

GCE
AS and A Level

Dance

AS exams 2009 onwards
A2 exams 2010 onwards

Unit 2:
Specimen assessment criteria

Version 1.1





General Certificate of Education

Dance DANC2

Specimen Assessment Criteria

Unit 2 – Choreography and Performance

This unit is internally assessed and as the assessment criteria will not change from year to year, these are printed in section 3.6 of the specification. This document contains:

- the question-specific criteria for the Solo Choreography and Performance task
- mark allocations for the criteria for all questions.

Vertical black lines indicate a significant change or addition to the previous specimen mark scheme.

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Dr Michael Cresswell, Director General

Section A – Solo Choreography and Performance

AO1

The ability to create imaginative dances with an understanding of current practice whilst drawing on the conventions and traditions of the past.

This will be evident in the:

- *appropriate, imaginative and informed translation of ideas into dance material in relation to the chosen question*
- *appropriate and imaginative manipulation of dance material through the use of choreographic and structuring devices in relation to solo choreography, providing a coherent development of ideas*
- *appropriate and imaginative choice and/or use of music, sound or silence to enhance meaning and projection of the dance idea.*

Specific marking categories will be issued with the question paper, though mark allocations will remain the same each year, ie 12 marks for response and interpretation of the question and 18 marks for the craft of choreography.

Mark bands for Solo Choreography

Band 1 25 – 30 marks

- Highly imaginative, pertinent and extremely clear translation of ideas into dance material, leading to work which demonstrates a thorough understanding and very confident grasp of the process of selection and manipulation of material
- The answer will reveal a very competent understanding of choreographic and structuring devices, which results in a highly sophisticated, complex and coherent piece of work
- Highly imaginative, thoughtful and insightful choice and use of the aural setting which allows the candidate to enhance very clearly the meaning and expression of the dance idea

Band 2 19 – 24 marks

- Imaginative and clear translation of ideas into dance material, leading to work which demonstrates a sound understanding and clear grasp of the process of selection and manipulation of material
- The answer will reveal a competent understanding of choreographic and structuring devices, which results in a coherent piece of work
- Imaginative and carefully considered choice and use of the aural setting which allows the candidate to enhance the meaning and expression of the dance idea

Band 3 13 – 18 marks

- A sound attempt to translate ideas into dance material, leading to work which demonstrates understanding of the process of selection and manipulation of material
- The answer will reveal understanding of choreographic and structuring devices, which results in an attempt to produce a coherent piece of work, though at times clarity may be lost
- A considered attempt will have been made to choose and use appropriate aural setting, though it may not necessarily enhance the meaning and expression of the dance idea

Band 4 7 – 12 marks

- Some attempt will have been made, though limited, to translate ideas into dance material, leading to work which demonstrates very limited understanding of the process of selection and manipulation of material
- The answer will reveal a limited understanding of choreographic and structuring devices, which results in a piece of work which is inconsistent in its attempt to be coherent
- An attempt will have been made to choose and use aural setting, though the choice and its use may not enhance the meaning and expression of the dance idea

Band 5 1 – 6 marks

- Very little, if any, evidence of appropriate translation of ideas into dance material, leading to work which demonstrates extremely limited understanding of the process of selection and manipulation of material
- The answer will reveal little or no understanding of choreographic and structuring devices, which results in a piece of work lacking clarity and coherence
- An attempt will have been made to choose and use aural setting, though the choice and its use may not enhance and may even detract from the meaning and expression of the dance idea

Section A - Solo Choreography and Performance

Candidates answer **one** question from this section.

Choreograph and perform a solo dance of between two and three minutes' duration on one of the following tasks.

1 Choreograph and perform a dance based upon *Self-Portrait on the Borderline between Mexico and the United States (1932)* by Frida Kahlo illustrated below and the supporting text.

Evocation of imagery, e.g. Mexican female, Mexican symbolism, American symbolism 6 marks

Establishment of contrast through the dynamic and spatial elements, e.g., between two cultures, past and present, technology and nature 6 marks

Originality (or appropriate adaptation of) and manipulation of movement material through choreographic devices 6 marks

Coherence, structure of dance 6 marks

Appropriateness and use of music/sound/silence 6 marks

Total 30 marks

2 Choreograph and perform a dance using the musical accompaniment *Ice Miner* by Leo Kottke (1971).

Embodiment of the musical structure, rhythm and phrasing through appropriate selection of action and dynamic content 6 marks

Establishment of appropriate style in relation to the music 6 marks

Use of spatial pattern 6 marks

Originality (or appropriate adaptation of) and manipulation of movement material through choreographic devices 6 marks

Coherence, structure of dance 6 marks

Total 30 marks

3 Choreograph and perform a dance study based upon spirals and turns

Original and appropriate use of the three movement components in relation to the theme:

- action content 6 marks
- dynamic qualities 6 marks
- spatial patterning 6 marks

Coherence, structure of dance study 6 marks

Appropriateness and use of music/sound/silence 6 marks

Total 30 marks

4 Choreograph and perform a dance based upon a character from a Brothers Grimm fairy tale.

Establishment of character through posture, action, dynamic and spatial qualities 6 marks

Evocation and/or establishment of any of the following:
place, situation, incident, mood, atmosphere 6 marks

Originality (or appropriate adaptation of) and manipulation of movement material through choreographic devices 6 marks

Coherence, structure of dance 6 marks

Appropriateness and use of music/sound/silence 6 marks

Total 30 marks

Section A – Solo Choreography and Performance (continued)

AO2i

The ability to perform and interpret dance ideas, through solo performance, demonstrating an understanding of appropriate technical and expressive skills and of safe practice.

This will be evident in the:

- *articulate and efficient use of bodily skill*
- *eloquent control of space*
- *eloquent use of dynamics to embody the specific dance idea*
- *clear use of focus to communicate the dance idea*
- *informed and appropriate projection of the dance idea.*

Mark bands for Performance of the Solo Choreography

Band 1 25 – 30 marks

- Highly articulate and extremely efficient use of bodily skill
- Carefully considered and very controlled use of space
- Highly appropriate use of dynamics to embody the specific dance idea, showing very clear understanding of dynamic phrasing, subtlety and nuance
- Extremely effective and very clear use of focus to communicate the dance idea
- Projection of the dance idea is demonstrated in an informed, transparent and wholly appropriate manner
- The performance is presented in a sophisticated and highly polished, elegant way, clearly demonstrating an appropriate sense of style

Band 2 19 – 24 marks

- Articulate and very efficient use of bodily skill
- Considered and controlled use of space
- Appropriate use of dynamics to embody the specific dance idea, showing understanding of dynamic phrasing, subtlety and nuance
- Effective and clear use of focus to communicate the dance idea
- Projection of the dance idea is demonstrated in an informed and appropriate manner
- The performance is presented with flair, demonstrating an appropriate sense of style

Band 3 13 – 18 marks

- Efficient use of bodily skill
- The use of space has been considered but sometimes control and eloquence may be erratic
- Appropriate use of dynamics to embody the specific dance idea, though clarity of dynamic phrasing may be missing
- An attempt to be effective in the use of focus to communicate the dance idea, though there may be some inconsistency throughout the performance
- Projection of the dance idea is demonstrated in an adequate manner, though there may be some inconsistency throughout the performance

- An attempt will have been made to demonstrate an appropriate sense of style throughout the performance

Band 4 7 – 12 marks

- The use of bodily skill sometimes shows efficiency and clarity
- The use of space has been considered but more often than not the performer demonstrates an erratic sense of control and eloquence
- An attempt to use dynamic variation has been made but the relationship with the dance idea is not always clear
- The use of focus is inconsistent throughout the performance and is used unsuccessfully to communicate the dance idea
- Projection of the dance idea is limited
- The demonstration of an appropriate sense of style is limited

Band 5 1 – 6 marks

- Extremely limited efficiency in the use of bodily skill, showing very little evidence of articulation
- The performer has very limited control and eloquence in her/his use of space
- The use of dynamics to embody the dance idea is extremely limited and underdeveloped
- The use of focus is limited throughout the performance and does not enhance the communication of the dance idea
- Projection of the dance idea is extremely limited
- The demonstration of an appropriate sense of style is extremely limited

Section A: Solo Performance mark scheme

Precision and control of bodily skill: alignment, flexion, extension, rotation, whole body participation and/or isolation	6 marks
Precision and control of bodily skill: locomotion, transference of weight, balance	6 marks
Spatial control and eloquence (in individual space and in stage space as used)	6 marks
Rhythmic control and eloquence, embodying the chosen dynamics	6 marks
Interpretation/embodyment of the candidate's dance idea with use of focus (imaginative or actual) to project the interpretation with clarity	6 marks

Total 30 marks

Section B – Performance in a duo/trio

Question 5 Perform in a duo or trio, of between three and four minutes' duration, that will allow you to demonstrate the following.

- Clear spatial awareness between yourself and other dancers
- Clear demonstration and presentation of choreographic devices within a duo/trio e.g. unison, canon, counterpoint, variation, contrast, contact
- Clear and accurate timing with other dancers in relation to the choreographic and structuring devices
- Clear and appropriate focus between yourself and other dancers
- Clear understanding of the group performance context and your individual role within it
- Clear understanding of safe practice within the context of a duo/trio.

AO2i

The ability to perform with other dancers, demonstrating sensitivity and awareness within group performance, and of safe practice.

This will be evident in the relationships shown through:

- *clear spatial awareness between dancers*
- *clear demonstration and presentation of choreographic devices within a duo/trio, eg unison, canon, counterpoint, variation, contrast, contact*
- *clear and accurate timing of dancers with each other in relation to the choreographic and structuring devices*
- *clear and appropriate focus between the dancers*
- *clear understanding of the group performance context and individual role within it*
- *clear understanding of safe dance practice within the context of a duo/trio.*

Mark Bands for Performance in a duo/trio

Band 1 25 – 30 marks

- Carefully considered and very controlled use of space in relation to other performers
- Extremely clear demonstration and presentation of choreographic devices
- Extremely accurate timing in relation to other performers and the choreographic devices used
- Extremely effective and very clear use of focus within the context of a duo/trio
- Sophisticated presentation of the dance idea, showing insightful understanding of individual role within a duo/trio performance context

Band 2 19 – 24 marks

- Considered and controlled use of space in relation to other performers
- Very clear demonstration and presentation of choreographic devices
- Accurate timing in relation to other performers and the choreographic devices used
- Effective and clear use of focus within the context of a duo/trio
- Very clear presentation of the dance idea showing understanding of individual role within a duo/trio performance context

Band 3 13 – 18 marks

- The use of space in relation to other performers has been considered but sometimes this may be erratic
- Competent demonstration and presentation of choreographic devices
- Some accuracy of timing in relation to other performers and the choreographic devices used
- An attempt to be effective in the use of focus within the context of a duo/trio
- Clear presentation of the dance idea, showing some understanding of individual role within a duo/trio performance context

Band 4 7 – 12 marks

- The use of space in relation to other performers has been considered but more often than not the performer demonstrates an erratic sense of spatial awareness
- Adequate demonstration and presentation of choreographic devices
- An attempt to demonstrate accurate timing in relation to other performers and the choreographic devices used, but at times this is inconsistent
- An attempt to be effective in the use of focus within the context of a duo/trio but at times this is inconsistent
- Adequate presentation of the dance idea, showing some understanding of individual role within a duo/trio performance context

Band 5 1 – 6 marks

- The performer demonstrates very little spatial awareness in the context of a duo/trio
- Limited demonstration and presentation of choreographic devices
- Limited accuracy of timing in relation to other performers and the choreographic devices used
- The use of focus is limited within the context of a duo/trio
- Limited presentation of the dance idea, showing some understanding of individual role within a duo/trio performance context

Section B mark scheme - performance within a duo/trio

Spatial awareness within the context of a duo/trio 6 marks

Demonstration and presentation of choreographic devices within a duo/trio e.g. unison, canon, counterpoint, variation, contrast, contact 6 marks

Timing in relation to other performers and choreographic devices 6 marks

Use of focus within the context of a duo/trio 6 marks

Demonstration of understanding of the group performance context and individual role within it 6 marks

Total 30 marks