io

Candidates have one minute to familiarise themselves with the music before the improvisation commences.

Candidates will improvise in **small groups** facing the examiner for approximately **one minute**.

The candidate will dance freely, choosing any Jazz moves or Jazz style to perform.

2 - THE PERFORMANCE

The performance consists of one dance routine which must be a **minimum** duration of **two minutes** and a **maximum** of **three minutes**.

A maximum of **four candidates** can be assessed at any one time.

Grade 8 | Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcome – The learner will:		Assessment Criteria – The learner can:	
1	Be able to perform complex movement sequences showing an understanding and secure use of technique in Jazz Dance	1.1	Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and understanding of Jazz Dance vocabulary
		1.2	Demonstrate secure skills at an advanced level
2	Be able to perform complex movement sequences showing an understanding of musicality in Jazz Dance	2.1	Demonstrate a clear understanding of a range of complex rhythmical sounds, accents and timings
		2.2	Demonstrate an understanding of musical interpretation including: a. Phrasing b. Dynamics c. Atmosphere
3	Be able to present an assured performance in Jazz Dance	3.1	Demonstrate the use of expression and performance skills appropriately at an advanced level
		3.2	Use varied expression and a range of performance skills with appropriate engagement with the audience

Grade 8 | Grade Descriptors

1 LEARNING OUTCOME 1 (Technical Skills)

The learner will be able to perform complex movement sequences showing an understanding and secure use of technique in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>Inability to demonstrate technique. An insecure ability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Fluency • Style • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Fluency • Style • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Fluency • Style • Knowledge of vocabulary 	<p>Evidence of technique. To include the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Control • Dynamic values • Line • Fluency • Style • Knowledge of vocabulary

2 LEARNING OUTCOME 2 (Technical Skills)

The learner will be able to perform complex movement sequences demonstrating musicality in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>Insecure evidence of musicality. An inability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical Interpretation (through phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere) 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical Interpretation (through phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere) 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical Interpretation (through phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere) 	<p>Evidence of musicality. To include the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing & rhythm • Musical Interpretation (through phrasing, dynamics and atmosphere)

3 LEARNING OUTCOME 3 (The Performance)

The learner will be able to present an assured performance in Jazz Dance

Unclassified	Pass	Merit	Distinction
<p>An inability to demonstrate awareness of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication / engagement with audience • Technique • Projection • Interpretation • Style 	<p>Evidence of the following some of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication / engagement with audience • Technique • Projection • Interpretation • Style 	<p>Evidence of the following for the majority of the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication / engagement with audience • Technique • Projection • Interpretation • Style 	<p>Evidence of the following throughout:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression • Communication / engagement with audience • Technique • Projection • Interpretation • Style

Definitions

Definitions of the Terminology used in the Grade Descriptors

Communication	The successful conveying or sharing of ideas and feelings through facial and physical expression in performance
Control	The ability to present performance material with integrity and consistency
Dynamic Values	Variations in energy and power used effectively to produce creative, expressive and engaging performance work
Expression	To effectively use face and body to communicate thoughts, moods and feelings
Fluency	The ability to express oneself easily, smoothly and skilfully throughout
Interpretation	A stylistic representation of creative work/choreography
Line	The ideal shape created with the body whilst performing steps or poses that is most appropriate to the style
Musical Response	The ability to react physically to musical stimuli in order to sensitively convey emotion and communicate meaning
Phrasing	The execution of short choreographic fragments in a way that gives them the feeling of having a beginning and an end
Projection	The ability to deliver effectively and clearly in performance to express mood, feelings and emotions through
Style	The presentation of specific characteristics through the way in which something is expressed or performed; demonstrating an appreciation of choreographic intent, period and genre
Technique	A way of refining skill in the execution of performance of an artistic piece of work
Timing and rhythm	The ability to keep time accurately and to synchronise with a group in ensemble work. The appropriate use of pace and pause in choreography and movement

Revision History

July 2022:

Technical Skills Exercises - set Jazz Dance music. The guidance has been updated to clarify music options 1 & 2 for the Arm Sequence.

February 2023:

Clarification of the use of a barre within technical exercises.

April 2023:

Updated text to refer candidates and teachers to example improvisation music (Grades 4–8)

September 2023:

Guidance on the minimum and maximum durations for the performance.

Guidance on the music for the improvisation section of the exam. To view the full grade-by-grade list of example music tracks that may be chosen by the examiner, please visit stageschool.io

Clarification on the Elevation and Travel exercise for grades Premiere and Debut.

Revised performance durations and the number of dance routines required for Grades 4–8

January 2025:

Revised number of candidates for examinations

Candidates can only be assessed with others at the same grade; mixed-grade assessments are not allowed.

No audience permitted for the performance element of the exam.