

DANCE GCSE

Examination Board: AQA

5 periods per 2 weeks

This course focuses on the aesthetic and artistic qualities of dance and the symbolic use of movement to express and communicate ideas and concepts through the inter-related processes of performance, choreography and appreciation. Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever their previous experience in the subject.

Scheme of Assessment

Component 1: Performance and Choreography 60% of the GCSE		Component 2: Dance Appreciation 40% of the GCSE
Performance 30% = 40 marks Solo: 15 marks Duet/trio: 25 marks	Choreography 30% = 40 marks	Written Exam 40% = 80 marks 1 hour 30 minutes

Course Content

Practical work – Performing and Composing Dance

There is a strong focus on practical work. Candidates learn physical, technical and expressive skills necessary for high quality performance. Dances are created and recorded throughout the two year course, with the exam work produced in year 11, and include the following:

- set phrases through a solo performance (approximately one minute in duration);
- duet/trio performance (minutes in a dance which is a maximum of five minutes in duration). This performance may be in any style, for example tap, ballet, jazz, street dance, contact improvisation, contemporary or folk;
- a solo or group choreography presenting an imaginative response to an externally set stimulus, of approximately three minute's duration.

Theoretical work – appreciating dance

The written exam focuses on students' own work and the critical appreciation of six professional dance works, choreographed by established and emerging artists in a range of styles and style fusions. The written exam focuses on students' knowledge and understanding of:

- choreographic processes and performing skills;
- critical appreciation of own work;
- each choreographer's approach to the development of the work;
- the constituent features of the dance (e.g. style, stimulus, structure, and setting) and recognition of similarities and differences between the works.

Progression

The GCSE dance course provides students with a solid foundation for the study of dance at a higher level, including A level and BTEC courses. It is perfect for students that have a passion for dance, and for those students who may wish to pursue a career in the field of performing arts in the future.

Like drama, dance promotes the development and refinement of key skills that are invaluable to individuals in all career paths.