



**Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing  
Modern Theatre**

**IMPERIAL SOCIETY OF TEACHERS OF DANCING**

**Modern Theatre Dance Faculty**

SYLLABUS OUTLINE OF MODERN THEATRE DANCE EXAMINATIONS

OCTOBER 2023

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**Summary of ISTD Modern Theatre Non-regulated and Regulated examinations  
Ref/2023 version 1.0 changes from 8<sup>th</sup> April 2023 onwards**

<b>Summary of changes made between the previous issue and this current issue</b>	<b>Page number</b>	<b>Date</b>
Primary Modern Theatre Examination format and mark scheme updates	5	April 2023
Graded Modern Theatre Examination Time allowances changes	8	April 2023
Graded Modern Theatre - optionalities for gender - Option A (Girls) and Option B (Boys) and updated Clothing and Hair requirements for examinations.	8-9	April 2023
Grade 1 Modern Theatre Examination format updates and any optional gender adaptations Option A (Girls) and Option B (Boys)	10	April 2023
Grade 2 Modern Theatre Examination format updates and any optional gender adaptations Option A (Girls) and Option B (Boys)	11	April 2023
Grade 3 Modern Theatre Examination format updates and any optional gender adaptations Option A (Girls) and Option B (Boys)	12	April 2023
Grade 4 Modern Theatre Examination format updates and any optional gender adaptations Option A (Girls) and Option B (Boys)	13	April 2023
Grade 5 Modern Theatre Examination format updates and any optional gender adaptations Option A (Girls) and Option B (Boys)	15	April 2023
Grade 6 Modern Theatre Examination format updates and any optional gender adaptations Option A (Girls) and Option B (Boys) and Knee Drop exercise changed to a practice exercise	16	April 2023
Jazz Awards – update on hair requirements for examinations	22	April 2023
Vocational Graded Modern Theatre Examination optional gender adaptations Option A (Girls) and Option B (Boys)	26	April 2023
Vocational Graded Modern Theatre Examination – Intermediate Foundation optional gender adaptations Option A (Girls) and Option B (Boys) and update in Rhythm section	28	April 2023
Vocational Graded Modern Theatre Examination – Intermediate optional gender adaptations Option A (Girls) and Option B (Boys)	30	April 2023
Vocational Graded Modern Theatre Examination – Advanced 1 optional gender adaptations Option A (Girls) and Option B (Boys)	33	April 2023
Vocational Graded Modern Theatre Examination – Advanced 2 optional gender adaptations Option A (Girls) and Option B (Boys)	36	April 2023
Professional Teaching Qualifications Modern Theatre Examination – DDE updates on gender adaptations Option A (Girls) and Option B (Boys)	41	April 2023
Professional Teaching Qualifications Modern Theatre Examination – Associate and Associate Diploma updates on gender adaptations Option A (Girls) and Option B (Boys)	44-47	April 2023
Professional Teaching Qualifications Modern Theatre Examination – Licentiate and Fellowship updates on gender adaptations Option A (Girls) and Option B (Boys)	49-53	April 2023

Professional Teaching Qualifications Modern Theatre Examination – Associate – modifications to Assessment Criteria	45	October 2023
Professional Teaching Qualifications Modern Theatre Examination – Associate – new Mark Scheme	47	October 2023
Professional Teaching Qualifications Modern Theatre Examination – Associate Diploma – modifications to Assessment Criteria	48	October 2023
Professional Teaching Qualifications Modern Theatre Examination – Associate Diploma – new Mark Scheme	50	October 2023

If you need further information or have any queries please contact us via email at:

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# MODERN THEATRE QUALIFICATIONS

## CONTENTS

<b>Primary Class Examination</b>	5
General Information	5
Assessment	7
<b>Graded Examinations</b>	
General Information	8
Grade 1	11
Grade 2	12
Grade 3	13
Grade 4	14
Grade 5	16
Grade 6	17
Assessment	19
<b>Jazz Awards</b>	
General Information	21
Bronze Award	23
Silver Award	24
Gold Award	24
Assessment	25
<b>Vocational Graded Examinations</b>	26
Entry Conditions and General Information	27
Intermediate Foundation	29
Intermediate	31
Advanced 1	34
Advanced 2	37
Assessment	40
<b>Professional Qualifications UK &amp; Europe</b>	
DDE (Unit 4)	42
<b>Professional Qualifications Outside Europe</b>	
Associate	45
Associate Diploma	48
<b>UK, Europe and International</b>	
Licentiate	51
Fellowship	54
<b>Examination Booking Information</b>	
<b>Quality Assurance</b>	57
<b>Special Considerations</b>	58
<b>Results and Certification</b>	58

# ISTD MODERN THEATRE DANCE EXAMINATIONS

## PRIMARY CLASS EXAMINATION

### INTRODUCTION

There is one class examination in Modern Theatre and the aim of this is to provide pupils with the experience of an examination process, within the comfort of their class environment led by the teacher and observed (not conducted) by the examiner. The class examination provides the opportunity of an assessment scheme in dance for pupils, on the basis of measuring the individual candidate's progress and development.

The learning outcomes from this class examination are to demonstrate:

- an alert and enthusiastic response to the teacher's instructions and demonstrate the set syllabus with the correct settings as taught.
- a feeling of poise in the carriage of the head and body with correct placing of the body and an ability to fully extend the arms, legs and feet where required.
- a natural basic sense of co-ordination when moving.
- an ability to move in time with the music and demonstrate the difference between slow and quick movements.
- an awareness and response to musical phrases and basic interpretation of different types of music
- expression and thought behind movements and present exercises with confidence.
- show confidence in presentation of the Set Amalgamation with neat technique and a secure sense of timing.

### Entry conditions and general information

The Primary examination has no lower or upper age limit but is recommended for those from the age of five. Candidates should be entered in groups of 4 or 5, however 2, 3 and 1 candidates are acceptable. Examinations are taken in the form of a class conducted by the teacher, who may not give personal correction, but can offer encouragement and support throughout.

Each child will receive an individual report and result which will reflect their own achievement gained. The teacher will conduct the examination and introduce each candidate by name to the examiner. The use of a Music Operator is now "Optional" giving teachers the flexibility to operate their music system in the Primary Class examination if they so wish.

### Clothing

Appropriate dancewear should be worn of any colour, for example, leotard and tights, unitard, lycra shorts, straight -legged dance trousers, tight-fitting t -shirt. Bare feet are preferable, but soft-soled jazz shoes are allowed for examinations. Jazz trainers are not permissible. Hair should be neat and securely held in place. Long hair should be tied back to allow a clear neck and headline. Long ponytails and plaits should be pinned back to ensure the ponytail/plait does not swipe the face/neck. Jewellery or body-piercings should not be worn. Make-up is not required for this level. Where possible, it is recommended that candidates wear clothing that contrasts the studio background, especially when filming for remote examinations.

## Studio layout for examination

Teachers should select the most suitable studio layout for the examination, to allow candidates to demonstrate fully. Mirrors in the studio should be completely covered or made opaque and a tablecloth and bell on the examiners table.

## Time allowances / Number of candidates

Examination	Number of candidates	Age	Time allowances		
			1 / 2 candidate	3 / 4 candidates	5 candidates
Primary	1 – 5	5+	15 minutes	20 minutes	25 minutes

## PRIMARY MODERN THEATRE

### OUTLINE OF SYLLABUS CONTENT

All exercises seen together unless otherwise stipulated.

#### 1 Preparatory

Warm -up - Walking, Running and Jumping - set exercise

#### 2 Limbering

Foot exercise – “The Pond” - set exercise

Hand exercise - set exercise

Floor exercise – “Make a Shape” - set exercise

#### 3 Arm Movements

Arm exercise – “Catch and Throw” - set exercise

#### 4 Rhythm

Rhythmic Response – “Fill the Gap” - set exercise – seen individually twice.

#### 5 Dance Movements

**Examiners choice** of TWO out of the THREE exercises highlighted below

-Galloping and skipping – “Burst the Balloon” – set exercise

-Bounces - set exercise

-Balancing - set exercise

“My Right and Left” - set exercise

#### 6 Set Amalgamation - seen in pairs or individually.

“My Body”

Bow – seen together

## Method of assessment

The Primary Class Examination is assessed externally by visiting examiners recruited and trained by the ISTD. The titles of the components and the indicative content are detailed above.

The overall mark is given out of 100 and the overall result is indicated as follows:

Grade	Marks
Distinction	80-100 marks
Merit	60-79 marks
Pass	40-59 marks
Not Attained	0-39 marks

## Assessment guidance

Candidates are assessed on their ability to show:

- Technical accuracy with correct placement to the best of their physical facility.
- A sense of line and well-coordinated movements.
- An assured performance showing the different qualities of movement required by each section of the examination structure.
- Musicality and rhythmic awareness.

## PRIMARY CLASS EXAMINATION

### Mark scheme

TECHNIQUE AND SYLLABUS KNOWLEDGE	
Title of component	Marks attainable
<b>Technique, Presentation, Response and Syllabus Knowledge</b>	
Poise and stance	10
Body control	10
Co-ordination	10
Timing	10
Musical awareness	10
Response	10
Recall of syllabus knowledge	10
Quality of movement	10
Expression	10
Set Amalgamation	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Our Primary components are now in line with all other examinations and their components which are marked out of 10. There are no changes to how examiners mark, it is merely a change in the layout of how the marks are represented in the grid.

## **REGULATED GRADED EXAMINATIONS IN MODERN THEATRE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In Modern Theatre Dance examinations there is a clearly defined structure allowing learning to take place in the context of safe dance practice. The Graded Examinations build up progressively, ensuring that steps and skills learned at lower levels prepare for more complex movements as the candidate progresses.

Also, a range of transfers to other dance genres becomes possible, as the candidate develops physically and learns common skills that can support a broader base of dancing genres. The Graded Examinations in Modern Theatre Dance also allow for those participating solely for recreational purposes to produce quality work in a safe dance context.

### **Aims and objectives**

The aim of Graded Examinations is to provide an assessment scheme for dance, which gives the basis for the measurement of the individual candidate's progress and development, whether the candidate is pursuing dance as a leisure activity or as preparation for a professional career as a dance teacher or performer. There are six practical examination grades, numbered from 1 to 6, to indicate the increasing order of difficulty (6 represents the highest level of attainment).

The objectives of the Modern Theatre Dance graded examination syllabus are to:

- Teach correct posture.
- Develop the range of movement within the students' natural capabilities.
- Build a sound technique.
- Promote the understanding and use of dance terminology.
- Gain a good sense of self-expression.
- Encourage creative movement.
- Promote self-confidence in the performance of a solo.

### **Entry conditions and general information**

#### **Minimum age**

There is a recommended minimum age of 6 years for Grade 1. This is to ensure that candidates are physically developed sufficiently to safely meet the demands of the syllabus.

#### **Prior learning**

The Graded Examinations in Modern Theatre are intended to be taken consecutively and most candidates will wish to progress through them in sequence to develop and demonstrate the requisite skills. However, in the rare case where examinations are undertaken without success at the previous grade, the candidate needs to be at an appropriate level of physical and artistic development to continue to the next level. Therefore, teachers are under a particular duty to assess the achievement of the candidate, particularly regarding safe dance practice.

There are two options available throughout the syllabus for candidates to accommodate differing physical strengths and capabilities: "Option A", formerly known as the Girls' Syllabus and "Option B", formally known as the Boys' syllabus.



These variations are designed within the context of industry needs and safe dance practice to ensure that the syllabus is open to all candidates, offering optionality to teachers and candidates from within the syllabus. It is therefore advisable for candidates to follow the relevant exercises from Option A or from Option B that are most suited to the individual, however a “mix/match” approach is acceptable for teachers to choose the most appropriate exercises for their pupils.

For teachers considering this “mix/match” approach, it is recommended that each exam set entered has a similar format of exercises with a clear playlist of tracks given to the examiner and music operator at the start of the exam day. Please inform the examiner on the exam day if you will be using a mix/match approach with your candidates, highlighting which grades you are implementing this with, in order that the examination session runs as smoothly as possible.

**These options are to encourage teachers and pupils to experience the Modern Theatre syllabus in its broadest sense, however they are OPTIONAL.** For further clarification email [modern@istd.org](mailto:modern@istd.org)

### Time allowances / Number of candidates

Modern	1 or 2 candidates	3 or 4 candidates	5 candidates
<b>OFQUAL LEVEL 1 EXAMINATIONS</b>			
<b>Grade 1</b>	20 minutes	25 minutes	30 minutes
<b>Grade 2</b>	30 minutes	35 minutes	40 minutes
<b>Grade 3</b>	30 minutes	35 minutes	<i>No 5<sup>th</sup> candidate. If there is a mixed gender set irrespective of the Option A/B exercises performed.</i>
<b>OFQUAL LEVEL 2 EXAMINATIONS</b>			
<b>Grade 4</b>	1 candidate – 40 minutes	3 or 4 candidates-50 mins	<i>No 5<sup>th</sup> candidate. If there is a mixed gender set irrespective of the Option A/B exercises performed.</i>
	2 candidates – 45 minutes		
<b>Grade 5</b>	1 candidate - 40 minutes	3 or 4 candidates-50 mins	<i>No 5<sup>th</sup> candidate. If there is a mixed gender set irrespective of the Option A/B exercises performed.</i>
	2 candidates - 45minutes		
<b>OFQUAL LEVEL 3 EXAMINATIONS</b>			
<b>Grade 6</b>	1 candidate - 45 minutes	3 or 4 candidates-55 mins	<i>No 5<sup>th</sup> candidate allowed. If there is a mixed gender set irrespective of the Option A/B exercises performed.</i>
	2 candidates - 50 minutes		

**Grade 3 – Grade 6 mixed gender examination sets:** These will maintain the current additional 10 minutes in the examination, irrespective if candidates perform A/B syllabi.

### **Grade 1 - 2:**

- Whether candidates are performing a mixture of Option A and B exercises or not, all candidates can be entered in the same set without additional time allowance.
- Each examination set must utilise a similar running order of music.
- If candidates are performing a mixture of Option A and B exercises, then teachers must prepare a running order/playlist for the examiner and music operator for the exam session.

### **Grade 3 - 6:**

- If there are multiple candidates in one exam set with predominantly Option A or Option B exercises, it is preferable to have these candidates in separate exam sets. However, they can be entered together for timetable practicalities. If there is a mixed gender set, then the current extra 10minutes will still remain, irrespective of whether they are performing Option A, Option B, or a mix.
- Each exam set must utilise a similar running order of music where possible, and teachers must prepare these running orders and playlists for the examiner and the music operator on the day.

### **Musical accompaniment**

The official ISTD Modern Theatre Faculty set music should be used for these examinations unless otherwise stated. Any unset work given in examinations will be to music provided by the examiner. Teachers may use their own choice of music for dance solos.

A sound system capable of playing CDs/iPods or other digital audio equipment at a volume suitable for the venue should be provided. Music system operators must not be teachers, assistant teachers or other candidates in the session, or their parents, and should be seated at a discreet distance from the examiner.

### **Clothing**

Appropriate dancewear should be worn of any colour, for example, leotard and tights, unitard, lycra dance shorts, straight -legged dance trousers/short, tight-fitting leotard/t-shirt. Bare feet are recommended but soft-soled jazz shoes may be worn. Jazz trainers are not permissible. Knee pads should be worn for floorwork exercises on the knees.

Specialist dance socks MAY be worn as an interim measure if COVID parameters are in place and bare feet are not allowed. The colour of socks would be the teachers' choice and complimentary to the candidate's exam dancewear. However, the socks MUST be specialist dance socks and NOT regular socks due to safety. You can find a range of specialist dance socks from specialist dancewear providers online and in dancewear stores. Any further enquiries about these guidelines please can you email [modern@istd.org](mailto:modern@istd.org)

Hair should be neat and securely held in place. Long hair should be tied back to allow a clear neck and headline and long ponytails and plaits should be pinned completely back and not loose, to ensure the hair does not swipe the face/neck. Jewellery or body-piercings should not be worn. Make-up should only be worn where appropriate and should be very natural. Where possible it is recommended that candidates wear clothing that contrasts the studio background, especially when filming for remote examinations.

### **Studio layout for examination**

Teachers should select the most suitable studio layout for the examination, to allow candidates to demonstrate fully. Mirrors in the studio should be completely covered or made opaque and a tablecloth and bell on the examiners table.

## GRADE 1 MODERN THEATRE

Qualification Title	Qualification number	Guided Learning Hours	Total Qualification Time (hours)	Credits
ISTD Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Dance: Grade 1 (Modern Theatre Dance)	501/0755/0	60	70	7

### OUTLINE OF SYLLABUS CONTENT

Candidates should be prepared to demonstrate any exercise individually, together or in small groups.

#### 1 Preparatory

Warm-up - set exercise - seen together

Walking - natural walks on diagonal - set exercise - Each candidate starts 2 or 4 counts after the candidate in front.

#### 2 Limbering – All exercises seen together

Magic feet - set exercise

Leg stretching - set exercise

Squeeze and stretch - set exercise

The Puppet - set exercise

#### 3 Arm Movements and Running

Arm swings - set exercise – seen together

Running – set exercise – seen in a circle together, or seen together in own choice of pattern

#### 4 Rhythm

**Clapping** - 1234&5\_ \_ \_ (percussion instruments may be used instead of clapping)

**Marking** - mark 1234 clap & 5\_ \_ \_

Clapping and Marking to be practiced first twice and then seen twice through individually

**Dance development** - teacher's free arrangement of the rhythm using simple movements – Practice all together first then seen twice through individually.

*(Rhythmic response - practice exercise, not examined)*

#### 5 Dance Movements

##### Examiners choice of THREE out of the FOUR exercises below

1-Skipping – set exercise - if this is seen it will be continuously in a circle, square or diagonal pattern (Examiners are not required to use all of the music)

2-Galloping - set exercise – if this is seen, it will be individually or in twos

3-Bounces - set exercise – if this is seen, it will be together

4-Running with action - set exercise– if this is seen, it will be seen individually

#### 6 Set Amalgamations – seen as a solo.

Teacher's choice of:

Jazz

Clown

#### 7 Dance – seen as a solo

Teacher's arrangement - 16 bars or no more than 45 seconds of music

#### 8 Bow – seen together (No unset work will be given in the examination.)

## GRADE 2 MODERN THEATRE

Qualification Title	Qualification number	Guided Learning Hours	Total Qualification Time (hours)	Credits
ISTD Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Dance: Grade 2 (Modern Theatre Dance)	501/0753/7	60	70	7

### OUTLINE OF SYLLABUS CONTENT

Candidates should be prepared to demonstrate any exercise individually, together or in small groups.

#### 1 Preparatory

Warm-up – set exercise – seen together

#### 2 Limbering

**Examiners choice of FOUR out of the FIVE exercises highlighted below.**

All exercises seen together. If there are five candidates, TWO of the requested FOUR exercises can be seen in two groups.

- Side stretch – set exercise
- Forward stretch – set exercise
- Foot exercise – set exercise
- Abdominal exercise – set exercise
- Front kicks – set exercise

Tendus – set exercise – seen together

#### 3 Arm Movements - seen together

Arm exercise - OPTION A or B - set exercise

#### 4 Rhythm

**Free Rhythm** - Clap and mark a 2 bar phrase of whole bars of whole, half, quarter and accented eighth notes, as given by the examiner. *(4 bar phrase not required for examination but for practice in class)* Each phrase will be clapped twice and marked twice all together, then this is performed individually twice.

**Set Rhythm** - 1&2 3&4 567\_ Eighth notes are all accented. Rhythm to be clapped twice without the music all together. Dance development - teacher's own arrangement of the set rhythm using simple movements, twice through, i.e., 4 bars.

Candidates practice this all together first with the music, then this is seen individually.  
*(Rhythmic response - practice exercise, not required for examination)*

#### 5 Dance Movements

Walks - OPTION A-seen together in a circle. OPTION B-seen together in circle or free pattern  
Step ball change - set exercise - seen individually or in twos, time and space permitting.

(Examiners are not required to use all of the music)

Bounces - OPTION A or B - set exercise – seen together

Split runs - set exercise - seen individually

Turns - set exercise - seen individually or in twos, time and space permitting.

*(Turns - practice exercise, not examined)*

Combination steps A B C D (teachers' choice)

Candidates must show TWO out of FOUR combination steps, danced consecutively on one side only. Can be seen individually or in two groups. Teachers may use free or set music for the combination steps. The BPM guidelines for the free music are as follows: Slowest tempo- 104 bpm. Ideal tempo between 115-126 bpm

*(Preparation front kicks - practice exercise only and not examined)*

### **6 Set Amalgamations – seen as a solo**

Teacher's choice of:

Jazz

Lyrical

The Circus Star (Formerly titled “The Strongman”)

The Round Up

### **7 Dance - seen as a solo**

Teacher's arrangement - 16 bars or not more than 45 seconds of music

### **8 Bow - seen together**

No unset work will be given in the examination.

## **GRADE 3 MODERN THEATRE**

<b>Qualification Title</b>	<b>Qualification number</b>	<b>Guided Learning Hours</b>	<b>Total Qualification Time (hours)</b>	<b>Credits</b>
ISTD Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Dance: Grade 3 (Modern Theatre Dance)	501/0754/9	60	70	7

### **OUTLINE OF SYLLABUS CONTENT**

Candidates should be prepared to demonstrate any exercise individually, together or in small groups.

#### **1 Preparatory**

1.1 Warm-up - OPTION A or B - set exercise – Seen together

#### **2 Limbering – All exercises seen together**

Side stretch - OPTION A or B - set exercise

Forward stretch - set exercise

Abdominal exercise - set exercise

Leg stretching and front kicks - set exercise

Sidekicks - set exercise - (If performing the Press Ups, Sidekicks are not seen)

Press-Ups – set exercise – Optional for all candidates. Press ups can be taken from the knees if required. Candidates must use knee pads if performing this exercise.

Tendus - set exercise – seen together

#### **3 Arm Movements - seen in two groups**

Arm exercise - OPTION A or B - set exercise

**4 Isolations** – seen together  
Isolation - Set exercise

#### 5 Rhythm

**Free Rhythm** - Clap and mark a 2 bar free rhythm as given by the examiner, including 1 bar of even eighth notes as well as whole, half, quarter, and accented eighth notes.  
Each phrase to be clapped twice and marked twice together or in two groups with the music, then seen individually twice.

**Set Rhythm** - 123&4567&8 123&45\_&7\_ Eighth notes are all even  
Set Rhythm to be clapped altogether twice without music.

Dance development - teacher's own arrangement of the set rhythm using simple movement twice through individually, i.e., 8 bars. Practice the dance development all together, then seen individually.

#### 6 Dance Movements

Triple runs - set exercise - seen on right and left sides individually.

Turns - OPTION A or B - set exercise - seen on right and left side individually.

Foot warm -up - set exercise – seen all together.

Split runs - OPTION A or B - set exercise – seen individually

Combination steps A B C D (teacher's choice)

Candidates must show TWO out of FOUR combination steps, danced consecutively on one side only – can be seen individually or in two groups

Teachers may use free or set music for the combination steps. The BPM guidelines for the free music are as follows: Tempo between 108-120 bpm

Forward roll overs – Optional for all (must use a mat)

#### 7 Set Amalgamations - seen as a solo

Teacher's choice of:

Jazz

Lyrical

The Search

#### 8 Dance – seen as a solo.

Teacher's own arrangement - 32 bars or no more than 1 minute of music

#### 9 Bow – seen together

No unset work will be given in the examination.

### GRADE 4 MODERN THEATRE

Qualification Title	Qualification number	Guided Learning Hours	Total Qualification Time (hours)	Credits
ISTD Level 2 Award in Graded Examination in Dance: Grade 4 (Modern Theatre Dance)	501/0756/2	75	95	10

#### OUTLINE OF SYLLABUS CONTENT

Candidates should be prepared to demonstrate any exercise individually, together or in small groups.

## 1 Preparatory

Warm up - set exercise – seen together

## 2 Limbering - These exercises can be seen together, in twos or individually.

Forward and side stretch - set exercise

Spine loosening and abdominal exercise - set exercise

Front and side kicks - set exercise

Hip loosening exercise – set exercise

Push aways exercise – Optional for all candidates - if this exercise is performed then the Hip Loosening exercise is NOT performed.

Body Strengthening Exercise - OPTION A (new) or OPTION B (Option B was previously titled “Boys Floor Sequence”). These exercises are optional for all candidates – If either of these sequences are performed then the Hip Loosening exercise is NOT performed.

Tendus - set exercise – seen together

## 3 Arm Exercises – seen together

Arm exercise - OPTION A or B - set exercise

## 4 Isolations – seen together

Isolation - Set exercise

## 5 Rhythm

**Free Rhythm** - Candidates will be given a 2 bar phrase of 4/4 by the examiner to clap and mark. This may include 12th notes and missed beats. Each phrase to be clapped twice and marked twice together or in two groups with the music, then seen individually twice.

### **Set Rhythm** -1\_34\_678,\_2&34&567\_

Candidates will be expected to clap the set rhythm twice without music all together.

Dance development - teacher's own arrangement of the set rhythm twice through (i.e. 8 bars) seen in two groups or individually, time and space permitting.

## 6 Dance Movements

Turns - OPTION A or B - set exercise - seen individually on right and left

Kicks OPTION A or B - set exercise - seen together on right and left OR in two groups

Foot warm up - OPTION A or B - set exercise – seen together twice

Split runs - set exercise - seen individually as stated in syllabus

Combination steps - A B C, D, Candidates must show TWO out of the FOUR combination steps, danced consecutively, seen individually.

Teachers may use free or set music for the combination steps in the examination. The BPM guidelines for the free music are as follows: from 120 bpm

## 7 Set Amalgamations – seen as a solo

Teacher's choice of:

Jazz

Musical Theatre

The Rain Forest

Lyrical – Teachers can use the set or free music. If free music is used it is recommended that teachers use The Corrs ‘Runaway’, which may need to be slowed down for examination.

## 8 Dance - seen as a solo

Teacher's arrangement - not to exceed 1 min 30 secs.

**9 Bow** - seen together

No free work will be given in the examination

## GRADE 5 MODERN THEATRE

Qualification Title	Qualification number	Guided Learning Hours	Total Qualification Time (hours)	Credits
ISTD Level 2 Award in Graded Examination in Dance: Grade 5 (Modern Theatre Dance)	501/0757/4	75	95	10

### OUTLINE OF SYLLABUS CONTENT

Candidates should be prepared to demonstrate any exercise individually, together or in small groups.

**1 Preparatory** - seen together

Warm up - set exercise

**2 Limbering** – seen individually or in two groups.

Sequence of Stretches - set exercise.

Floor Limbering OPTION A or B - set exercise

Preparation for Falls (OPTION B) OR the new Body Strengthening Exercise (OPTION A) – these exercises are currently optional for all candidates.

Tendus - set exercise - seen together

**3 Arm Exercises** – seen in two groups

Arm exercise A and B- set exercise

**4 Isolations** – seen individually

Isolations - set exercise. Teachers may use free or set music for this exercise in the examination. If using free music this must be the same track for the candidates in each set and of an appropriate speed (use the original music as a guide for speed) and candidates should be prepared to follow on one after another.

**5 Improvisation** – seen together

Candidates will improvise to a piece of music supplied by the examiner for no more than 1 minute and in a group. The music will be played twice to the candidates before they are required to improvise. The candidates will listen first to the track and then practice before performing this as a group. It is the examiners choice for when the Improvisation is performed, which can be anywhere from after Isolations.

**6 Dance Movements**

Sequence of Walks - set exercise- seen once individually or together twice, space permitting

Turns - OPTION A or B - set exercise - seen individually on right and left

Kicks - OPTION A or B - set exercise - seen individually on right and left

Foot warm up - OPTION A or B - set exercise - seen all together twice through.

Either track can be used but must be the same track for candidates in each exam set.



### Dance Vocabularly Steps

The dance vocabulary list below should be prepared by the teacher in individual, repetitive, travelling sequences, not in a choreographic amalgamation.

Examiners choice of THREE steps from the list highlighted below.

Candidates to dance the three chosen steps individually and continuously.

- a. Drag runs forwards and sideways – combined (is counted as 1 step)
- b. Step and sideways split run
- c. Step and forward split run
- d. Circular spring, no body line
- e. Accented hop
- f. Step and coupe turn with extended leg

An unset sequence is given by the examiner.

Examiner to select a minimum of TWO vocabulary steps from the list above, which will be amalgamated into an unset sequence arranged by the examiner in a 4 or 8 bar phrase, with free music supplied by the examiner. After a practice this will be seen individually.

**7 Set Amalgamation** - seen as a solo. Candidates can practice together first, however, if possible, should perform individually straight away. Teacher's choice of any ONE of the following:

**Jazz, Musical Theatre, The Tip-Off** (teachers can use set or the original music: 'Sweet Georgia Brown') **or Lyrical** (Teachers may use set or free music. If using free music, it is recommended that teachers use Anastasia 'Freak of Nature', or 'Goodbye'.)

**8 Dance arrangement** – seen as a solo. Teachers' own arrangement - not to exceed 1 minute 30 seconds. Candidates can practice together first, however if possible. should perform individually straight away.

**9 Bow** – seen together

## GRADE 6 MODERN THEATRE

Qualification Title	Qualification number	Guided Learning Hours	Total Qualification Time (hours)	Credits
ISTD Level 3 Certificate in Graded Examination in Dance: Grade 6 (Modern Theatre Dance)	501/0758/6	90	130	13

### OUTLINE OF SYLLABUS CONTENT

Candidates should be prepared to demonstrate any exercise individually, together or in small groups

**1 Preparatory** – seen together

Warm up - set exercise

**2 Limbering**

Core strengthening- set exercise - seen together

Back loosening and falls - set exercise – seen together, but can be seen in pairs, space permitting

Floor sequence - OPTION A OR OPTION B - set exercise. – seen individually, but can be seen in pairs, space permitting. Teachers may use the original or set music

Knee rolls- set exercise – Optional for all. Knee pads are compulsory – seen individually  
Knee drop Exercise- Practice exercise for all candidates in class. **NOT** seen in examinations.  
Tendus - set exercise

### **3 Arm Exercises** – seen individually

Teacher's choice of one of the following: Lyrical or Jazz Arm set exercise. For the Jazz Arm Exercise, teachers may use free or set music.

### **4 Isolations** – seen together

Set Exercise

### **5 Improvisation** – seen together

Candidates will improvise to a piece of music supplied by the examiner for no more than 1 minute and in a group. The music will be played twice to the candidates before they are required to improvise. The candidates will listen to the track first and then practice before performing this as a group. It is the examiners choice for when the Improvisation is performed, which can be anywhere from after Isolations.

### **6 Dance Movements**

Breathe and Release - set exercise – seen together or in two groups

Turns - set exercise – seen individually on both sides

Kicks - OPTION A or B - set exercise – seen individually or in two groups

Foot warm up - set exercise - seen all together twice

#### **Dance Vocabulary Steps**

The dance vocabulary list below should be prepared by the teacher in individual, repetitive, travelling sequences, not in a choreographic amalgamation.

Examiners choice of THREE steps from the list below for candidates to dance individually, and continuously.

- a. Step and retiré with body line, parallel or turned out, with fondu
- b. Tilts
- c. Extended spring sideways, with no body line
- d. Accented hop with varying leg line
- e. Accented hop with half turn and varying leg lines
- f. Forward leap

An unset sequence is given by the examiner. Examiner to select a minimum of TWO vocabulary steps from the list above, which will be amalgamated into an unset sequence arranged by the examiner in a 4 or 8 bar phrase with free music supplied by the examiner and seen individually. This phrase can be seen on both sides or one side only.

Step vocabulary from Grade 5 can be used in this unset sequence.

### **7 Set Amalgamations** - seen as a solo. Candidates should perform the chosen Set Amalgamation individually straight away, but, if necessary, can practice altogether. Teacher's choice of one of the following:

Lyrical, Musical Theatre, Jazz Option A or Option B (Option B formerly titled "Boys Jazz Amalgamation" - Teachers may use set or suggested music for the Jazz Option B Set Amalgamation)

**8 Dance arrangement** – seen as a solo. Teachers own arrangement -not to exceed 1 min 30 seconds. Candidates should perform the chosen Set Amalgamation individually straight away, but if necessary, can practice altogether.

**9Bow** - seen together

## GRADED EXAMINATIONS IN MODERN THEATRE

### Method of assessment

All Graded Examinations are assessed externally by visiting examiners recruited and trained by the ISTD. The examinations are divided into Sections and each Section is composed of several components which are separately assessed and aggregated to give the Section total.

Candidates must gain at least 25% of the marks attainable in each Section to pass the examination overall. In cases where 25% of the marks attainable does not come to a round figure, e.g. 12½, the pass mark for the Sections is lowered to the nearest round figure, in this example, 12.

The Section totals are aggregated, and the overall mark is given out of 100. If all Sections are passed, then the overall result is indicated as follows:

Grade	Marks
Distinction	80-100 marks
Merit	60-79 marks
Pass	40-59 marks
Not Attained	00-39 marks

However, if the candidate is unsuccessful in one or more Sections, as explained above, the total mark given out of 100 will not correspond to the result indicators in the chart. In this circumstance, whatever the overall numerical mark may be, the result given will be Not Attained.

### Classification of results

The principle of best fit is applied in deciding the appropriate classification for each candidate. It is not to be expected that a candidate in a particular category will necessarily demonstrate all the characteristics listed in that category.

A candidate who achieves a '**Distinction**' classification (80-100 marks) is one who demonstrates the following attributes in performance:

- flair, vitality, and skill
- fully appropriate style

- incisively focussed dancing
- precision in the technique of the genre
- consistent, highly developed musicality
- confident and accurate responses to questions asked and/or tasks set

A candidate who achieves a '**Merit**' classification (60-79 marks) is one who demonstrates the following attributes in performance:

- skill and proficiency
- largely appropriate style
- focussed dancing
- competence in the technique of the genre
- evidence of developing musicality
- relevant and appropriate responses to questions asked and/or tasks set

A candidate who achieves a '**Pass**' classification (40-59 marks) is one who demonstrates the following attributes in performance:

- competence
- basic ability to carry out the required movements
- periodic moments of convincing focus
- basic competence in most aspects of the technique of the genre
- basic musicality
- broadly relevant and appropriate response to questions asked and/or tasks set, but some prompting may be required

A candidate who achieves an insufficient level of achievement '**Not Attained**' classification (00-39 marks) is one who has not yet demonstrated attributes required to gain at least a 'Pass' classification

### **Assessment guidance**

Candidates are assessed on their ability to show

- technical accuracy with correct placement to the best of their physical facility
- appropriate use of limbs showing an understanding of the purpose or significance of each movement or sequence of movements
- a sense of line and well-co-ordinated movements
- an assured performance showing the different qualities of movement required by each section of the examination structure
- musicality and rhythmic awareness

**GRADE 1 and GRADE 2****Mark scheme**

<b>TITLE OF COMPONENT</b>	<b>MARKS ATTAINABLE</b>
<b>TECHNIQUE</b>	
Poise and stance	10
Body control and co -ordination	10
Line and precision of movement	10
Use of space	10
<b>Section Total</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>RHYTHM</b>	
Rhythm	10
Quality of movement & musical interpretation	10
<b>Section Total</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>PRESENTATION, RESPONSE AND SYLLABUS KNOWLEDGE</b>	
Response and knowledge of syllabus	10
Sense of performance	10
Set Amalgamation	10
Dance	10
<b>Section Total</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

**GRADES 3, 4, 5, and 6****Mark scheme**

<b>TITLE OF COMPONENT</b>	<b>MARKS ATTAINABLE</b>
<b>TECHNIQUE</b>	
Posture	10
Limbering	10
Line and style	10
Dance movements	10
<b>Section Total</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>RHYTHM</b>	
Rhythm	10
Quality of movement & musical interpretation	10
<b>Section Total</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>PRESENTATION, RESPONSE AND KNOWLEDGE</b>	
Response and knowledge of syllabus	10
Sense of performance	10
Set Amalgamation	10
Dance	10
<b>Section Total</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

# JAZZ AWARDS

## INTRODUCTION

The Jazz Awards syllabus develop the skill and understanding of modern jazz dance by developing the physical ability to communicate through movement in an expressive and artistic way.

There are three jazz awards, Bronze, Silver, and Gold designed to promote an appreciation and enjoyment of jazz dance, through both understanding and performance. There is no lower or upper age limit and although preferable, and it is not compulsory that the Jazz Awards are taken in sequence.

The syllabus is designed to be used by those who wish to study jazz dance for recreational purposes and to augment the training of the student who may wish to pursue a career in dance.

Each award consists of a warm -up, combination steps, set amalgamations and a dance arranged by the teacher, with the addition of an isolation sequence in the Gold Award. As there is no set music the student can perform to music that is appropriate in speed and is currently popular. No free work will be given at any level.

## Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives from these examinations are to learn, promote and demonstrate skills in:

- Correct posture
- Range of movement within the students' natural capabilities
- Sound technique
- Understanding and the use of dance terminology
- Gain a good sense of line through body, legs, feet, arms and head
- Understanding of rhythm
- Appreciation of varying musical styles and their interpretation within the jazz idiom
- Awareness of common and personal space
- Awareness of audience and sense of performance
- Sense of self-expression
- Self-confidence in the performance of a solo

## Entry conditions and general information

There is no lower or upper age limit for Jazz Awards and although preferable, and it is not compulsory that candidates enter for all Jazz Awards and candidates can take the Awards out of sequence.

## Time allowances / Number of candidates

Examination	Number of candidates	Age	Time allowances			
			1 candidate	2 candidates	3 candidates	4 candidates
<b>Bronze/Silver/ Gold</b>	1 – 4	n/a	10minutes	15 minutes	20 minutes	25 minutes

**Musical accompaniment**All music is chosen by the teacher. A sound system capable of playing CDs/iPod or other digital audio equipment at a volume suitable for the venue should be provided. The music system operator should be seated at a discreet distance from the examiner. Music system operators cannot be teachers, assistant teachers, or another candidate in the session.

### **Clothing**

Appropriate dancewear should be worn of any colour, for example, leotard and tights, unitard, lycra shorts, straight -legged dance trousers/short, tight-fitting t-shirt.

Soft-soled jazz shoes are allowed for examinations. Amalgamation D in both Bronze and Silver can be demonstrated wearing jazz trainers, which may also be worn, if appropriate, in the teacher's dance.

Hair should be neat and securely held in place. Long hair should be tied back to allow a clear neck and headline. Long ponytails and plaits should be pinned completely back and not loose, to ensure the ponytail/plait does not swipe the face/neck.

Jewellery or body-piercings should not be worn. Make-up is not required for this level. Where possible it is recommended that candidates wear clothing that contrasts the studio background, especially when filming for remote examinations.

### **Studio layout for examination**

Teachers should select the most suitable studio layout for the examination, to allow candidates to demonstrate fully. Mirrors in the studio should be completely covered or made opaque and a tablecloth and bell on the examiners table.

### **Each Jazz Award examination is in two sections:**

#### **a) Technique**

At all levels good posture and an awareness of the placement of limbs is expected, with the build-up of the vocabulary of dance steps increasing at each level. At Bronze level a good, natural use of the head, arms and body is encouraged to create a clear sense of line, with the opportunity to develop this in subsequent levels to achieve a more sophisticated style. Good spatial awareness is always encouraged, with a developing use of pattern and direction.

#### **b) Presentation**

At Bronze level the candidate is expected to be able to interpret the music with a natural sense of enjoyment and an awareness of the audience. In Silver and Gold, the student is given the opportunity to interpret a wider range of musical styles through both movement and expression. At each level the student will have gained the self -confidence required to perform solo, set amalgamations and a dance arranged by the teacher.

### **OUTLINE OF SYLLABUS CONTENT: BRONZE JAZZ AWARD**

1. Warm Up
2. Combination Steps A and B
3. Teacher's choice of two out of the six amalgamations: A, B, C, D, E, F
4. Prepared Jazz Dance - not to exceed 1 min 15secs. No free work will be given.

## **OUTLINE OF SYLLABUS CONTENT: SILVER JAZZ AWARD**

1. Warm Up
2. Combination Steps A and B
3. Teacher's choice of two out of the six amalgamations: A, B, C, D, E, F
4. Prepared Jazz Dance - not to exceed 1min 15secs. No free work will be given.

## **OUTLINE OF SYLLABUS CONTENT: GOLD JAZZ AWARD**

1. Warm Up
2. Combination Steps A and B
3. Isolations
4. Teacher's choice of two out of the three amalgamations: A, B, or C
5. Prepared Jazz Dance - not to exceed 1min 30secs.

## **Method of assessment**

Examinations are assessed by an Examiner who is recruited, trained, and monitored by the ISTD.

ISTD Examiners:

- are selected for their expertise and undergo rigorous training which continues throughout their career for marking both face-to-face and remote examinations
- create a welcoming and reassuring environment at the exam venue, ensuring a positive experience for candidates
- complete a check with the Disclosure and Barring Service (or equivalent body where available) and adhere to ISTD policies and procedures, including equality and diversity, safeguarding and data protection
- do not usually examine at the same exam venue within any two-year period.

In the examination the examiner awards a mark of between 0 and 10 in the components shown in the grid below. A mark of 0 indicates that nothing worthy of credit was presented for assessment.

The examination is divided into sections and each section consists of several components which are individually assessed and aggregated to give the section total. The total number of marks available in the examination is 100.



**JAZZ AWARD  
MARK SCHEME**

<b>TITLE OF COMPONENT</b>	<b>MARKS ATTAINABLE</b>
<b>TECHNIQUE AND SYLLABUS KNOWLEDGE</b>	
Knowledge of syllabus	10
Jazz Technique	10
Line	10
Style	10
Timing and musicality	10
Use of space	10
<b>Section Total</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>PRESENTATION</b>	
Sense of performance	10
Amalgamation 1	10
Amalgamation 2	10
Jazz Routine	10
<b>Section Total</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

The Section totals are aggregated and the overall mark is given out of 100. If all Sections are passed, then the overall result is indicated as follows:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Marks</b>
Distinction	80-100 marks
Merit	60-79 marks
Pass	40-59 marks
Not Attained	0-39 marks

# VOCATIONAL GRADED EXAMINATIONS

## INTRODUCTION

The Vocational Graded Examinations in Modern Theatre, from Intermediate Foundation through to Advanced 2, develop the candidate's expertise in such a way as to provide the basis for either professional employment as a dancer or further training as a dance teacher.

Throughout the study of the syllabus, candidates are following a vocational path, requiring a high level of commitment and with an increasing emphasis on safe dance practice. Successful candidates at this level should show virtuosity in performance, a high standard of technique and a sound knowledge and understanding of the Modern Theatre genre, including an understanding of reference and context.

Candidates studying the Modern Theatre Vocational Graded syllabus should also typically display a sense of self-awareness and be self-motivated in terms of their personal development. As distinct from the General Graded examinations, a greater degree of personal interpretation is encouraged, and the candidate is expected to show the potential to communicate effectively with an audience.

Candidates will need to show the qualities of professionalism, commitment, and focus, with the ability to manage a greater workload than that required for the General Graded examinations. This would typically result in a successful candidate spending significant additional time each week in lessons, in practising and in studying independently.

The Vocational Graded examinations are concerned specifically with the mastery of technique and underpinning understanding, to a level sufficient to prepare candidates for further vocational training and match current expectations in the employment sector.

The Vocational Graded Examinations are regulated qualifications on the Regulated Qualifications Framework as listed below:

Intermediate Foundation - Level 2

Intermediate - Level 3

Advanced 1 and Advanced 2 - Level 4.

## Aims and objectives

Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing Vocational Graded Examinations in Modern Theatre provide an assessment scheme, which give the basis for the measurement of an individual candidate's progress and development, in preparing for professional dance performing or teaching careers. The practical, vocational examinations are graded to measure appropriate stages of development from a general standard of Modern Theatre education to that of professional competence and readiness.

The objectives of the Modern Theatre Vocational Graded Examinations are to:

- gain a comprehensive understanding of technique in Modern Theatre
- acquire correct posture, stance, and distribution of weight
- develop core strength to support stance and control of the body

- develop the ability to isolate and coordinate different body parts to perform movement phrases with efficiency
- develop the use of the body to achieve alignment and shape
- develop the use of breath to initiate and enhance movement
- develop the ability to vary the quality and flow of movement
- develop the ability to move in and through space, using appropriate directions, pathways, and levels
- develop a sense of performance and the ability to confidently present work to an audience
- perform choreography with accuracy and sensitivity

## Entry conditions and general information

### Minimum age

There is a recommended minimum age of 13 years for Intermediate Foundation and for Intermediate. This is to ensure that they are physically developed sufficiently to safely meet the demands of the syllabus.

### Prior learning

There are no prior examination requirements for Intermediate Foundation and Intermediate. However, candidates will need to have knowledge of the vocabulary of the ISTD Modern Theatre Grade levels.

Candidates wishing to enter for the Advanced 1 must have passed Intermediate, and for Advanced 2 must have passed Advanced 1. Exemption from the Intermediate and Advanced 1 examinations may be obtained if the candidate is a student who already holds an equivalent genre Intermediate or Advanced 1 certificate with an Ofqual approved dance awarding body. Application for exemption must be made in writing to the UK Examinations department prior to the examination session.

There are two options available throughout the syllabus for candidates to accommodate varying physical strengths and capabilities: “Option A”, formerly known as the Female syllabus and “Option B”, formally known as the Male syllabus.

These variations are designed within the context of industry and safe dance practice and to ensure that the syllabus is open to all candidates, offering optionality to teachers and candidates from within the syllabus.

It is therefore recommended that candidates follow the most appropriate exercises from Option A or Option B that are best suited to them as individuals. However, it is acceptable to have a “mix/match” approach.

For teachers and candidates considering the “mix/match” approach, it is recommended that each exam set entered has the same or similar format of exercises with a clear playlist of tracks given to the examiner and music operator at the start of the exam day. Please ensure that the examiner has been informed on the exam day if the “mix/match” approach has been implemented, in order that the examination session runs as smoothly as possible.

**These options are to encourage teachers and pupils to experience the Modern Theatre syllabus in its broadest sense, however they are all OPTIONAL.** For further clarification email [modern@istd.org](mailto:modern@istd.org)

## Time allowances / Number of candidates

Examination	Number of candidates	Age	Time allowances		
			1 candidate	2 candidates	3 candidates
Intermediate Foundation	1 – 3	13+	60 minutes	60 minutes	75 minutes
Intermediate	1 – 3	13+	60 minutes	60 minutes	75 minutes
Advanced 1	1 – 3	13+	75 minutes	75 minutes	90 minutes
Advanced 2	1 - 3	13+	75 minutes	90 minutes	90 minutes

## Musical accompaniment

The official ISTD Modern Theatre Faculty set music should be used for these examinations unless otherwise stated. It is recommended that for Advanced 1 and Advanced 2 that the suggested playlists are used for examinations or that these playlists are used as a guide for teachers to choose the appropriate alternative tracks for style and tempo. Unset work given in examinations will be to music provided by the examiner. Teachers may use their own choice of music for dance solos. However, care must be taken to match the style of the music as artistically as possible to show the candidate in their best light.

If teachers/ candidates have chosen a mix/match approach to examination, it is preferable that for each examination set there is one playlist used and that this is given to examiners on the examination day.

A sound system capable of playing CDs/iPod or other digital audio equipment at a volume suitable for the venue should be provided. Music system operators should be seated at a discreet distance from the examiner and the music operator cannot be a teacher, assistant teacher, or another candidate from the session.

## Clothing

Appropriate dancewear of any colour should be worn, for example, leotard and tights, unitard, lycra shorts, straight -legged dance trousers/shorts, tight-fitting t -shirt.

Soft-soled jazz shoes and foot thongs are allowed for examinations. Jazz trainers are not permissible. Knee pads should be worn for floor work and exercises on the knees where appropriate.

Specialist dance socks may only be worn as an interim measure if COVID parameters are in place and where bare feet are not allowed. The colour of socks would be the teachers' choice and complimentary to the candidate's exam dancewear. Dance socks MUST be specialist dance socks and NOT regular socks due to safety.

Hair should be neat and securely held in place. Long hair should be tied back to allow a clear neck and headline. Long ponytails and plaits should be pinned completely back and not loose, to ensure the plait/ponytail does not swipe the face/neck. Jewellery or body-piercings should not be worn.

Make-up is not compulsory and should only be worn where appropriate and should be natural.

Where possible it is recommended that candidates wear clothing that contrasts the studio background, especially when filming for remote examinations.

## Studio layout for examination

Teachers should select the most suitable studio layout for the examination, to allow candidates to demonstrate fully. Mirrors in the studio should be completely covered or made opaque and a tablecloth and bell on the examiners table.

## INTERMEDIATE FOUNDATION

Qualification title	Qualification number	Guided learning hours	Total qualification time (hours)	Credits
ISTD Level 2 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Intermediate Foundation (Modern Theatre Dance)	501/0764/1	150	275	28

### OUTLINE OF SYLLABUS CONTENT

Candidates should be prepared to demonstrate any exercise individually, together or in pairs. Where there is optionality within the choreographic setting of Option A/B, it is the teacher's choice to which is performed by the candidate in the examination. This should be pre-prepared and not chosen in the examination.

#### 1 Limbering

- Warm-up - set exercise
- Basic stretches - set exercise
- Foot control - set exercise

#### 2 Floor Work

- Contraction and abdominal exercise - Option A or Option B - set exercise
- Leg stretching - set exercise
- Floor sequence – Option A or Option B - set exercise

#### 3 Isolations

- Sequence A without use of arms - set exercise
- Sequence B with use of arms - Option A or Option B - set exercise

#### 4 Arms

- Option A or B - set exercise

#### 5 Rhythms

**Set Rhythm** - Teacher's choice of A or B.

A - 5/4 1& -&345, 1&23&45, 1& -&345, 1\_4&5

B - 3/4 123, 1&a23, 1& -&3, 1\_

Candidates clap the chosen set rhythm without the music but are NOT required to count. Candidates then demonstrate with the music, their prepared development to the chosen set rhythm.

**Unset rhythm** - given by the examiner, not to exceed 2 bars of 4/4, to slow or quick tempo using note values up to and including 12ths and missed beats.

Candidates will be expected to clap, mark, and develop with travelling steps forward on the diagonal. Candidates are NOT required to count the free rhythm.

#### 6 Combination Steps

Teachers may use free or set music in the examination for all combination steps

- Jump warm up - Option A or Option B - set exercise
- Drag turns - set exercise
- Travelling jump - Option A or Option B - set exercise

Circular spring - set exercise  
Jazz change of weight — Option A or Option B - set exercise  
Kicks **OR** Elevated sequence - set exercise - Candidates choice of either exercise.

### **7 Set Amalgamations**

Teacher's choice of one of the following:

Lyrical - set exercise  
Jazz - set exercise

Unset amalgamations to be given by the examiner

### **8 Dance**

Teacher's arrangement, not to exceed 1min 30 seconds

### **9 Bow**

Teacher's arrangement, can be performed with or without free or set music

## **INTERMEDIATE FOUNDATION DANCE MOVEMENT VOCABULARY**

### **Walks and Runs**

Circular walk  
Triple run  
Drag run  
Jazz change of weight  
Jazz pas de bourrée, travelling, turning and on the spot

### **Turns**

Drag turns front and back  
Travelling jump with turn  
Jazz pirouette at low level  
Twist turn  
Swivel turn

### **Kicks**

Front kick with bent knee, straight or bent supporting leg, on flat or rise

### **Steps of Elevation**

Travelling jump  
Extended spring sideways  
Accented hops  
Circular spring  
Forward leap

## INTERMEDIATE

Qualification title	Qualification number	Guided learning hours	Total qualification time (hours)	Credits
ISTD Level 3 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Intermediate (Modern Theatre Dance)	501/0728/8	150	275	28

### OUTLINE OF SYLLABUS CONTENT

Candidates should be prepared to demonstrate any exercise individually, together or in pairs. Where there is optionality within the choreographic setting of Option A/B, it is the teacher's choice to which is performed by the candidate in the examination. This should be pre-prepared and not chosen in the examination.

#### 1 Limbering

- Warm up - teacher's arrangement to free music, not to exceed 2 minutes
- Forward stretch - Option A or Option B - set exercise
- Side stretch - set exercise
- Pliés - set exercise
- Foot exercise - set exercise

#### 2 Floor Work

- Contraction exercise - Option A or Option B - set exercise
- Abdominal exercise - Option A or Option B - set exercise
- Leg stretching - set exercise
- Side and round kicks - set exercise – if performing this exercise Press-Ups is not required.
- Press-Ups – set exercise – if performing this exercise Side and Round Kicks is not required.

#### 3 Barre Work

- Figure of 8 leg swings - set exercise
- Back exercise - Option A or Option B - set exercise Candidates' choice

#### 4 Floor Sequence – Optional for all candidates

- 4.1 Set exercise - teacher's choice of free music.

If candidates perform the Floor Sequence, they have the option to perform either the Intermediate Foundation Floor Sequence or Intermediate Floor Sequence. Option B (Boys) Floor Sequence notes are on the back of the purple syllabus book.

#### 5 Isolations

- a. Isolations A - set exercise (This can be performed by Option B candidates)
- b. Free arrangement to be prepared by teacher or candidate using free music for 8 bars, one side only. The set music can be used, however free, current up-tempo music is recommended.

#### 6 Weight transference - Option A or Option B - set exercise

#### 7 Arms

- Lyrical - set exercise

Blues - set exercise, teachers may use free music of similar style and tempo (utilise the set music speed as a guide for the speed of the free music).

### **8 Free Rhythm**

Clap, mark and move to whole, half, quarter, and subdivisions up to and including 12th notes, missed beats and syncopation. Candidates will be expected to interpret the rhythm with free dance movement and use of pattern and direction. Candidates are NOT required to count the rhythm and it is no longer necessary to retain the rise and fall when marking and dancing syncopation.

The examiner will determine how many times the rhythm will be clapped, marked, and danced. Examiner may provide free music or use either of the set music tracks:

- a. Slow 4/4
- b. Quick 4/4

### **9 Combination Steps**

Walks - set exercise - this can be performed by Option B candidates

Pirouettes - Option A or Option B - set exercise

Kicks - Option A or Option B set exercise, teachers may use free music

Foot warm up - set exercise – to free or set music. Or teacher's own arrangement to free or set music.

Candidate's choice of one of the two following combination steps:

Leaps on diagonal - Option A or Option B - set exercise - Teachers' choice of free music

Elevated turns - set exercise - Teachers' choice of free music

### **10 Set Amalgamations**

Candidate's choice of one of the following:

Jazz – Option A

Jazz – Option B (use Percussive Set Amalgamation music)

Percussive

Unset amalgamations to be given by examiner - to free music provided by the examiner

### **11 Dance**

Teacher's arrangement not to exceed 1minute 30seconds

### **12 Bow**

Teacher's arrangement, can be performed with or without free or set music

## **INTERMEDIATE DANCE MOVEMENT VOCABULARY**

### **Walks**

Développé with lay back (forward only)

Cushion

Trudging

Circular

Rond de jambe forward and back

Extended forward and back



**Runs**

Triple  
Drag forwards and sideways  
Jazz pas de bourrée on the spot, travelling and turning  
Jazz change of weight

**Turns**

Pirouettes - single at low and high level, outwards and inwards (Double optional)  
Front and back twist turns  
Swivel on two feet or with extension  
Spin  
Drag front and back  
Syncopated  
Open Turns

**Kicks**

Front and side with supporting leg straight or bent, working leg straight or bent,  
Flick,  
Développé  
All on whole foot, pliés, rise, or elevation  
Side kick may be shown with tilt on whole foot or rise  
Back kick on whole foot or pliés

**Springs**

Accented springs and hops  
Circular springs  
Step and spring turn with picked up or extended leg  
Spring Drags

**Jumps**

Travelling - straight or turning with bent or straight legs  
Extended Tuck Jump (Formerly "Tartar Jump")

**Ball changes**

Split  
Picked up  
Turning with picked up legs  
Slip Step

**Leaps**

Forward with or without développé

## ADVANCED 1

Qualification title	Qualification number	Guided learning hours	Total qualification time (hours)	Credits
ISTD Level 4 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Advanced 1 (Modern Theatre Dance)	501/0760/4	150	325	33
ISTD Level 4 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Advanced 1 Analysis (Modern Theatre Dance)	603/2667/0	150	325	33

### OUTLINE OF SYLLABUS CONTENT

Candidates should be prepared to demonstrate any exercise individually, together or in pairs. Where there is optionality within the choreographic setting of Option A/B, it is the teacher's choice to which is performed by the candidate in the examination. This should be pre-prepared and not chosen in the examination. Music for the unset amalgamation will be provided by the examiner. All other music is to be provided by the teacher. There is a suggested playlist, and this is recommended to be used for examination, or used as a guide for style and tempo for teachers' choice of music. For those candidates entered for the Analysis examination please contact [ara@istd.org](mailto:ara@istd.org) for further details and format. This qualification evidences the understanding and knowledge of the genre at Advanced 1 level and is suitable for those wishing to pursue a teaching career.

#### 1 Warm up

Unset Warm Up – an un-choreographed warm up to music provided by the teacher, lasting 2.5 to 3 minutes

Set Warm Up - set exercise

#### 2 Limbering

Tendus and Glissés - set exercise

Contractions and Abdominals - set exercise – seen on one side only and teacher's choice of which side.

Leg and Hip Exercise - set exercise

Back Exercise- set exercise

#### 3 Centre Work

Jazz Lines - set exercise

Jazz Adage - set exercise

Falls set exercise (seen on one side) **OR** Floor Sequence - set exercise

Lyrical Arm Exercise - set exercise

Walks- set exercise

Isolations - set exercise

Foot Warm up- set exercise

#### 4 Technical Sequences

Technical Sequence for Outward Pirouettes - set exercise

Technical sequence for Inward Pirouettes - set exercise

Technical Sequence for Kicks - set exercise

Technical Sequence for Leaps - set exercise

Technical Sequence for Elevation - set exercise

## **5 Performance Sequences**

Candidate's choice of 2 of the following sequences:

- Performance sequence of Turns - set exercise
- Performance sequence of Kicks - set exercise
- Performance sequence for Elevation - set exercise

## **6 Unset Amalgamation leading into Improvisation**

A free amalgamation is given by the examiner to music provided by the examiner, using two or three movements from the dance vocabulary steps listed below.

Each candidate performs the examiners sequence individually and continues straight into an improvisation section of similar length to the examiners sequence. Time will be given to practise the examiner's choreography first, but the candidate will be expected to improvise immediately.

## **7 Set Amalgamations**

Candidate's choice of one of the following:

- Blues - set exercise
- Commercial - set exercise

## **8 Dance**

Teacher or candidates' arrangement, not to exceed two minutes duration

## **9 Bow**

Teacher's arrangement, can be performed with or without free or set music

## **ADVANCED 1 MODERN DANCE VOCABULARY STEPS**

A working knowledge of the dance vocabulary from previous syllabi will be expected.

### **Falls**

- Knee Drop
- Back fall

### **Walks**

- Triple walk

### **Turns**

All taken inward and outward (this does not apply to chaînés)

Single turn with leg in attitude (parallel, turned out or inverted, front, side or back) low or high level, by posé, plié Relevé, fondu, straight leg or elevation (accented hop). Simple body lines can be used.

Chaînés at low and high level

Double pirouettes (compulsory) or more, at low and high level

Double pirouettes (compulsory) or more from low to high and high to low levels. By posé or plié Relevé

Double pirouette (compulsory) or more at low or high level with low extended front leg  
Single pirouette (compulsory) or more at low or high level with low extended side or back leg  
Barrel turn (pirouette) single (compulsory) or more low or high level  
Single posé turns with leg in parallel retiré, low or high level  
Single Tour  
Multiple single pirouettes in 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Kicks**

Front, side and back, straight, développé (including reverse) and flick kicks with any combination of bent or straight raised leg on a fondu, flat foot, with rise or elevation and with a tilt or inverted  
Kicks with hip extension, front, and side  
Round kicks outward and inward with a fondu, straight supporting leg or rise, with or without a single turn including a syncopated turn with outward round kick  
Basic controlled kicks

### **Leaps**

Développé side leap (front leg développés only)  
Stag leap turned out or parallel  
Single leap turn with varying leg lines

### **Elevated**

Accented hops with a whole turn and varying leg lines, including with a fouetté action, inward or outward  
Barrel turn with legs in double attitude (devant and derrière)  
Scissor hops forward with straight, développé or reverse développé

## ADVANCED 2

Qualification title	Qualification number	Guided learning hours	Total qualification time (hours)	Credits
ISTD Level 4 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Advanced 2 (Modern Theatre Dance)	501/0761/6	150	375	37
ISTD Level 4 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Advanced 2 Analysis (Modern Theatre Dance)	603/2669/4	150	375	37

### OUTLINE OF SYLLABUS CONTENT

Candidates should be prepared to demonstrate any exercise individually, together or in pairs. Where there is optionality within the choreographic setting of Option A/B, it is the teacher's choice to which is performed by the candidate in the examination. This should be pre-prepared and not chosen in the examination.

Music for the unset warm-up and unset amalgamation will be provided by the examiner. All other music is to be provided by the teacher. There is a suggested playlist, and this is recommended to be used for examination, or used as a guide for style and tempo for teachers' choice of music.

For those candidates entered for the Analysis examination please contact [ara@istd.org](mailto:ara@istd.org) for further details. This qualification evidences the understanding and knowledge of the genre at Advanced 2 level and is suitable for those wishing to pursue a teaching career.

#### 1 Warm Up

Unset warm up - Candidates will demonstrate their ability to warm-up using a suitable range of movements. Music will be provided by the examiner (approx. 2.5 - 3 minutes).

Warm up – set exercise

#### 2 Limbering

Glissés and Tendus – set exercise

Technical Floor Sequence – set exercise

Rhythmical Limbering Sequence **OR** Floor Sequence - set exercise

Jazz Adage – set exercise

Falls and Tilts – set exercise

#### 3 Technical Sequences

Turns on diagonal – set exercise

Pirouettes – set exercise, candidates' choice of the set exercise on one side only

Kicks – set exercise

Foot Warm up – set exercise

Leaps A, B and C – set exercises – Candidates should show Leap A on both sides, Leaps B and Leaps C performed on one side only, candidate's choice

#### 4 Performance Sequences

Turns – set exercise, candidates' choice of the set exercise performed on one side only

Kicks – set exercise

Elevated – set exercise, candidates' choice of the set exercise performed on one side only

### **5 Unset Sequence**

Candidates will combine a selection of steps into a short dance sequence using the dance vocabulary steps and any other suitable movements. The dance vocabulary steps will be specified by the examiner and music will be provided by the examiner.

### **6 Set Amalgamations**

Candidate's choice of TWO amalgamations from the following list:

Musical Theatre

Lyrical

Blues

Jazz – Option A

Jazz – Option B (formerly titled “Boys Amalgamation”)

### **7 Dances**

Two dances of contrasting styles. Each dance not to exceed 2 minutes.  
One dance must be choreographed by the candidate.

### **8 Bow**

Teacher's arrangement, can be performed with or without free or set music

## **ADVANCED 2 DANCE VOCABULARY STEPS**

### **Walks**

Extended walks with body tilt forward, side or back

Circular walks forward or backward

### **Side tilts**

High level

### **Turns**

Pirouettes with leg in parallel or turned out (double or more) or attitude front or back (single or more) outwards or inwards, all at various levels

Spin Turns (chaînés) at various levels

Barrel turns - on the spot with any combination of bent or straight legs in parallel or turn out

Double Tour en l'air. Candidate's choice of preparation in 4th or 2nd

### **Kicks**

Front, side and back, straight, développé (including reverse) and flick kicks with any combination of bent or straight raised leg on a fondu, flat foot, with rise or elevation, parallel, turned out or inverted, with or without a tilt

Round kicks – outwards and inwards with any combination of bent or straight raised leg on a fondu, flat foot, with rise or elevation and with a tilt

Any of the front, side or round kicks can be taken with hip extension

Kicks with layout - front kick with back layout or back bend and side kick with forward layout

Any of the above can be taken as controlled kicks

### **Leaps**

Forward and sideways with or without développé or reverse développé

Attitude leaps, with 1 or both legs in attitude

Leap turns with varying leg lines taken with a barrel action

Scissor hop. Forwards or into 2nd, with or without développé, the scissor hop into 2nd could straddle

### **Jumps**

Jazz sissonne

Hops with varying body and leg lines, with a full turn

Straddle jump

Attitude jump with any combination of leg line

## Method of assessment

Vocational Graded Examinations are assessed by an Examiner who is recruited, trained, and monitored by the ISTD.

ISTD Examiners:

- are selected for their expertise and undergo rigorous training which continues throughout their career for marking both face-to-face and remote examinations.
- create a welcoming and reassuring environment at the exam venue, ensuring a positive experience for candidates.
- complete a check with the Disclosure and Barring Service (or equivalent body where available) and adhere to ISTD policies and procedures, including equality and diversity, safeguarding and data protection.
- do not usually examine at the same exam venue within any two-year period.

In the examination the examiner awards a mark of between 0 and 10 for each component (shown on the accompanying grid). A mark of 0 indicates that nothing worthy of credit was presented for assessment.

The examination is divided into sections and each section consists of several components which are individually assessed and aggregated to give the section total. The total number of marks available in the examination is 100.

## INTERMEDIATE FOUNDATION, INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED 1

### Mark scheme

TITLE OF COMPONENT	MARKS ATTAINABLE
<b>TECHNIQUE</b>	
Limbering	10
Line and style	10
Dance movements	10
Use of space	10
<b>Section Total</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>RHYTHM, RESPONSE &amp; SYLLABUS KNOWLEDGE</b>	
Rhythm	10
Response and knowledge of syllabus	10
<b>Section Total</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>PRESENTATION</b>	
Quality of movement	10
Sense of performance	10
Set Amalgamation/s	10
Dance	10
<b>Section Total</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>



## ADVANCED 2 MODERN

### Mark scheme

TITLE OF COMPONENT	MARKS ATTAINABLE
<b>TECHNIQUE</b>	
Limbering	10
Clarity of line	10
Control and stability of technique	10
Dance movements	10
<b>Section Total</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>RHYTHM, AND SYLLABUS KNOWLEDGE</b>	
Response and knowledge of syllabus	10
Quality of movement	10
<b>Section Total</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>PRESENTATION</b>	
Artistry and style	10
Musical and interpretive response	10
Set Amalgamations	10
Dances	10
<b>Section Total</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

#### Determining a mark

The marks for each component of assessment are added together and an overall mark is given out of 100.

#### Determining a grade for vocational qualifications

To reflect the need for competence across the range of components, a candidate will **not** attain a grade if:

- 20% of the marks attainable or below are given for any **one** component.
- 40% of the marks attainable or below are given for any **three** components.

If all components are achieved, then the overall grade is indicated as follows:

Grade	Total marks
Distinction	80-100 marks
Merit	65-79 marks
Pass	50-64 marks
Not attained	0-49 marks

# PROFESSIONAL TEACHING QUALIFICATIONS

## UK AND EUROPE

Please contact ISTD Headquarters for the full outline and handbook for:

**Level 4 Diploma in Dance Education**

**Level 6 Diploma in Dance Pedagogy**

## DDE UNIT 4

Dance Practice and the Relationship between Music and Dance in a Chosen Dance Genre  
(Additional information about assessment of this examination is printed in the DDE syllabus).

<https://www.istd.org/teach/teaching-qualifications/initial-dance-teacher-qualifications/level-4-diploma-in-dance-education-dde/>

## Requirements for entry and general information

The assessment of this unit is in the form of a practical examination, which is assessed by a trained ISTD examiner.

The pass mark for the unit is 65% (130 marks out of a maximum of 200 marks). Student teachers will however be unsuccessful if 50% of the marks or below are given for any one component regardless of the overall percentage achieved.

Candidates must:

- have reached the age of 18 years
- have passed the Intermediate Modern Dance examination or have received an authorised exemption (APL) from the ISTD for the Intermediate exam

In line with the ISTD's EDI policy, gender is no longer referred to in our syllabi. Therefore, the following terminology is being used:

- Option A – formerly known as the Females/Girls` syllabus
- Option B – formerly known as the Males/Boys` syllabus.

The entire examination must be taken on the female/Option A or male/Option B syllabus as chosen by the candidate.

## Duration of Examination: 2 hours

The candidate is examined on the ISTD set syllabus from Primary Class examination, Grade 1 to Grade 5, and Grade 6 and Intermediate as listed below. The DDE Unit 4 examination does not cover any of the Intermediate Foundation set syllabus exercises, but it could incorporate the dance vocabulary steps from Intermediate Foundation as they are included and can be requested for in Intermediate.

- Primary Class Examination, Grade 1 to Grade 5 complete.
- A selection from Grade 6 and Intermediate (*as listed below*).
- Pre-choreographed Dances (*listed below*)

Knowledge of the general approach and specific technique for teaching varying genders to that of chosen by the candidate.

## **GRADE 6**

- Back Loosening & Falls
- Lyrical Arm Exercise
- Jazz Arm Exercise
- Breathe and Release
- Kicks and Turns
- Step Vocabulary

## **INTERMEDIATE**

- Warm-Up (teacher's arrangement)
- Contraction Exercise
- Blues Arms
- Foot Warm-Up (teacher's arrangement)
- Pirouettes
- Kicks and Dance Vocabulary Steps

The candidate is asked to demonstrate and discuss, from a teaching perspective based on practical experience, the following:

- analysis of movement vocabulary included in Modern Graded syllabi from Grade 1 to Grade 6, and Intermediate;
- the development Modern dance technique from Grade 1 to Grade 6, and Intermediate;
- the development rhythm and its application from Grade 1 to Grade 6, and Intermediate;
- unset arrangements, suitable for varying body types, reflecting the level of the students' physical and cognitive development;
- knowledge of the structure of the body and its movement limitations;
- common physical difficulties, their causes and methods of correction;

The candidate is required to demonstrate:

- musicality in own performance.
- the ability to count any exercise, showing the correct tempo and quality required.
- knowledge of various types of music
- the ability to select music suitable for unset arrangements

## **Pre-choreographed dances**

The candidate demonstrates two pre-choreographed dances of their own composition at a lower Grade either Grade 2 or Grade 3 and their second dance at Grade 5 or Grade 6 or Intermediate level for any gender – candidate's choice.

These dances should show suitability for the required level, structure, appropriate style, creativity, musicality, and spatial awareness and not to exceed 1.5 minutes.

## **Clothing**

Leotard or tight-fitting top and either tights or fitted trousers. Candidates may work in bare feet or soft-soled jazz shoes. Jazz trainers may only be worn for free dances if the choreography requires it. Knee pads should be worn for Option B syllabi.

**DDE – Diploma in Dance Education**  
**MARK SCHEME**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Marks</b>
Knowledge of the content of the relevant Grade and Intermediate syllabi	20
Analysis and understanding of movement vocabulary	20
Technical accuracy of demonstration	20
Understanding of the purpose and/or development of movements	20
Application of appropriate methods of teaching. Identification of common faults and their correction	20
Understanding and application of safe dance practice, biomechanics, and stages of physical and cognitive development	20
Creative approaches to choreography. Suitability of content and style of training and free exercises	20
Appropriate use of language, communication, and presentation skills to engage and motivate	20
Rhythmic and musical analysis and selection of accompaniment.	20
Musicality, artistic expression, and style of demonstration	20

Candidates must achieve at least 50% in each component, and 65% overall to pass the Unit 4 exam.

Examiners will look at the candidate’s performance across a range of relevant tasks before awarding marks for any components.

# PROFESSIONAL TEACHING QUALIFICATIONS

## OUTSIDE EUROPE

### ASSOCIATE

#### Aims

The syllabus seeks to increase the skills, analysis and understanding of Modern Theatre in order to communicate this to others in a safe and creative environment.

The Assessment Criteria are:

Section	Assessment Criteria
<b>SYLLABUS KNOWLEDGE</b>	1.1 Demonstrate sound knowledge of the content of the relevant grade and intermediate syllabi
	1.2 Analyse and understand the syllabus movements and technique
	1.3 Demonstrate technical accuracy
	1.4 Explain and demonstrate a clear understanding of the aims, purpose and/or development of movements
<b>TEACHING SKILLS</b>	2.1 Demonstrate an appropriate manner, through personal presentation and vocal quality and expression
	2.2 Create and show choreographed dances and or pre-arranged sequences
	2.3 Devise appropriate free arrangements and sequences
	2.4 Demonstrate an applied understanding of teaching methods
<b>MUSICALITY</b>	3.1 Select, discuss, and analyse appropriate musical and rhythmic accompaniment
	3.2 Demonstrate effective use of musicality and rhythm including quality and artistic expression within own performance

#### Requirements for entry and general information

Candidate must provide a CD/iPod/iPad/mp3 and music operator

Candidates must:

- have reached the age of 18 years\*
- have passed the Intermediate Modern Theatre examination or have received an authorised exemption (APL) from the ISTD for the Intermediate exam

*\* In special circumstances the examination may be entered under this age if approved by the Head of Faculty Modern Theatre, after written application to ISTD's Quality Assurance Department by the principal of the school entering the candidate. This is to ensure that they are able to be responsible for children. For further details please email [pqmanager@istd.org](mailto:pqmanager@istd.org)*

In line with the ISTD's EDI policy, gender is no longer referred to in our syllabi. Therefore, the following terminology is being used:

- Option A – formerly known as the Females/Girls` syllabus
- Option B – formerly known as the Males/Boys` syllabus.

**Duration of Examination:** 90 minutes

## **OUTLINE OF SYLLABUS CONTENT**

Candidates must have :

- Knowledge of all grades up to Intermediate (excluding Intermediate Foundation) in the selected option (Option A or B)

AND

- Knowledge of all grades up to Grade 4 in the non-selected option (Option A or B).

### **Section 1 – Limbering**

1. Theory and demonstration of all exercises from Grade 1 to 6 and Intermediate in the selected syllabus option (excluding Intermediate Foundation). Option B work up to and including Grade 4.
2. Knowledge of exercises, other than the set work, will be expected in order to test the candidate's understanding of this section.
3. The approach to the teaching of varying physiques

### **Section 2 - Dance Movements encompassing Rhythmic Development and Dance Analysis**

1. Posture in relation to the child or student.
2. Walking and its development.
3. The gradual evolvement of arm and body line building up from the General Graded syllabus.
4. A detailed knowledge of rhythm and its application to movement.
5. Ability to arrange amalgamations for learners using the selected syllabus option (Option A or B) at all levels up to and including Intermediate.
6. Ability to arrange amalgamations for learners using the non-selected option (Option A or B) up to and including Grade 4
7. Set Amalgamations  
Candidates' choice of:
  - a. One amalgamation from Grade 2, 3 or 4 in the non-selected option  
(e.g If the candidate is taking the exam as an Option A candidate, they need to show an Option B amalgamation or vice versa)
  - b. Two amalgamations of contrasting styles from Grade 2 - 6 in the selected Option

(No two amalgamations from the same grade)

- c. Either the Floor Limbering from Grade 5 or the Floor Sequence from Grade 6 (in the Option that they are taking the exam in)
- 8. Dance Compositions
  - a. 16 bars suitable for Grade 2
  - b. 16 bars, excluding introduction, suitable for Grade 4
  - c. Jazz at Intermediate Foundation standard – maximum of one minute
  - d. Arrangement at Vocational Graded Level – maximum of 1½ minutes

### Assessment

Candidates are examined individually by one examiner recruited and trained by the ISTD. Assessment is carried out by means of a practical demonstration of the knowledge, understanding and skills required.

### ASSOCIATE Mark Scheme

Marking Components	Maximum Marks
Knowledge of the syllabus content	20
Analysis and understanding of movements and technique	20
Accuracy of demonstration	20
Understanding of syllabus developments and the purpose of movements	20
Manner, personal presentation and vocal quality and expression	20
Choreographed dances and or pre-arranged sequences	20
Free arrangements	20
Methods of teaching	20
Selection and analysis of appropriate musical and rhythmic accompaniment	20
Use of musicality, including quality and artistic expression within own performance	20

The pass mark for the exam is 65% overall and 50% must be gained in each component to achieve an Awarded result. The marks are aggregated, and the overall mark is given out of 200. The result of the examination is then given as below:

Awarded	130+ marks
Not Awarded	0-129 marks

Examiners will look at the candidate’s performance across a range of relevant tasks before awarding marks for any components.

## ASSOCIATE DIPLOMA

### Aims and Objectives

The Associate Diploma examination aims to develop awareness of teaching practice within a studio based class setting.

1	Demonstrate appropriate structure and pace within the assessed class
2	Use and devise suitable exercises and free sequences
3	Demonstrate an appropriate rapport with students and show clarity of instruction
4	Show the ability to observe and demonstrate effectiveness in technical instruction
5	Show the ability to observe and demonstrate effectiveness in artistic development
6	Show the ability to observe and demonstrate effectiveness in musical and rhythmical development
7	Use a range of appropriate teaching methods
8	Demonstrate an awareness of how to adapt dance movements to different physiques
9	Select and use suitable musical accompaniment
10	Create and show an appropriate group arrangement

The

Assessment Criteria are:

### Requirements for entry conditions and general information



This examination can be entered at the candidate's own studio or at a centre. In both cases the candidate must provide their dancers and operate the sound system.  
Dance students' names must be provided to the ISTD at the time of examination application.

Candidates must:

- hold the Associate qualification

Please note that there is no minimum age for candidates taking the Associate Diploma examination  
Whilst not a requirement it is strongly recommended that candidates have undertaken regular teaching prior to entering for the Associate Diploma examination

In line with the ISTD's EDI policy, gender is no longer referred to in our syllabi. Therefore, the following terminology is being used:

- Option A – formerly known as the Females/Girls` syllabus
- Option B – formerly known as the Males/Boys` syllabus

**Duration of Examination:** 90 minutes

Candidates will be expected to take a Teaching Assessment class of 45 minutes, using the set syllabus work at any level from Grade 2 up to and including Intermediate (candidate's choice which must be notified in advance). The number of pupils in the class should be a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8.

Pupils in the class should be working on the grade selected, and may have passed the grade, but may not have passed the grade above. Pupils in the class can be working on either Option A or B class material, or a combination of the two options.

The coaching part of the exam should be set at either the same level as the class or the grade below. If the class is done at Intermediate level the Examiner will ask for the coaching element to be at Intermediate level too.

## **OUTLINE OF SYLLABUS CONTENT**

Candidates will be expected to teach the following:

The Set Warm up, with the exception of the Intermediate Syllabus when a free warm up to free music is required.

Two limbering exercises - one standing and one floor exercise.

Creative use of rhythm and musicality throughout the class.

Candidate's choice of any other syllabus work excluding limbering.

Time should be allowed to teach at least one free amalgamation which should not be characterised.

*(Group choreography performed at the end of the examination)*

## **Selected Steps**

To be taught as requested by the examiner. These can be taken from the selected grade, the grade above or the grade below the selected grade.

## Special Coaching Session

Incorporating basic anatomy  
As requested by the examiner.  
All pupils will be asked to remain in the studio for this session.

## Group Choreography – maximum of 2 minutes

Marking Components	Maximum Marks
Structure and pace of the class	20
Suitability of exercises and free exercises	20
Rapport with students and clarity of instruction	20
Observation and effectiveness of technical instruction	20
Observation and effectiveness of artistic development	20
Observation and effectiveness of musical and rhythmical development	20
Use of appropriate range of teaching methods	20
Awareness of adaption to different physiques	20
Selection and suitability of musical accompaniment	20
Group arrangement	20

Show an imaginative use of the Modern Theatre work, at any level up to and including Intermediate, for three or more dancers. This should not be a solo danced by three pupils but should show varied pattern and interaction of dance steps. Simple props may be used if required.

## ASSOCIATE DIPLOMA

### Mark scheme

### Assessment

Candidates are examined individually by one examiner recruited and trained by the ISTD.  
Assessment is carried out by means of a practical demonstration of the knowledge, understanding and skills required.

The pass mark for the exam is 65% overall and 50% must be gained in each component to achieve an Awarded result.

The marks are aggregated, and the overall mark is given out of 200. The result of the examination is then given as below:

Awarded	130+ marks
Not Awarded	0-129 marks

Examiners will look at the candidate's performance across a range of relevant tasks before awarding marks for any components.

## LICENTIATE

### Requirements for entry and general information

This examination can be entered at the candidate's own studio or at a centre. In both cases the candidate must provide the dancers and operate the music system.

Dance students' names must be provided to the ISTD at the time of examination application.

Music for the class in Section 1 and for all free work should be provided by the candidate on CDs or other digital audio equipment. Set CDs will be provided by the ISTD when the examination is taken at a centre, however it is advisable for candidates to bring their own music/playlists.

Candidates taking the Licentiate examination outside the UK should provide a CD/ digital music for the music operator for Section 2.

At ISTD HQ an operator will be provided. At regional centres candidates should check this provision with the centre organiser.

In line with the ISTD's EDI policy, gender is no longer referred to in our syllabi. Therefore, the following terminology is being used:

- Option A – formerly known as the Females/Girls` syllabus
- Option B – formerly known as the Males/Boys` syllabus

### Prior Learning

Candidates must:

- a) have passed the Advanced 1 in Modern Theatre
- b) hold the Associate Diploma, the Certificate in Dance Education, or the Diploma in Dance Education qualifications in the Modern Theatre Faculty

**Duration of Examination:** 2 hours 30 minutes.

## OUTLINE OF SYLLABUS CONTENT

Candidates may be examined on either the Graded or the Vocational Graded specialisations, which must be specified to the ISTD in advance.

## **A Vocational Graded Specialisation**

### **Section 1**

The candidate will be required to take a class at any level from Intermediate Foundation - Advanced 1 inclusive, candidate's choice to be stated on the entry form.

Candidates should present a lesson plan at the start of the examination. This should be a balanced coaching class of selected set work from the syllabus, allowing time for at least two contrasting unset amalgamations, of which one should be Jazz/Musical Theatre.

**Time allowed for class:** 1 hour for Intermediate Foundation, and 1 hour 15mins for Intermediate and Advanced 1.

Candidates to provide at least 2 but no more than 4 of their own students who they have taught for a minimum of 6 months. Students may have passed the level of syllabus being taught but not entered the grade above.

## **A Vocational Graded Specialisation**

### **Section 2**

Candidates will be required to:

1. Demonstrate and have an in-depth knowledge of the Option A work, up to and including Advanced 1 and Option B work up to and including Grade 6
2. Arrange amalgamations for Option A learners at all levels up to and including Advanced 1
3. Arrange amalgamations for Option B learners at all levels up to and including Grade 6
4. Demonstrate own choice of:
  - a. Grade 4 or 6 Option B Floor Sequence
  - b. Grade 4, 5 or 6 Option B Set Amalgamations
  - c. One Option A Set Amalgamation from either the Intermediate or Advanced 1 Syllabus.
5. Dance Compositions to be performed by the candidate:
  - a. Jazz at Intermediate standard, maximum of 1 minute
  - b. Contrasting arrangement at Advanced 1 standard, maximum of 2 minutes.

## **B Graded Specialisation**

### **Section 1**

The candidate will be required to take a class at any level from Grade 4 – Grade 6 inclusive, candidate's choice to be stated on the entry form.

Candidates should present a lesson plan at the start of the examination. This should be a balanced coaching class of selected set work from the syllabus, allowing time for at least two contrasting unset amalgamations, of which one should be Jazz/Musical Theatre.

**Time allowed for class:** 1 hour.

Candidates are required to provide up to 6 children of their own pupils who they have taught for a minimum of 6 months. Students may have passed the level of syllabus being taught but not entered the grade above.

## **B Graded Specialisation**

### **Section 2.**

Candidates will be required to:

1. Demonstrate and have an in-depth knowledge of the Option A work, up to and including Advanced 1 and Option B work up to and including Grade 6
2. Arrange amalgamations for Option A learners at all levels up to and including Advanced 1
3. Arrange amalgamations for Option B learners at all levels up to and including Grade 6
4. Demonstrate own choice of:
  - a. Grade 4 or 6 Option B Floor Sequence
  - b. Grade 4, 5 or 6 Option B Set Amalgamations
  - c. One Option A Set Amalgamation from either the Intermediate or Advanced 1 syllabus
5. Dance Compositions:
  - a. Choice from Grade 3, 4, 5 or 6, maximum of 1½minutes. Must be performed by the candidate's own pupil.
  - b. Arrangement at any Vocational Graded level, maximum of 2 minutes. Must be performed by the candidate.

### **Assessment**

Candidates are examined singly by one examiner recruited and trained by the ISTD. Assessment is carried out by means of a practical demonstration of the knowledge, understanding and skills required.

## **LICENTIATE**

### **Mark scheme**

<b>TITLE OF COMPONENT</b>	<b>MARKS ATTAINABLE</b>
Class content and balance	20
Manner and clarity of instruction and rapport with students	20
Observation and methods of technical correction	30
Observation and methods of artistic and musical development	30
Syllabus knowledge, analysis and understanding of movement.	30
Gender adaptations	20

Free arrangements	20
Set Amalgamations	10
Dance compositions	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>

The marks are aggregated, and the overall mark is given out of 200. The result of the examination is then given as below:

Awarded	130+ marks
Not Awarded	0-129 marks

## FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship is the highest qualification awarded by the ISTD. Candidates will, therefore, be expected to be creative, show breadth and depth of knowledge and a very high standard of teaching.

### Entry requirements and general information

In the UK, this examination can only be entered at ISTD HQ or a regional centre. International candidates should be aware that it may be scheduled to take place anywhere within their own country and not necessarily within their own school or own city and may also be conducted remotely.

The ISTD will arrange up to 3 or 4 students for the class for Section 1.

Music for the class in Section 1, Advanced 1 and Advanced 2 and for all free work should be provided by the candidate on CDs or other digital audio equipment. Set CDs can be provided by the ISTD, but it is highly recommended that candidates arranged their own music/playlists.

Candidates taking the Fellowship examination outside the UK should provide a CD/digital music for the music operator for Section 2.

At ISTD HQ a music operator will be provided. At regional centres candidates should check this provision with the centre organiser.

In line with the ISTD's EDI policy, gender is no longer referred to in our syllabi. Therefore, the following terminology is being used:

- Option A – formerly known as the Females/Girls` syllabus
- Option B – formerly known as the Males/Boys` syllabus

### Prior learning

Candidates must:

- a) have passed the Advanced 2 in Modern Theatre

- b) hold the Licentiate or the Diploma in Dance Pedagogy qualifications in the Modern Theatre Faculty

**Duration of Examination:** 2 hours 45 minutes.

## **FELLOWSHIP OUTLINE OF SYLLABUS CONTENT**

### **Section 1**

Duration 1 hour 15 minutes Up to 4 candidates will be provided by the ISTD. Candidates should present a lesson plan at the start of the examination.

The candidate will take a balanced free style Modern class at, or above, Advanced 2 level. This should have a theme/purpose and develop some aspect of the dancers as well as being creative. Pace should be aimed at full-time professional students.

The class will include the teaching/coaching of one set exercise, from the list below, chosen by examiners which will be given to the candidate at the examination. Examiners will read the lesson plan and discuss with the candidate which exercise from Advanced 2 they wish them to include and give them the opportunity to include it in their class or work on it separately after the class if that is their preference.

Examiners' choice of:

- Glisses and Tendus
- Adage
- Falls and Tilts
- Pirouettes
- Leaps
- Section of any Performance sequence

### **Section 2**

Candidates will be required to:

1. Demonstrate and have an in-depth knowledge of the Option A work, up to and including Advanced 2
2. Demonstrate Option B work up to and including Intermediate and the step vocabulary at Advanced 1
3. Arrange amalgamations for Option A learners at all levels up to and including Advanced 2
4. Arrange amalgamations for Option B learners at all levels up to and including Advanced 1
5. Arrange a sequence at Advanced 2 level including some vocabulary steps, chosen by the examiners, to music provided by the examiners.
6. Demonstrate own choice of:
  - a) Option B Floor sequence from Intermediate Foundation or Intermediate
  - b) Option B Set Amalgamation from Intermediate Foundation or Intermediate
  - c) Demonstrate or discuss in depth, candidate's choice of one of the Advanced 2 Set Amalgamations
7. Dance Compositions:

Compositions must show originality of arrangement and interpretive quality.

- a) Choice from Grade 3, 4, 5 or 6, maximum of 1½minutes. May be performed by the candidate's own pupil.
- b) Advanced 1 or Advanced 2, maximum of 2 minutes. May be performed by the candidate's own pupil.

Candidates should be able to discuss the content and choreography of their dances and be able to show elements if presented on DVD/iPad.

Either/both dances may be danced by the candidate or a pupil

### Assessment

Candidates are examined singly by two examiners recruited and trained by the ISTD. Assessment is carried out by means of a practical demonstration of the knowledge, understanding and skills required.

### FELLOWSHIP

#### Mark scheme

TITLE OF COMPONENT	MARKS ATTAINABLE
Balance, pace, creativity, and artistry of class	30
Manner and clarity of instruction and rapport with students	30
Observation and methods of technical correction	20
Observation and methods of artistic and musical development	20
Syllabus knowledge	20
Development of syllabus	20
Technical and rhythmic analysis	20
Gender adaptations	10
Free arrangements	20
Dance compositions	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>



The marks are aggregated, and the overall mark is given out of 200. The result of the examination is then given as below:

Awarded	130+ marks
Not Awarded	0-129 marks

## EXAMINATIONS AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

This section focuses on the administrative requirements for delivering the examinations and related quality assurance processes.

### Exam booking information

Exam bookings are only permitted to be made by the registered members of the Society who conduct themselves in accordance with the Member Agreement/Professional Code of Conduct.

The examinations take place either at the exam venues hosted by the registered members such as the teacher's dance studio or at the ISTD Exam Centre sessions. Details of how to book an exam, cancellation fees, guidance, and exam regulations are available on:

#### UK Examinations

- Website: <https://www.istd.org/examinations/uk-examinations/>
- Email: [ukdanceteachers@istd.org](mailto:ukdanceteachers@istd.org)

#### International Examinations

- Website: <https://www.istd.org/examinations/international-examinations/>
- Email: [InternationalTeachers@istd.org](mailto:InternationalTeachers@istd.org)

### Quality assurance

Quality assurance is a set of policies and procedures the Society have in place to ensure that our examinations and assessments are inclusive and accessible, and students completing our qualifications are issued a fair grade based on their performance. Our quality assurance processes are there to safeguard the integrity of our qualifications by ensuring that high standards are always delivered.

The detailed information about the quality assurance of our qualifications and the related policies can be found at <https://www.istd.org/examinations/quality-assurance/>

For further guidance, please contact the Quality Assurance department at [csqa@istd.org](mailto:csqa@istd.org)

### **Inclusivity and accessibility of examinations and assessments**

The Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing is fully committed to promoting an environment where all individuals are encouraged to achieve their full potential and develop their skills in dance and in examinations and we encourage teachers to maintain an open approach towards the different abilities offered by all their students.

### **Reasonable adjustments**

We are committed to providing fair access to our assessments for candidates with specific needs by putting in place access arrangements and reasonable adjustments. A reasonable adjustment is a process that is made before a learner takes an assessment. It ensures that they have fair access to demonstrate the requirements of the assessments taking account the needs of individual learners. However, it would also not be deemed reasonable to make changes to assessment standards or requirements as this would undermine the effectiveness of the qualification in providing a reliable indicator of the knowledge, skills and understanding of the candidate.

### **Special consideration**

Special consideration is given after an assessment has taken place for learners who have been affected by adverse circumstances. The Society has a process in place for special consideration for candidates who participated in an examination but may have been disadvantaged by temporary illness, injury or indisposition, or adverse circumstances which arose immediately before or during the examination.

### **Enquiries**

The Society endorses the principle of the right to enquire a learner result. These appeals may relate to an unexpected exam result, assessment decisions being incorrect, or assessment not being conducted fairly. We ensure that enquiries are dealt with swiftly and fairly within the specified timescales.

### **Malpractice**

Malpractice refers to acts that undermine the integrity and validity of assessment, the certification of qualifications, and/or actions that may damage the authority of those responsible for delivering the assessment and certification.

We take any form of malpractice very seriously. Registered Members and candidates must follow the requirements set out in this specification, exam regulations and all other ISTD policies about the delivery of our exams. In cases where Registered Members or candidates have committed malpractice, a sanction or penalty may be given.

### **Results and certification**

Quality Assurance will issue learner results and certificates direct to the primary organiser unless requested otherwise. All learners will be issued with a report sheet containing the marks for each component; successful candidates also receive a certificate that shows the qualification title as well as the subject and level that they have been examined in. We aim to release results and issue the qualification documents in line with the schedules on our Customer Service Policy on our website.

