



Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing

Level 4 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Advanced 1(QCF)

QAN 501/0760/4 33 Credits

Level 4 Diploma in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Advanced 2 (QCF)

QAN 501/0761/6 37 Credits

These two qualifications are available in the following dance genres (pathways):

Cecchetti Classical Ballet
Classical Greek Dance
Classical Indian Dance
Imperial Classical Ballet
National Dance
Modern Theatre Dance
Tap Dance

Overview

Achievement of Advanced 1 and Advanced, both at Level 4 reflects the ways in which candidates build upon a range of skills, knowledge and understanding to demonstrate the disciplined attitude necessary for a dance professional. These two qualifications are the highest in a suite of performance based vocational qualifications which enable progressive mastery of a specific dance form.

Candidates will demonstrate an increasingly sophisticated vocabulary of movement and artistry showing confidence, assurance and professional awareness in application. In addition, a thorough understanding of professional contexts will be demonstrated and applied in performance and practice. The full level descriptor for Vocational Graded Examinations in Dance at this level can be found at <http://www.istd.org/documents/qualifications-and-credit-framework-and-level-descriptors/>

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 genre, including an understanding of reference and context. Candidates undertaking a study of the Vocational Graded syllabus in a genre 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.

The learning objectives are:

- ability to maintain correct posture
- demonstration of the range of movement within the students' natural capabilities
- understanding and demonstration of a comprehensive technique
- understanding and use of appropriate dance terminology
- development of a strong sense of line through body, arms and head
- understanding rhythm, its development and application in dance at the relevant level
- appreciation of varying music styles and their interpretation through movement
- demonstration of an acute spatial awareness
- demonstration of an awareness of audience and a sophisticated sense of performance
- development of a sense of self-expression
- creative use of movement
- self-confidence in the performance of a solo

The full syllabus outline for each dance genre is available at <http://www.istd.org/examinations/istd-syllabi/>

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.

Progression

ISTD awards Vocational Graded Examinations in each discipline/genre under the following qualifications:

- Level 2 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination: Intermediate Foundation (QCF)
- Level 3 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination: Intermediate (QCF)
- Level 4 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination: Advanced 1 (QCF)
- Level 4 Diploma in Vocational Graded Examination: Advanced 2 (QCF)

The Advanced 1 and Advanced 2 qualifications therefore form the top part of a cohesive bridge between the work covered in the Grades and the work of the professional examinations. The Level 4 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Advanced 1 is included as a Unit within the ISTD Level 6 Diploma in Dance Pedagogy (QCF), and carries 33 credits which can also count towards the achievement of the 240 credits required at Level 4 within the Middlesex University BA Honours in Professional Practice. Candidate may progress onto ISTD professional teaching qualifications in dance or other employment in the dance profession.

Because these qualifications rely on consistent training over a period of years, many students achieve them at the peak of their physical ability around the ages of 18 to 20. This is why they should also be fundable at this stage.

The ISTD Level 4 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance (QCF): Advanced 1 and the ISTD Level 4 Diploma in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance (QCF): Advanced 2 are regulated by the Regulatory Bodies in England and Wales (Ofqual for England and Northern Ireland, and the Department of Education and Skills for the Welsh Assembly) and on the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) at Level 4 which is broadly equivalent to first year degree level.

Support

The qualification has support from the Council for Dance Education and Training (CDET), which is the dance industry body representing the professional dance and musical theatre industries, accrediting dance schools and awarding bodies, and representing them to government bodies as well as national and international agencies.

It is delivered by several Further Education Colleges, and by many private providers in the form of vocational dance colleges, who all recognise its value in providing evidence of the level of technical and professional skills required in the dance industry. Admission to this country's professional training for the theatre is always by audition and without practical examinations at this level many candidates would not achieve the entry level standard for these elite courses. Evidence of that support from the CDET and from FE and private colleges is available at:

www.istd.org/documents/advanced-1-and-2-letters-of-support/