

## Examination Review 2023 – Information for Teachers Grades 1 – 6 (from 5<sup>th</sup> June)

### Background

Last year we began a review of our assessment models in line with statutory guidance issued by Ofqual (May 2022) which instructed all awarding organisations to review their assessments and ensure that their examinations remain valid, accessible, and fair to all learners.

Our review focused on the following:

- confirming that there is no over-assessment within our examinations
- facilitating our commitment to inclusivity through our Reasonable Adjustments Policy (ARA)
- ensuring parity with other awarding organisations offering regulated qualifications across performing arts sector

Working collaboratively with our Lead Examiner team, we have mapped our assessments to make them as efficient as possible by:

- reducing the length of some
- allowing more candidates in some examination sets.

**Please note that there are NO changes to the training method (syllabus) as a result of this review.** ALL exercises still need to be taught and prepared by teachers, but the way in which we see them in the examination may vary according to group size.

### Impact of the review for Cecchetti Classical Ballet Grades 1 – 6

(These will take effect in Examinations from 8 April 2023)

- Numbers of candidates in an examination
- Revisions to terminology in respect of gender
- Minor changes to theory questions

### Details of revisions to Cecchetti Classical Ballet examinations – Grades 1 - 6

#### Group sizes

- 4 candidates will be entered for Grades as ‘the norm’
- Sets of 1, 2 and 3 candidate groups will remain where this is not possible
- Sets of 4 candidates will have some amendments to groupings/ some exercises repeated and sub-divided into pairs.

### **Timings**

Timings for Cecchetti Classical Ballet and Imperial Ballet have been aligned (Cecchetti Classical Ballet timings have remained the same or increased as a result)

### **Dances**

Dances will continue to be seen as SOLOs in the examination

### **Names of training routes**

Work previously indicated as specific for female and male will now be referred to as **Option 1** (previously female) OR **Option 2** (previously male)

### **Optionality**

The Cecchetti Syllabus currently has some elements of optionality, and these will remain. There will be additional optionality choices from Grade 2 upwards.

### **Wearing of timetable numbers**

For both remote and in-person examinations, candidates are now required to wear timetable numbers pinned on their fronts.

### **Warm-ups**

Warm-up exercises will no longer be seen in the examination. Teachers are encouraged to use them regularly in their classes and advised to ensure that candidates are warmed up prior to entering the examinations studio.

### **Entering the examination room**

The 'meet and greet' process at the beginning of the examination needs to be completed efficiently. Candidates should therefore be prepared accordingly:

- **Grade 1** – candidates will SKIP into the examination room WITH MUSIC. They should **either** skip directly to the middle of the room to form a line **or** if using the official recorded music, when the track is longer, skip around the studio to finish in a line in the middle of the room facing the Examiner (Teacher's choice).
- **Grade 2 upwards** – candidates should run or walk quickly to the middle of the room to face the examiner, where they will stand in number order, with the first candidate on the timetable on the left from the examiner's viewpoint.

### **'Basic step' questioning**

Examiners will no longer ask to see a demonstration of a step listed in the 'Basic Steps List'. However, a working knowledge of the steps at each level is still required. From Grade 3, these will be included in the unset enchaînement.

### **Theory content questioning**

- Theory questioning remains although slightly changed to re-align with the content in the relevant syllabi (refer to 'Theory and Basic steps – Grade 1-6' as revised April 2023).

- The number of questions to be asked per level remains unchanged however, from Grade 3, where two questions are asked, one question may be taken from a previous Grade to support accumulative learning. Teachers are advised to prepare their candidates accordingly.

### New Examination timings (rev. April 2023)

	Examinations	Timeline (Exams from)
Cecchetti Classical Ballet	Grade 1 – Grade 3	8 April 2023
	Grade 4 – Grade 6	5 June 2023

### Updated rules on timings and the number of candidates

Cecchetti Classical Ballet				
	Time for 1 candidate	Time for 2 candidates	Time for 3 candidates	Time for 4 candidates
Grade 1 - Ofqual level 1	20 mins	20 mins	30 mins	30 mins
Grade 2 - Ofqual level 1	30 mins	30 mins	35 mins	35 mins
Grade 3 - Ofqual level 1	35 mins	35 mins	40 mins	40 mins
Grade 4 - Ofqual level 2	40 mins	40 mins	45 mins	45 mins
Grade 5 - Ofqual level 2	45 mins	45 mins	50 mins	50 mins
Grade 6 - Ofqual level 3	55 mins	55 mins	60 mins	60 mins

### Preparing the candidates

Examinations are conducted within specific timeframes. To meet these, teachers are asked to prepare their students in advance for the following:

- how to greet the examiner when they arrive in the centre of the room facing the examiner
- their position and where they will stand at the barre (Chart below to offer guidance)
- where to place water bottles / inhaler, etc.
- where to stand when moving from the barre into the centre
- where to stand when waiting their turn, both at the barre and in the centre.

Candidates should be advised:

- to listen carefully and avoid talking unless replying to a direct question
- to answer questions as clearly as possible
- to run back into their places after the final dancer has performed their solo dance to perform their Rèverence before leaving the examination room.

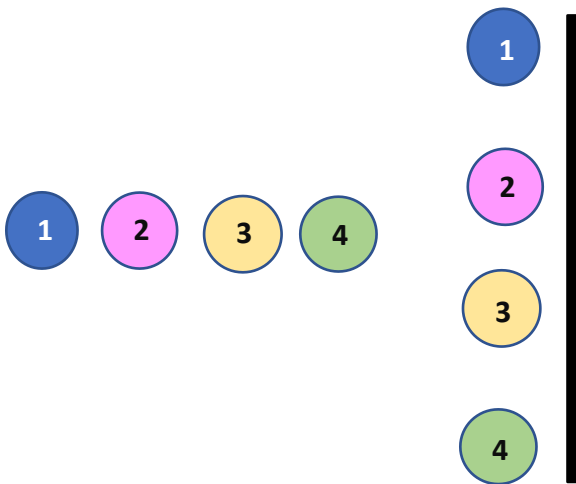
### Additional points to consider:

- Barres should be placed on the outside of the dance area, either side of the room and parallel to the wall. Candidates should stand on the same side in numerical order (See below). Ideally the examiner should see a 45° angle of the dancers.
- Variable height barres – Changes to height of barre between sets should be done quietly and efficiently without candidates in the room.
- Communicate to your examiner in advance of your session whether you are using a pianist or recorded music. The 'Grade Music for use in Examinations CD, 2018' has

been specifically recorded to be used as an option for exams and is available via the ISTD shop. The old CD with spoken title tracks is NOT permissible in examinations. If you are using recorded music the Examiner will select tracks from the official exam CD for the unseen enchaînement from Grade 3.

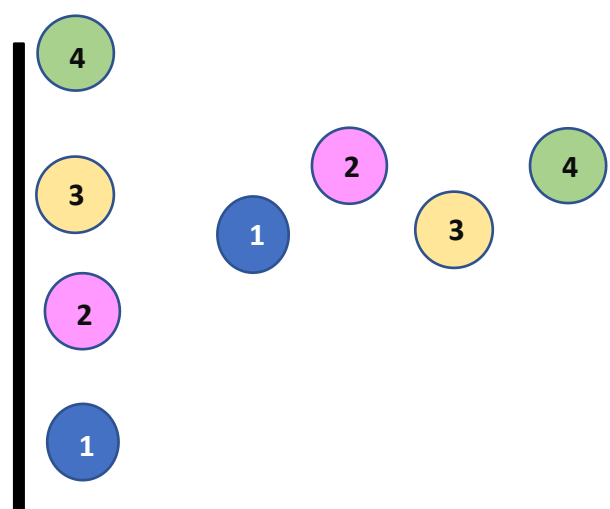
- Dance music should be the correct length as specified in the syllabus. Recorded or live piano music should be used.
- Please refer to the ISTD website for further information on the new Application for Reasonable Adjustments (ARA) process which has been revised.

Barre on the RIGHT. Straight line in centre



EXAMINER

Barre on the LEFT. Staggered line in centre



EXAMINER