

GCSE Dance Course Information

Examination Board: AQA

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Component 1: Performance

- Performing two set phrases as a solo from a selection of 4 (Scoop, Flux, Shift, Breathe)
- Performing duo/trio based on a set work and developing actions from 2 of the set phrases (set work - "Within Her Eyes" by James Cousins)

For both of these aspects you are assessed on the **Performing Skills** (physical, technical, expressive and mental) and how you demonstrate these in your practical performances (see below).

30% of the GCSE

40 marks

Component 1: Choreography

- Students will receive an exam paper containing four different stimuli, in September of Year 11. Students will have to research and create a dance based on a chosen stimulus. This can be a solo/duo or group choreography and the candidate can perform in their own choreography if they wish.

30% of the GCSE

40 marks

Component 2: Dance Appreciation **1 hour and 30 mins**

There are 3 sections to the written exam paper.

Section A - short answer questions based on a hypothetical choreography question. Students will be given a stimulus and then have to answer questions relating to this.

Section B - 6 mark questions focusing on the candidate's own practical learning in Component 1. Students will need to know all the Performing Skills, how they've used and improved them over time for their own practical studies.

Section C - two 12 mark questions based on any 4 of the 6 set works.

One question focuses on one of the set works but two different constituent features (lighting, set design, costume, aural setting) comparing and contrasting aspects, and discussing how these features help to portray the dance idea.

The other question will focus on one constituent feature but two set works. Candidates will need to be able to explain similarities and differences between the works, again highlighting how this helps to portray specific key features within the choreographic intention. Further details are on our website.

40% of the GCSE

80 marks

Performing Skills:

Physical		Technical	Expressive	Mental
Alignment	Balance	Actions	Facial Expressions	Movement
Coordination	Control	Dynamics	Focus	Memory
Extension	Flexibility	Space	Musicality	Commitment
Isolation	Mobility	Relationships	Phrasing	Concentration
Posture	Stamina	Timing	Projection	Confidence
Strength		Rhythm	Spatial Awareness	

GCSE Dance Anthology Professional Works:

These professional works are studied both practically and theoretically throughout the course in order to support students learning required for Section C of the written paper.

"Shadows" Christopher Bruce

In this piece, Bruce invites the audience into the world of a small family, possibly set in Eastern Europe (though this is left up to individual interpretation) coming to terms with deprivation, poverty, and the realities of what lies outside their intimate family home.



"Emancipation of Expressionism" Kenrick H20 Sandy

Kenrick seeks to express himself by using hip hop as a tool to create art that affects an audience in a theatrical setting. He wants the audience to feel that they are witnessing and sharing an emotional journey through the piece and appreciating hip hop dance as an art form.



"A Linha Curva" Itzik Galili

A Linha Curva is Rambert's party piece: a riotous explosion of sexy, colourful, samba-fuelled dance. The work features 28 performers, a massed bank of percussion and dramatic lighting.



"Infra" Wayne McGregor

Infra, coming from the Latin word for 'below', presented a portrait of life beneath the surface of the city. This abstract ballet delved beneath the surface to present a moving mediation on human interactions.



"Artificial Things" Lucy Bennett

Scene 3 is the final scene in Artificial Things. It is about characters coming to terms with Life's limitations - we all live within certain confinements, and we are subject to the gaze of "the other". The characters act out this sorrowful but peaceful scene.



"Within Her Eyes" James Cousins

For Within Her Eyes, Cousins wanted to create a love story with a twist. Inspired by both personal experiences and well-known narratives, Cousins wanted to portray a unique narrative combining themes of love and loss, dependency and loyalty, longing and memory.

