



Dance 2007–2011

Written examination – November

Examination specifications

Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

There will be 15 minutes reading time and 90 minutes writing time.

VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook*.

The examination will be assessed by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 25 per cent to the Study Score.

Content

The following sample examination questions relate to the revised *VCE Dance Study Design*. The sample examination questions are not a sample examination paper (see below).

All of the key knowledge and skills that underpin the outcomes in Units 3 and 4 are examinable.

The majority of questions in the paper will focus on choreographic principles and the prescribed works. These questions constitute 75%–80% of the available marks. Performance aspects of the key knowledge and key skills in Units 3 and 4, Outcome 2 and Unit 3, Outcome 3, are assessed separately; the aspects of these Outcomes assessed in the written examination will constitute 20%–25% of the available marks.

The examination will include scenario questions which require application of the knowledge and understanding of processes involved in choreographing or learning, safe rehearsal and performance of solo and group dance works.

Format

The examination paper will be in the form of a question and answer book. Sufficient lines will be available for each response. Additional space will be available at the end of the book if students need it for their responses. The paper will consist of 3–7 questions. All questions will be compulsory.

Two–four questions will be extended answer questions based on analysis of the prescribed works and on understanding of the choreographic principles on which these works are based. (Unit 3 Outcome 1 and Unit 4 Outcome 1.)

One–three questions will focus on dance technique and choreography or learning, rehearsal, and performance of learnt group dance works and students' own solos, including the choreographic principles on which these dance works are based (aspects of Unit 3 Outcomes 2 and 3 and Unit 4 Outcome 2).

Marks will be allocated in approximately the following way.

Units 3 and 4, Outcome 1	75% – 80% of marks allocated
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Unit 3 Outcomes 2 and 3, Unit 4 Outcome 2	20% – 25% of marks allocated
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Advice

During the 2007–2011 accreditation period for VCE Dance, written examinations will be prepared according to the Examination specifications above. Each examination will be an interpretation of these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge and skills.

Sample examination questions

The following sample material provides an indication of the type and range of questions which teachers and students can expect on the Dance written examination from November 2007. It is not a sample examination paper. The sample material shows how the key knowledge and skills in Outcomes of Unit 3 and Unit 4 may be assessed in the written examination. Notes in italics with each question in the sample material show the Outcome and the Criteria to which that question is related. In any year, the examination will assess a representative sample of the key knowledge and key skills that underpin the outcomes of each unit. The sample questions show the format used in a question and answer examination book.

Teachers should refer to the Examination section of the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook 2007* and to the *VCAA VCE, VET and VCAL Bulletin* for further advice during the year.

The marks in this sample material are provided as an indication of the length and detail of the response expected. For further information about examination assessment, refer to past *VCE Dance Assessment Reports* on the VCAA website. Assessors will use a marking guide that describes expected characteristics of responses to each question. For example, assessment of responses to Question 4 in the following sample questions would be based on the extent to which the response demonstrates

- capacity to substantiate an opinion regarding the number of sections and type of form
- analysis of movement vocabulary, for example reference to body actions, the elements of movement, choreographic principles such as repetition, stylistic characteristics, and dance terminology
- ability to differentiate between sections using movement vocabulary description and analysis
- capacity to deal with each section of the dance work consistently and to complete the analysis of the whole dance solo.

The marks allocated to individual questions will vary from year to year.

Examination criteria

The examination criteria were published in the *VCE Dance Assessment Handbook 2007–2011*.

The examination paper will address all the criteria. All students will be examined against each criterion.

1. Understanding of cultural influences on prescribed solo and group dance works.
2. Analysis of choreographic principles.
3. Understanding of the processes used to choreograph, rehearse and perform solo dance works.
4. Understanding of dance technique and processes used to learn, rehearse and perform group dance works.
5. Knowledge and use of appropriate dance terminology.

Sample questions

Question 1

(Unit 3, Outcome 3; Criteria 4 and 5)

List **three** different alignment principles that if used correctly assist a dancer to move safely and efficiently.

3 marks

Question 2

(Unit 3, Outcome 2; Criteria 3 and 5)

When choreographing your Unit 3 (technique) solo and your Unit 4 (composition) solo you used movement creation processes.

- a. Explain how you used the process of evaluation when deciding which order of phrases and sections would best communicate your expressive intention in the technique solo.

- b. Explain how you used the process of refinement to improve the choreographic manipulation of focus to communicate your expressive intention in the composition solo.

3 + 3 = 6 marks

Question 3

(Unit 4, Outcome 2; Criteria 3 and 5)

(Note: Answers for this question do not necessarily need to include specific movement description, and an actual expressive intention does not need to be decided upon or articulated.)

You are a professional choreographer who will be performing, in a National Dance Festival, a solo dance work which you have created. You have finished the choreography of the solo and you are now entering the rehearsal phase as you prepare for performance.

a. Describe **two** rehearsal processes you will use.

b. Explain how **each** rehearsal process described in **part a.** will improve your execution of choreography. Refer to a different aspect of choreography for each rehearsal process.

c. Explain how **each** rehearsal process described in **part a.** will increase your ability to effectively communicate the expressive intention.

2 + 4 + 4 = 10 marks

The 2007 Prescribed List of solo dance works in Unit 3 was

- *Cry* by Alvin Ailey
- ‘I got Rhythm’ from *An American in Paris* by Gene Kelly
- Male solo from *Percussion 4* from *Dancin’* by Bob Fosse
- ‘Ruby Tuesday’ from *Rooster* by Christopher Bruce
- ‘Freedom in Knowledge’ from *Snakes, Gods and Deities* by Julia Gray and Tracks Dance Company
- ‘Pink’ solo from *Wild Swans* by Meryl Tankard

Question 4

(Unit 3, Outcome 1; Criteria 2 and 5)

Select **one** of the solo dance works listed above and refer **only** to it when answering **Question 4**.

Name of solo dance work selected _____

Analyse the sections and form as you perceive them in this prescribed solo dance work, discussing changes in, and development of, the movement vocabulary throughout the dance work.

In your response

- describe the sections as you perceive them.
- analyse the movement vocabulary in each section by explaining how it varies and changes from section to section.
- identify the form as you perceive it, and discuss how the sections create this form.

You may use diagrams to support your discussion.

15 marks

Question 5

(Unit 3, Outcome 1; Criteria 2 and 5)

Select a **second** solo dance work from the list on page 5 and refer **only** to it when answering **Question 5**.

Name of solo dance work selected _____

- a. Identify **two** choreographic devices used in this solo dance work, and define these choreographic devices by describing how movement is created and/or manipulated when a choreographer uses them.

- b. For **each** of the two choreographic devices discussed in **part a**.
- describe one example of the movement vocabulary in a phrase or section in the solo which is a result of, or demonstrates the use of, that choreographic device
 - discuss how each example communicates the choreographer's expressive intention and how this part of the expressive intention fits in the context of the whole work.

6 + 10 = 16 marks

The 2007 Prescribed list of Group Dance Works was

- *Envelope* by David Parsons
- ‘Cool’ from *West Side Story* by Jerome Robbins
- *Stamping Ground* by Jiri Kiljian
- ‘Steps in the Street’ from *3* by Martha Graham
- The ‘Snowflake Scene’ from *Graeme Murphy’s Nutcracker* by Graeme Murphy

Question 6

(Unit 4, Outcome 1; Criteria 2 and 5)

Select **one** of the group dance works listed above and refer **only** to it when answering **Question 6**.

Name of group dance work selected _____

a. Choose **one** of the types of group structure you studied (unison, contrast, canon; symmetrical and asymmetrical groupings) in this group dance work. Identify **three** different examples of this type of group structure in the work and explain how aspects of the expressive intention are being communicated at these times. You may use diagrams to illustrate your explanation.

b. Choose **another one** of the types of group structure used in this prescribed work. Identify **three** different examples and **describe** for each example

- the positioning of the dancers in relation to each other and the space
- the movement vocabulary performed at that time
- the group structure which is just before your example, and the transition between the two

You may use diagrams to illustrate your description.

6 + 9 = 15

Question 7

(Unit 4, Outcome 1; Criteria 1 and 5)

Select a **second** group dance work from the list on page 8 and refer **only** to it when answering **Question 7**.

Name of group dance work selected _____

- a. Discuss the impact of four different cultural influences on the technical and/or production aspects in this group dance work. In your response
 - describe four different cultural influences
 - discuss how each influence affected the choreographer and/or the choreographer’s choices
 - describe a technical and/or production element that was the result of, or was affected by, each influence.

12 marks